

New Road Baptist Church, Oxford

Room Bookings Policy

This policy statement has been developed to guide decisions on the use of the premises by individuals and organisations other than the church itself and has been approved by the Church Meeting. All applications for the use of the premises will be reviewed by the minister, who may refer any application to the Finance and Fabric Committee or Deacons for consideration if additional guidance on the interpretation of this policy is considered helpful. All users of the premises will be required to comply with the Terms and Conditions of Room Hire published on the church website at the time the booking is agreed.

In considering any use of the premises, we will apply the following policy:

- Preference will be given to organisations, individuals and causes which have an ethos and vision consistent with that of the church.
- We will seek to build partnerships and an on-going relationship with those using our premises – for mutual support and understanding and more effective achievement of our objectives.
- We will consider use of the premises by organisations, individuals and causes where there is no commonality of ethos and vision only where:
 - There is no conflict with the church’s own or preferred partners’ use of the premises; and
 - The use is not associated with any of the prohibited characteristics defined by this policy.
- We will charge a fair market rate for the use of our premises, based on charges made for similar facilities in the locality. We may offer a discount from this “normal” rate for preferred users (which will be termed the “charity” rate).
- We will not make our premises available to any organisation, individual or cause which we consider may:
 - Encourage social division, whether based on faith, race, political viewpoint or any other reason.
 - Promote activities or practices that conflict with the church’s own stance on social, economic or racial justice.

We define these as the “prohibited characteristics”.

This policy will be reviewed and developed in the light of experience with its application.

April 2021