

Hungerhill School: Prayer Room Policy



Responsible Committee/Individual	Local Governing Board
Author	Assistant Headteacher
Target Audience	All Stakeholders
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Headteacher Signature	<i>K. Crawford</i>
Local Governing Board Representative Signature	<i>C. Heald</i>

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Hungerhill 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. The school is committed to providing opportunities for staff and students to balance their faith requirements with the competing demands of work and study.

Hungerhill 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.

The 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.

2. Prayer Room

The Prayer Room is housed in meeting room two, adjacent to the Student Support Office and next to the attendance team in 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.

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.

3. Gaining access to the Prayer Room

Students who would like to have access to the Prayer Room are asked to speak to the relevant member of staff who is on duty near to the Prayer Room or speak to a member of staff at Student Reception.

To be granted access to the Prayer Room - students and their parents/carers will be expected to sign and agree to the rules of Prayer Room (Appendix 1). A Microsoft form is sent out to parents/carers to complete prior to students accessing the Prayer Room.

All staff will have access to the Prayer Room via their staff identification badge.

4. Hours

The Prayer Room will be available to use Monday to Friday during lunchtime.

At this point, the room is dedicated to being a prayer room and 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 is divided using a section divider provided by school.

5. Usage

Any concerns around possible inappropriate use of the Prayer Room should be reported promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead/Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Equality and Diversity Lead or the member of staff on lunchtime duty near Student Support.

In order to allow space for individual reflection, a maximum of 2 students will be permitted in the room at any time. If the room is 'full' students should wait in an orderly queue outside the main Student Support Office until a space becomes available.

Students are welcome to stay in the room for the duration of their allocated time 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.

6. 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.

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 standard of conduct will be sanctioned as part of the school behaviour policy.

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.

7. Fire safety

It is not permitted to light candles or burn incense in the room. The Fire Exits and map of exit points is displayed on the back of the door.

8. Food and drink

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

9. 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. Hungerhill School have provided these for students to use – please make sure they are respected and returned to the storage shelves within the Prayer Room.

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.

10. 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.

11. Who to contact

Use of the space is controlled by the Assistant Headteacher/ Equality and Diversity Lead and staff duty members who are responsible for lunchtime provision and will be supervised by a member of the lunch duty team.

12. Associated Policies

- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Behaviour Policy

- Whistleblowing Policy.

Prayer Room - Consent Form

Hungerhill 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 Prayer Room:

- Users of the Prayer Room should show consideration towards people with other beliefs and use the room in a manner which is least restrictive to other users.
- 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 Prayer 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 inform a member of staff on duty that they wish to access the Prayer 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.
- In order to allow space for individual reflection a maximum of 2 students will be

permitted in the room at any time.

- If the room is 'full' please wait in an orderly queue near to Student Support until a space becomes available.

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.

Reply slip: Prayer Room

Name: _____

Year Group: _____

Student

I confirm that I have read and understood the rules relating to the use of the Prayer 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 Prayer 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.