



This policy is called:	<b>Multi-faith Reflection Room Policy</b>
It applies to:	Lordswood Girls' School and Sixth Form Centre
Person responsible for its revision:	Headteacher
Status:	Non-statutory
Website:	Website and staff launch page
Approval by:	Governing Body
Review Frequency:	Every 3 years
Date of ratification:	January 2022
Date of next approval:	January 2025

## **Introduction**

This policy governs the conduct of Multi-faith reflection room in the school.

Lordswood Girls' School recognises that staff and students attending the school will follow many different faiths or none and come from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. Lordswood Girls' School is committed to providing opportunities for staff and students to balance their faith requirements with the competing demands of work and study.

Lordswood Girls' School wishes to encourage the promotion of integration, understanding and mutual respect in school life for all students and staff and we will seek to provide opportunities and facilities for those who wish to reflect on the relevance of their religious faith, practices and beliefs to their educational or working experience.

Lordswood Girls' School is aware of its responsibilities under The Equality Act 2010 and the inclusion of Religion and Belief as protected characteristics. This is reflected in our Equality Policy.

This policy statement and the accompanying organisation and arrangements will be reviewed every three years or on the introduction of new or amended relevant legislation

## **Multi-faith Room**

The multi-faith reflection room will be housed in the meeting room on the first floor of the main building.

The room can be used by staff and students and offers a quiet space for prayer and reflection. We have a duty to foster good relations between people of all faiths and none.

Users of this room should show consideration towards people with other beliefs and use the room in a manner which is least restrictive to other users.

### **Gaining access to Multi-faith Room**

The room is operated on a basis that you are only allowed entry if you have a 'multi-faith room pass'.

Students who would like to have access to the Multi Faith Room are asked to collect a pass from Student Reception that they will keep for this academic year. This pass will allow students to use the multi-faith prayer rooms as frequently or as infrequently as they require.

To be issued with a pass, students and their parents/carers will be expected to sign to agree to the rules of the Multi-faith Reflection Room (Appendix 1). All staff will have access to the rooms via their teacher cards and will not need to have a 'Multi-faith room pass'.

### **Hours**

The Multi-faith Reflection Room will be available to use Monday to Friday during lunchtime. At this point the room is dedicated to being a Multi-faith reflection room and students can gain access if they display their pass. It will not be used for any other purpose at these times.

Due to the requirement of some religions for males and females to worship separately, the room will be available for females during the first lunch sitting and males during the second lunch sitting.

### **Usage**

Use of the school's Multi Faith Room must be lawful, for example, this must comply with the school's Prevent duty under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Any issues or concerns around possible inappropriate use of the Multi-faith Reflection Room should be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead or the member of staff on lunchtime duty on the first floor.

In order to allow space for individual reflection a maximum of 5 students will be permitted in the room at any time.

If the room is 'full' students should wait in an orderly queue outside the room until a space becomes available.

Students are welcome to stay in the room for the duration of their allocated lunch sitting unless there is a queue of students waiting to use the room. If this is the case, we ask students to limit their time in the room to 5 min

### **The standard of conduct expected**

Users of the room should be silent when inside the room. The room should be used for individual reflection/prayer. There should be no group worship within the room.

On no account the school will not permit any form of discrimination against, or harassment of, students on religious or cultural grounds. Whilst we fully endorse the right of students and staff to freedom of expression, we will not permit students or staff at the school to make any unwelcome attempt to convert another person to a particular religious faith or ideological view, or to act against another because of differences of view.

The room should be a safe space for all users and the environment must be free of discrimination and harassment. All allegations of bullying and harassment will be promptly and thoroughly investigated (through the school's Behaviour Policy). Any student failing to meet the expected stand of conduct will have their 'Multi-faith reflection room' pass withdrawn.

Prayer/reflection is a personal choice. Students should not pass comment on students who choose to or not to utilise the room for reflection/prayer.

The room will be monitored by duty staff at lunchtime to ensure appropriate use.

### **Fire safety**

It is not permitted to light candles or burn incense in the room.

