

Religious Activity in The Royal Parks

Policy Statement

The Royal Parks does not permit collective acts of worship or other religious observances in The Royal Parks' estate, either in their own right or as part of a demonstration, event or other activity. This includes spoken or sung communal prayers or other events that are primarily religious in focus.

Exceptions are made for annual acts of remembrance at the regimental memorials in the Parks, which have taken place since the First World War.

As a public body, it is not the place of The Royal Parks to make value judgments between one religious observance and another. We must either permit all collective religious observances or refuse them all. Our approach is to continue to refuse all such observances on the grounds that they are not traditional park-related activities and the disadvantages to the public at large of allowing them would almost certainly outweigh the benefits to adherents of a particular religion or belief. The policy extends to the construction of structures within the estate with a religious significance.

Cultural events that do not include collective religious activity are permitted subject to the standard approval process.

Enforcement of the Park Regulations is a matter for the Metropolitan Police.