

Prayer Room Protocol

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The University has a statutory obligation to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism under Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 (the Prevent Duty). In order to comply with this Duty, the University has established a Prevent Working Group (comprising senior staff from across the University as well as the President of the Students' Union) and introduced both a Prevent Policy and a suite of related policies, procedures and forms to support this.
- 1.2 The Students' Union and all affiliated societies, clubs or individuals must comply with the University's Prevent and related policies so that the University can be assured that students' well-being is safeguarded at all times. These requirements also apply to the operation of the University's Prayer Rooms.
- 1.3 The guidelines below are not intended to be restrictive but to provide a basis for the facilitation of safe spiritual and religious practice.

2. Prayer Rooms

- 2.1 The University of Buckingham is a secular institution but recognises that prayer and meditation are an important facet of various faiths and traditions.
- 2.2 The University provides prayer room facilities at both the Hunter Street and Verney Park campuses for use by students and staff without discrimination. Any room designated as a prayer room is a "neutral" zone available for use by students and staff of all faith groups.
- 2.3 The University primarily uses MB2 and the Tanlaw Mill Exercise Studio as prayer rooms. There is also a small prayer room at the Verney Park campus. Where students wish to book other rooms for specific religious or related events, they must do so in accordance with the Students' Union Events Policy.
- 2.4 Prayer rooms are managed by the Students' Union, and are not controlled by any single student population or group. The rooms are multi-faith and posters or other materials must not be left in the rooms as they are also used for other purposes.
- 2.5 All Students' Union faith society leaders must be formally briefed on the expectations of prayer room use.