### **Food and drink**

Food and drink will not be consumed in the room at any time.

### **Use of objects**

People of some faiths cannot pray in a room where images, signs, icons or written materials from other religions are displayed. You may take handheld objects into the room such as prayer beads, prayer or meditation cards and handheld books but no items larger than this. Small prayer mats are permitted. You must take these with you when you leave.

No charity box, monies or valuables may be left in this room.

Mobile phones, computers or amplifying equipment may not be used in this room.

### **Notices, posters, leaflets and advertisements**

Notices, posters, leaflets or advertisements for events must not be displayed or left in this room. Any printed material left in the room may be removed and thrown away.

### **Who to contact**

Use of the space is controlled by the Assistant Headteacher responsible for lunchtime provision and will be supervised by a member of the lunch duty team. If you want to give feedback on the space or have any concerns or questions over its use, please contact Assistant Headteacher responsible for duties.

### **Associated Policies**

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- No platform for extremism policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy.



## **Multi-faith Reflection Room - Consent Form**

Lordswood Girls' School recognises that staff and students attending the school will follow many different faiths or none, and come from a wide variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. We have a duty to foster good relations between people of all faiths and none. The following rules will therefore apply to all students utilising the multi-faith reflection room:

- Users of the multi-faith reflection room should show consideration towards people with other beliefs and use the room in a manner which is least restrictive to other users.
- It is permissible for users to take hand held objects into the rooms to aid personal prayer or meditation such as prayer beads, prayer or meditation cards, small prayer mats, hand held books, but no items larger than this. It is not permitted to leave these items within the rooms itself; all users must take personal items with them after use. These items should be stored in bags or lockers when not in the room.
- Any personal possessions left in the room will be removed.
- The room should be left tidy after use.
- No candles/incense can be used in the room.
- People of some faiths cannot pray in rooms where imagery, signs, icons or written materials from other religions are displayed. Therefore students are not permitted to display posters or leave leaflets in the multi-faith reflection room.
- Users of the room should be silent when within the room.
- The room should be used for individual reflection/prayer. There should be no group worship within the room.
- The use of electronic devices is not permitted in the room, this includes the playing of music.
- The school will not permit any form of discrimination against, or harassment of, students on religious or cultural grounds, as such we will not permit students or staff at the school to make any unwelcome attempt to convert another person to a particular religious faith or ideological view, or to act against another because of differences of view.
- Prayer/reflection is a personal choice. Students should not pass comment on students who choose to or not to utilise the room for reflection/prayer.
- No food/drink is to be consumed within the room.
- Students must show their 'pass' to gain access to the room.
- The room will only be open for use at lunchtimes.
- The room is not available at other times of the day due to the multi-functional usage of the room and the requirement of staff to provide adequate supervision.
- The room will be available for females only during the first lunch sitting (13:15-13:35 all days except Wednesday when the time will be 12:55-13:15).
- The room will be available for males only during the second lunch sitting (13:35-14:00 all days except Wednesday when the time will be 13:15 - 13:40)
- In order to allow space for individual reflection a maximum of 5 students will be permitted in the room at any time.
- If the room is 'full' please wait in an orderly queue outside the room until a space becomes available.

- Students are welcome to stay in the room for the duration of their allocated lunch sitting unless there is a queue of students waiting to use the room. If this is the case, we ask students to limit their time in the room to 5min

Any students found not to be following the rules listed above will have the privilege removed for the remainder of the academic year and may find themselves subject to sanctions as described in the school's behaviour policy.

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**Reply slip: Multi-faith reflection room**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Review Group: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student**

I confirm that I have read and understood the rules relating to the use of the Multi-faith reflection room. I agree to abide by the rules and understand that failure to follow these conditions may result in my pass being revoked.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Carer**

I confirm that I have read and understood the rules relating to the use of the Multi-faith reflection room. I have discussed the need to abide by the rules with my child and understand that failure to follow these conditions may result in their pass being revoked.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Once completed this form should be returned to student reception who will arrange for a pass to be prepared.*