



Oakswood College

Empowering Through Education



Multi Faith Prayer & Contemplation Space

Policy

PROMOTING EXCELLENCE • ENSURING COMPLIANCE
SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



GOVERNANCE



QUALITY



COMPLIANCE



EXCELLENCE



Oakswood College
Empowering Through Education

(Trading name of Oakswood Group Ltd)

Multi-Faith Prayer & Contemplation Space Policy

Document Control & Version History

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Key resources relevant to this Policy:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-prevent-duty-in-higher-education-he-training-and-guidance-for-practitioners>
- <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-providers/student-protection-and-support/counter-terrorism-the-prevent-duty/>



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1. Introduction

- This Policy is designed to ensure that:
 - users of our Multi-Faith Prayer & Contemplation Space have a clear understanding about using the space, including authorised uses, and the Oakwood College's expectations for use of the space
 - there is clarity for all that the College expects a clear, inclusive, and respectful approach to using this space from all users.
 - users and non-users of the space are aware how to raise any concerns arising from use of the space by any individual or group.
 - the Oakwood College is fully meeting its obligations and the statutory requirements of the UK Government's Prevent Duty for UK Higher Education Institutions, as well as taking account of guidance from the Office for Students (OfS) regarding Condition E6 and Freedom of Speech expectations and requirements.

2. Purpose of this Policy

- To support diverse spiritual needs, providing an inclusive, respectful, and accessible space for prayer, meditation, reflection, and quiet contemplation for students and staff of all faiths and none, while ensuring compliance with the institution's statutory safeguarding obligations and the UK government PREVENT Duty.

3. Scope

- This policy applies to all enrolled students, current staff, governors and contractors of Oakwood College.
- The space is available to all current students and staff.
- Use by external persons or groups not affiliated with Oakwood College is not normally permitted; exceptional permission (e.g. for an invited visitor) may be granted at the discretion of the Facilities Officer and/or a member of the Senior Leadership team.

4. Principles

- The designated space is inclusive and belongs to all who choose to use it subject to the principles, rules and arrangements set out in this Policy.
- The space is a shared facility supporting diverse spiritual, religious, and contemplative practices.
- Users must show mutual respect and maintain an atmosphere of calm, quiet, and safety.

- The Oakwood College balances welcoming diverse faith practices with its legal duties to prevent radicalisation and extremism.

5. Booking and Access

- The space is accessible during designated hours on a drop-in basis. Designated hours may vary across the year and in/out of term-time.
- All users must comply with allocated times and respect others' use.

6. Conduct and Usage Guidelines

- Maintain low noise levels; no eating, drinking, candles, or incense allowed.
- Mobile phones must be silent.
- The space must be kept tidy, with removal of personal items after use.
- The Oakwood College provides appropriate facilities (e.g. ablution areas) depending on religious requirements.
- All activities must comply with institutional policies, including (but not limited to) the Prevent & Safeguarding Policy, and student and staff codes of conduct.

7. PREVENT Duty Compliance

- Oakwood College acknowledges its statutory duty under the Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism (the 'Prevent Duty').
- We ensure that the Multi-Faith Space operates within this legal framework by:
 - Assuring access protocols include safeguards against misuse for extremist purposes.
 - Regular oversight by the SMT and Prevent SPOC to monitor space usage.
 - Training staff responsible for the space to recognise signs of vulnerability or risk related to radicalisation and understand appropriate referral pathways in line with institutional safeguarding procedures.
 - Promoting an environment that encourages open, lawful, and respectful dialogue consistent with academic freedom and freedom of speech obligations.
 - Engaging with students and faith groups to foster community cohesion and build resilience against extremist influences.
 - Ensuring staff and student awareness of the College's Prevent & Safeguarding Policy.

8. Reporting and Concerns

- Any concerns about misuse of the space or Prevent/Safeguarding concerns should be reported promptly to the Oakwood College's Prevent SPOC or Safeguarding Officer.
- The Oakwood College commits to addressing all such concerns sensitively, confidentially, and in line with legal and policy frameworks.

9. Monitoring and Review

- This policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Governors with input from institutional Safeguarding, PREVENT staff and students to ensure it remains effective, inclusive, and compliant with evolving legal standards.