

University Provision for Prayer, Reflection and Contemplation

Responsibility for Policy:

University Registrar and Deputy Chief Executive

Relevant to:

All LJMU staff and students

Approved by:

SMT in February 2016

Responsibility for Document Review:

Head of Student Advice and Wellbeing services

Date introduced:

July 2013

Date(s) modified:

February 2016

Next Review Date:

February 2019

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- **The Equality Act 2010**
- **The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006**
- **The Human Rights Act 1998**

RELATED POLICIES & DOCUMENTS

- **LJMU Policy for Prayer, Contemplation and Reflection**
- **Student Handbook**
- **LJMU and University of Liverpool Chaplaincy Agreement**

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1 Introduction

Liverpool John Moores University is a secular institution but recognises the commitment of individual staff and students to pursue a spiritual or religious practice and actively supports their right to do so in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect. The University supports the diversity of the staff and student population and acknowledges the need for suitable facilities to enable staff and students to pray/reflect/contemplate during the standard academic day. The University will, as far as is reasonably practicable, provide space appropriate for the purpose of prayer, reflection and contemplation at key campus locations.

2 Objectives

LJMU is committed to promoting equality and diversity and aims to provide an inclusive learning and working environment where staff and students of all religions and beliefs, or those who have no belief, can thrive.

The University seeks to ensure that:

- Individuals are not treated less favourably than others because of their actual or perceived religion, belief or non-belief.
- Policies, practices and provisions are based on relevant criteria, which do not discriminate on the grounds of religion, religious belief or similar philosophical belief (except in the case of a genuine occupational requirement), and do not put people of any specific religion or belief at a disadvantage when compared with other people.
- Individuals and groups are treated with dignity and fairness whatever their religion and/or belief.
- Where possible, appropriate services are provided to meet the cultural and religious needs of all staff and students.

3 Scope and Responsibilities of the Policy

This policy applies to all staff and students at LJMU. Visitors (including contractors and other individuals with honorary status) will be expected to abide by this policy.

The University acknowledges that flexibility is needed in order that individual needs can be met.

The legislation relating to this area includes:

- The Equality Act 2010
- The Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006
- The Human Rights Act 1998

4 Freedom of Speech

The University policy on Prayer, Contemplation and Reflection should be read in conjunction with the University Policy on Freedom of Speech.

5 Facilities for Prayer, Contemplation and Reflection

There are prayer facilities contained within the Henry Cotton building, the John Foster building and within the IMMarsH campus. It is appropriate that students and staff should have space on campus to be able to pray, contemplate and reflect away from the constant noise and interruptions of modern university life.

6 Purpose of the spaces

The University does not in any way wish to duplicate or replicate the provisions that students and staff of faith (or indeed of no faith) are accessing within the community. Prayer space on campus is intended to support the academic process and to enable students to pray, reflect or contemplate, in a location that does not remove them from campus for extended periods during the standard academic day.

In addition, the spaces can be used for small group discussion and conversation by students, staff and the chaplaincy team.

These spaces are for use during standard building opening hours and conducive and appropriate community facilities should be used at all other times, when attendance on campus is at students' discretion.

7 Networks and Support

LJMU provides opportunities for staff and students to explore and practise faith and spirituality. This includes facilities and information on places for prayer and worship, space for private reflection, opportunities to meet others and advice on spiritual and ethical concerns.

The Chaplaincy provision within LJMU can be accessed through contact details on the LJMU web pages or by dropping in to Faith Express, located in the Foundation building, University of Liverpool. <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/students/settling-in/spirituality>

The team can provide:

- Space and time for worship and private reflection
- Confidential personal support with pastoral and spiritual needs
- Regular events to celebrate particular expression of faith and spirituality
- Advice on spiritual and ethical concerns
- Support for student faith networks and groups
- Information about local faith communities and facilities
- Advice and support for the institution on religious and spiritual matters

8 Contacts

LJMU Chaplaincy team <https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/students/settling-in/spirituality>

Student Advice and Wellbeing services, Aquinas Building, Maryland Street, 0151 231 3445, or via email to sawadmin@ljmu.ac.uk

Appendix 1

Management and use of Spaces

The day to day management of the Multi-Faith spaces across the institution is the responsibility of Student Advice and Wellbeing, in conjunction with the Estates Management team.

It is expected that users of the spaces treat them with respect and the following guidelines should be followed:

- Respect the religious (or non-religious) views of other individuals using the spaces.
- Ensure spaces are kept tidy and that rubbish is removed
- No food should be consumed within the prayer spaces
- Washing facilities will be available in suitable locations. Students should be mindful of the health and safety issues inherent in such locations.
- The rooms should not be used to store any personal belongings, including those belonging to Student Union Clubs and societies.