



Nurture
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Learning

Prayer Policy

Rationale

At Arcadia British School, we are committed to supporting Muslim students in practicing and developing their understanding of Islamic values within a safe, respectful, organised, and appropriately supervised school environment. Prayer provision supports students in developing their understanding of Salah, personal responsibility, respect, discipline, and Islamic values. The school will ensure that prayer arrangements are appropriately managed so that students' religious development is supported while protecting learning time, safeguarding students, and maintaining effective school routines. This approach complements the school's commitment to integrating UAE culture and Islamic values across school life.

Policy Coverage

This policy applies to Muslim students who are registered as Muslim on the school's official records and enrolled in Islamic Education.

This policy sets out the school's expectations and procedures in relation to:

- Eligibility for school organised prayer
- Parental consent and approval
- Prayer times and arrangements
- Primary and Secondary prayer provision
- Ramadan prayer arrangements
- Prayer passes and authorised student lists
- Supervision and safeguarding
- Student movement to and from the prayer room
- Recognition and positive reinforcement
- Monitoring and review

Eligibility and Parent Consent

School organised prayer provision is available to students who are:

- Registered as Muslim on the school's official records.
- Enrolled in Islamic Education at the school.

Before a student participates in the school's organised prayer provision, written communication must be sent to parents and parental consent obtained. The Islamic Department will maintain an up to date list of students who have parental consent to participate.

Students who are not registered as Muslim and do not have the required parental consent will not participate in the school's organised Islamic prayer provision.



JVT, Dubai, UAE



+971 4 552 2600



info@arcadia.sch.ae
<https://arcadia.sch.ae/>



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Prayer Pass

Students must not attend the prayer room without authorisation. Once parental consent has been received, the Islamic Department will issue an authorised prayer pass to eligible students.

The pass confirms that the student has permission to attend the prayer. Teachers and supervising staff should only release students according to the agreed school arrangements and where the student has the appropriate authorisation.

Prayer during lesson Time

Students are not permitted to leave lessons to pray, including following an individual student request, except during an approved school arrangement such as the specific Ramadan arrangement outlined below.

Prayer arrangements should be organised around designated break or lunchtime periods to protect curriculum and learning time.

Primary Prayer Arrangements

Primary students may participate in organised prayer practice during break or lunchtime, including where the formal prayer time has not yet commenced. The purpose of this provision is educational: to teach students how to pray correctly, develop appropriate prayer routines, and reinforce Islamic values and understanding.

The Islamic Department will organise students by year group and establish an appropriate Rota. An Islamic teacher will lead or supervise the prayer practice.

For Years 1 to 4, students must be accompanied from the designated collection/lunch area to the prayer room and escorted back afterwards. Students must not move independently between these areas.

Secondary Prayer Arrangements

Secondary students with parental consent and an authorised prayer pass will attend the prayer during lunchtime only and not during lesson time.

A designated member of staff must supervise the prayer room throughout the prayer period. Students must follow the agreed prayer timings and return promptly to their normal lunchtime activities.

Students are not permitted to leave or miss lessons to attend prayer. Prayer attendance must take place only during the approved lunchtime arrangements authorised by the school.



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Supervision and Safeguarding

The prayer room must never operate as an unsupervised student space during school organised prayer.

A designated member of staff must be present and responsible for supervision.

Staff must ensure:

- Students enter and leave the prayer area safely.
- Appropriate behaviour and respect are maintained.
- Primary students requiring escort are accompanied.
- Students return promptly to their designated area.
- Any safeguarding or behavioural concern is reported through normal school procedures.

Ramadan Arrangements

During Ramadan, the school may introduce additional arrangements to reinforce the value and practice of prayer.

With prior parental consent and school approval, authorised students may be permitted to leave the final five minutes of the last lesson to make their way to the prayer room.

This arrangement must be communicated clearly to staff in advance.

Only students appearing on the approved Ramadan prayer list and holding the required pass may leave lessons under this arrangement.

Student Records and Monitoring

The Islamic Department is responsible for maintaining an accurate and up to date prayer list, including confirmation of parental consent.

The list should be reviewed regularly and updated whenever a student's circumstances or parental consent changes.

The Islamic Department and relevant pastoral/leadership staff will monitor the arrangements to ensure that they remain safe, organised and do not unnecessarily affect learning.

Recognition and Positive Reinforcement

The school will positively recognise students who demonstrate the values associated with prayer, including respect, responsibility, commitment and positive conduct.



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Recognition may include school reward points, certificates, positive communication with parents, and acknowledgement during assemblies where appropriate.

Recognition should focus on students' values, behaviour, responsibility and engagement, rather than comparing students based on religious observance.

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Islamic Department:** Maintain consent records and authorised student lists; issue prayer passes; organise primary prayer teaching; communicate arrangements with staff and parents; and monitor implementation.
- **Primary Staff:** Ensure only authorised students attend and that younger students are safely handed over and returned.
- **Secondary Staff:** Follow the authorised prayer arrangements and ensure students are released only at agreed times.
- **Prayer Supervisors:** Maintain appropriate supervision, safeguarding and behaviour within the prayer area.
- **Parents:** Provide written consent and inform the school if they wish to withdraw or amend their child's participation.
- **Students:** Follow prayer room expectations, carry their authorisation appropriately, respect designated timings, behave appropriately and return promptly to the designated areas.

Monitoring, Quality Assurance and Review

Implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Islamic Department and relevant members of the Senior Leadership Team. The policy should be reviewed annually or following any relevant update to Ministry of Education, KHDA, safeguarding, or school guidance, consistent with the annual review approach already used in the school's MoE Mandatory Subjects Policy.



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