

Al-Hijrah School Islamic Ethos

WHAT ISLAMIC ETHOS MEANS AT AL-HIJRAH

Al-Hijrah is a full time Voluntary Aided Islamic Through School for boys and girls between the ages of 4 to 16 who wish to learn the British National Curriculum in an Islamic environment where they can develop their Islamic personality alongside their academic performance.

At Al-Hijrah education is based on the principal of:

LA ILAHA ILLALLAHU MUHAMMADUR RASULILLAH

“There is no God but Allah, Muhammad is Messenger of Allah”.

Education at Al-Hijrah addresses the heart, mind, body and soul of a child. It includes the social, moral, physical emotional, intellectual and spiritual aspect of educating a child.

At Al-Hijrah all staff and pupils are valued and respected within an atmosphere of brotherhood and sisterhood, where diversity is celebrated and equality of opportunity is encouraged at all levels of school activity as Allah has commanded in the Qur’an:

“Surely the believers (Muslims) are none but brothers unto one another, so set things right between your brothers, and

have fear of Allah that you may be shown mercy.” (*Al-Hujurat* 49:10).

“Hold fast together to the Rope of Allah, and be not divided. Remember the blessing that Allah bestowed upon you: you were once enemies, then He (Allah) brought your hearts together, so that through His blessing you became brothers.” (*Al Imran* 3:103)

Al-Hijrah school is not based on any one juristic school of thought at all. It is open to all Muslims regardless of their sect, race, gender, language, nationality and ability. Pupils may be proud of their own school of thought but must respect and tolerate other schools of thought.

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF ISLAMIC ETHOS

1. To facilitate, nurture and prepare students to become good Muslim citizens.
2. To provide an Islamic environment where pupils receive quality education embedded with values.

Our Values

The following values are actively promoted in Al-Hijrah School.

1. Promoting Gender Equality

Al-Hijrah promotes gender equality to ensure that equal opportunities exist for both males and females. The school will not tolerate any form of gender discrimination that contravenes the law of the land.

2. Tackling Discrimination

Al-Hijrah has a zero tolerance approach towards all forms of discrimination (e.g. race, colour, religion, gender, lifestyle, ethnicity, disability and age). The school opposes all forms of prejudice and intolerance - including Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, homophobia and racism. All members of the Al-Hijrah community should continuously work to foster mutual respect and understanding between people of all faiths and none.

3. Actively promoting fundamental British values

Al-Hijrah actively promotes fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law, mutual respect, tolerance, freedom of speech, freedom of thought and freedom of association.

Overall, the school will promote shared understanding and respect for all cultures and faiths – a focus on the things that unite rather than things that divide.

4. Forced Marriages, 'Honour-killings', Female Genital Mutilation

Al-Hijrah completely opposes forced marriages, female genital mutilation and honour killings. We teach our pupils

that these are abhorrent practices, inconsistent with any faith. These practices are also against the law.

5. External Speakers

We take great care not to invite any controversial speakers on to our premises to address pupils or propagate unacceptable views. To this end, we carry out background checks before we invite anyone.

6. Wider Community

Al-Hijrah places a great emphasis on service to the local and wider community. We have a key part to play in promoting better understanding and cohesion within our local communities. We regularly organize visits to the places of worship of other faiths (e.g. Churches and Synagogues).

7. Partisan Political Views

Al-Hijrah is not aligned with any political party or movement (in the UK or abroad) and we do not promote any partisan political views. In line with education regulations, we present political issues in a balanced way with all points of views being considered.

8. Extremism

Al-Hijrah takes all allegations of extremism very seriously and we would take immediate action against any concerns of this nature in our school.

