

UWE Faith & Spirituality Guidance for Use of Multi-Faith Spaces

Statement of Principle

UWE's [Religion and Belief Policy](#) states that:

'As part of UWE's core commitment to promoting equality and diversity, we aim to provide an inclusive learning and working environment where students and staff of all religions or beliefs, or who have no belief, can thrive.'

The Policy includes the following ideal:

'Where possible, appropriate services are provided to meet the cultural and religious needs of all staff and students.'

To that end, under Section 10: Facilities and Services, the Policy outlines that the University:

'will endeavour to provide appropriate space and facilities for prayer and religious observance at all its campuses.'

Multi-Faith Spaces and Prayer Rooms

UWE provides [Multi-Faith Spaces and Prayer Rooms](#) on its campuses as detailed below. Multi-Faith Rooms are available to those of all faiths and none. They are spaces to pray, meditate, reflect and find quiet.

These rooms are generally available on a drop-in basis during opening hours. Rooms in the [Community Hub](#) can be booked outside of opening hours and at weekends by contacting faith@uwe.ac.uk. The 'Quiet Room' and 'Reflection Room' in the Community Hub can be booked for specific activities related to Faith and Spirituality during regular opening hours by contacting faith@uwe.ac.uk. Other Multi-Faith Spaces and Prayer Rooms cannot be booked for exclusive use.

The Faith and Spirituality team can also provide information about faith groups and places for prayer and worship in the local community around Bristol. Contact faith@uwe.ac.uk for more information.

UWE is not able to guarantee access to equivalent or similar faith space for students and staff on placement at partner institutions.

If students or staff have any need for faith space which is not currently available, they should contact faith@uwe.ac.uk to discuss their needs.

Frenchay

The Community Hub (Octagon)

Opening hours: Mon-Thurs/Fri 09:30-17:00/16:30 with out-of-hours and weekend booking process.

The Community Hub offers a range of facilities and resources including knowledgeable staff.

Multi-Faith Rooms – 'Quiet Room' (0OCT03) and 'Reflection Room' (0OCT04)

Opening hours: as Community Hub

Multi-faith rooms in the Community Hub for prayer, meditation, reflection and quiet.

The 'Quiet Room' is used for some [scheduled meetings and events](#). During these times the 'Reflection Room' next door may be used instead.

Muslim Prayer Rooms – Brothers (3E41) and Sisters (3E44A)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 07:00-Midnight; weekends by arrangement.

Dedicated rooms for Muslim staff and students for the sole purpose of prayer, including ritual washing facilities.

Friday Prayers are additionally held at the Community Hub.

Glenside

Multi-Faith Room (1B28a)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:30-21:30

A multi-faith room, behind main reception, for prayer, meditation, reflection and quiet.

Bower Ashton

Multi-Faith Room (0B024)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:30-21:00

A multi-faith room, near the Students' Union office, for prayer, meditation, reflection and quiet.

Arnolfini

Multi-Faith Room (4AF028)

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 08:30-21:30

A multi-faith room near the fourth floor Information Point, for prayer, meditation, reflection and quiet, including integrated ritual washing facilities for Muslim users.

Dedicated Muslim Prayer Rooms

Dedicated Muslim prayer rooms are provided on Frenchay campus - one for brothers and one for sisters with associated ritual washing facilities. It is important that religious practice is not a barrier to studying at UWE and these rooms enable differentiation for the specific needs of Muslim staff and students who are in quite large numbers at Frenchay campus. These needs include gender segregation for worship, ritual washing and obligatory prayer times throughout the day.

Whilst Muslim users are welcome to pray in any multi-faith room, the existence of these dedicated Muslim Prayer Rooms alleviates some pressure on the rooms at the Community Hub to the benefit of other users.

Dedicated Muslim prayer rooms are not currently provided on other campuses, and Muslim users are welcome to pray in any multi-faith room.

Guidelines for Use of Multi-Faith Spaces and Prayer Rooms

The aim is to keep access to multi-faith rooms as uncomplicated as possible. Their shared nature relies largely on the respect and generosity of users. The rooms are provided for prayer, meditation, reflection and quiet, and users should respect others in the room.

The rooms are for the sole use of staff, students and occasional visitors to the University. They are not for the use of external individuals or organisations.

The rooms are generally available on a drop-in basis and it may often be necessary to wait for the room to become free.

General principles for use

Please observe the following guiding principles:

- Leave the room tidy for the next user.
- Take personal items of religious practice away with you.
- Do not block others using the room for long periods.
- Keep noise to a minimum.
- No eating or drinking.
- No general conversations.
- No mobile phone calls or use of other devices.
- No collecting of money without permission.
- No candles, incense or naked flames of any kind.
- No leafleting.

- No meetings.
- No sleeping.

As with all University facilities, users should be aware of UWE's [Student Conduct Policy](#) and [Staff Conduct Procedure](#).

Footwear

Some users may wish to remove their shoes, particularly for certain activities.

Notices

Noticeboards will be provided in the rooms to provide general information for users. Items for display should be submitted to faith@uwe.ac.uk.

External Speakers

Where prayer or worship is to be led by someone other than UWE students or staff, then a request should be made in line with the appropriate external speakers procedure. [Link to be provided when confirmed]

Events

Rooms can be booked in the Community Hub for meetings and events by contacting faith@uwe.ac.uk. Other multi-faith spaces and prayer rooms are intended for drop-in use during opening hours, and these rooms will not be appropriate for other events. Alternative rooms should be booked for these activities through the University's general room booking process.

Other potential users of multi-faith Rooms

The opportunity for space, quiet, retreat and refuge may help many in managing life, health, wellbeing, studies and the working day. During a traumatic event, such as bereavement, these spaces can be useful places of calm recollection. Users for whom religion may be of no obvious significance are equally welcome.

Safety and Security

Fire and emergency evacuation procedures will be posted in the rooms. Security staff should be informed of any incident or concern that requires attention by phoning (0117) 32 86404. In an emergency, phone (0117) 328 9999 (or internal 9999) for an immediate response.

Management of Multi-Faith Spaces and Prayer Rooms

Management

Day to day management of the rooms is provided by Student Services. Overall responsibility for the physical space, including cleaning and maintenance, rests with Facilities.

Monitoring

It is neither practicable nor desirable to monitor all use of these rooms. The University may monitor use of spaces from time to time, as it does with other rooms on University campuses.

Complaints and Problems

Any practical issues or problems associated with these rooms and their use should be reported as quickly as possible to faith@uwe.ac.uk. These may include cleaning, breakages, lighting, etc.

More serious concerns about any misuse of these facilities or complaints about other users should also be reported to faith@uwe.ac.uk. Complaints will be handled under the provisions in UWE's [Religion and Belief Policy](#).

Review

This guidance will be reviewed every three years, or more frequently if needed, in line with the [Religion and Belief Policy](#).

Further Information

For further information about the support UWE provides for students and staff of all faiths and none, please see the [Faith and Spirituality web pages](#), or contact faith@uwe.ac.uk