HOW ETHOS IS IMPLEMENTED – SOME EXAMPLES

1. There are clearly defined standards of practice and behaviour which help pupils to acquire the right attitude to work, and above all, the capacity to learn and continue learning. (See Reward & Sanction Policy: merits, yellow/red cards, exclusions, reward trips)
2. Each pupil is expected to play a responsible role in school life and will receive the attention of professional teaching staff who will nurture their pupils to excel in a variety of fields
3. With the help of Allah, and with the support of parents and the community, staff and pupils will make Al-Hijrah an environment in which learning takes place with confidence; thus creating a path to achieving excellence.
4. All Salah (Compulsory Prayers) falling within school time must be offered in congregation. When pupils have been assessed as competent in the performance of their Salah, they should be rewarded by being able to pray at the correct time behind an imam appointed by the school.
5. Tajweed and Qur'anic Studies are taught to all pupils (1 hour per week in all years).
6. Time is provided during school hours to read, memorise and understand the Qur'an, Hadith and Masnoon Du'as (Prophetic supplications).

7. Classic & Modern Arabic language is taught as a compulsory subject in all Years throughout the school. (2 hours per week)
8. The study of Religious Education includes 7 Basic Beliefs, 5 Pillars of Islam, Islamic History including the life of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Tafsir, Hadith, Fiqh and Adhab/Islamic Manners. (2 hours per week)
9. Fasting during the month of Ramadan is encouraged and appropriate steps are taken by school leadership and to ensure that pupils can break their fast with their families (e.g. closing school early in Ramadan during winter).
10. The Islamic Ethos of Al-Hijrah School is evident in greeting, gestures, conduct, dress, manners, language and vocabulary, etiquette civility, social interaction, discipline, behaviour, art, cultural icons and ambience.
11. Compulsory religious holidays which must be observed are two days of Eidul Fitr and two days of Eidul Adha.
12. The school leadership reflects the religious character of the school to ensure the living out of the Islamic ethos.
13. Every morning is started with recitation and prayers.
14. Important Islamic events (e.g. Eids, Ramadan, Hajj, Seerah month, New Islamic Year etc) are observed and celebrated.

15. Teachers encourage all pupils to write Islamic dates along with common dates on their written work (e.g. 20th November 2014 (27 Muharram 1436 AH))
16. Teaching and learning in all subjects is Islamised. For example in Science pupils are taught about Muslim Scientists and their contribution to modern sciences, in History and RE Life of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), Khilafate Rashidah and continuity of Khilafah until 1923, and projects are run to introduce Muslim revivalist movements and prominent revivalists and other Muslim heroes.
17. Trips are organised for pupils to visit different places of worship in order to experience and appreciate cultures and lifestyles different from them.
18. The physical and mental wellbeing of each child is of paramount importance.
19. Pupils are trained to develop themselves by holding various positions of responsibilities. The appointment of head-boy, head-girl or form captain and the selection of prefects for a specified time who assist with the school discipline and develop personal talents and abilities. These duties are allocated on a rota basis.
20. Some pupils are trained to lead Salah (Daily Prayers), Friday sermons and to perform in assemblies and other functions.
21. Weekly assemblies and Friday Sermons are focussed on the weekly Islamic theme.

22. Pupils are encouraged to memorise one Verse of the Qur'an, one Hadith of the Prophet (pbuh) and one supplication every week.
23. Special assemblies are organised to celebrate pupils and staff achievements.
24. Tilawat, Nasheed and speech competitions are organised.
25. Pupils take part in different charity and community activities.
26. Displays are designed in classrooms, corridors and halls to create an Islamic and learning environment.
27. `Al-Hijrah Islamic Ethos Team` has been set up to promote Islamic ethos positively in all sections of the school.
28. Drama activities in the school allows pupils to explore varied situations and to present plays to a variety of audiences.
29. Pupils write the school magazines; highlighting Islamic tilt to modern developments.
30. Trips and residential excursions are organised with neighbouring schools. Pupils are confident to ensure religious practice outside home and school.
31. Pupils are encouraged to resolve difference that may occur in school by observing the Islamic practice of brotherhood/sisterhood.
32. Pupils' GCSE Examination successes and other achievement are celebrated in Achievement Assemblies.

33. A Head-teacher's Award is presented to pupils that demonstrate exceptional character.
34. Pupils are encouraged to take up DoE and to develop teamwork and individual skills.
35. Pupils are encouraged to become sports leaders and to take up responsibilities e.g. Registration monitors/sports leader/ prefects.
36. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own behaviour, attainment and achievement.