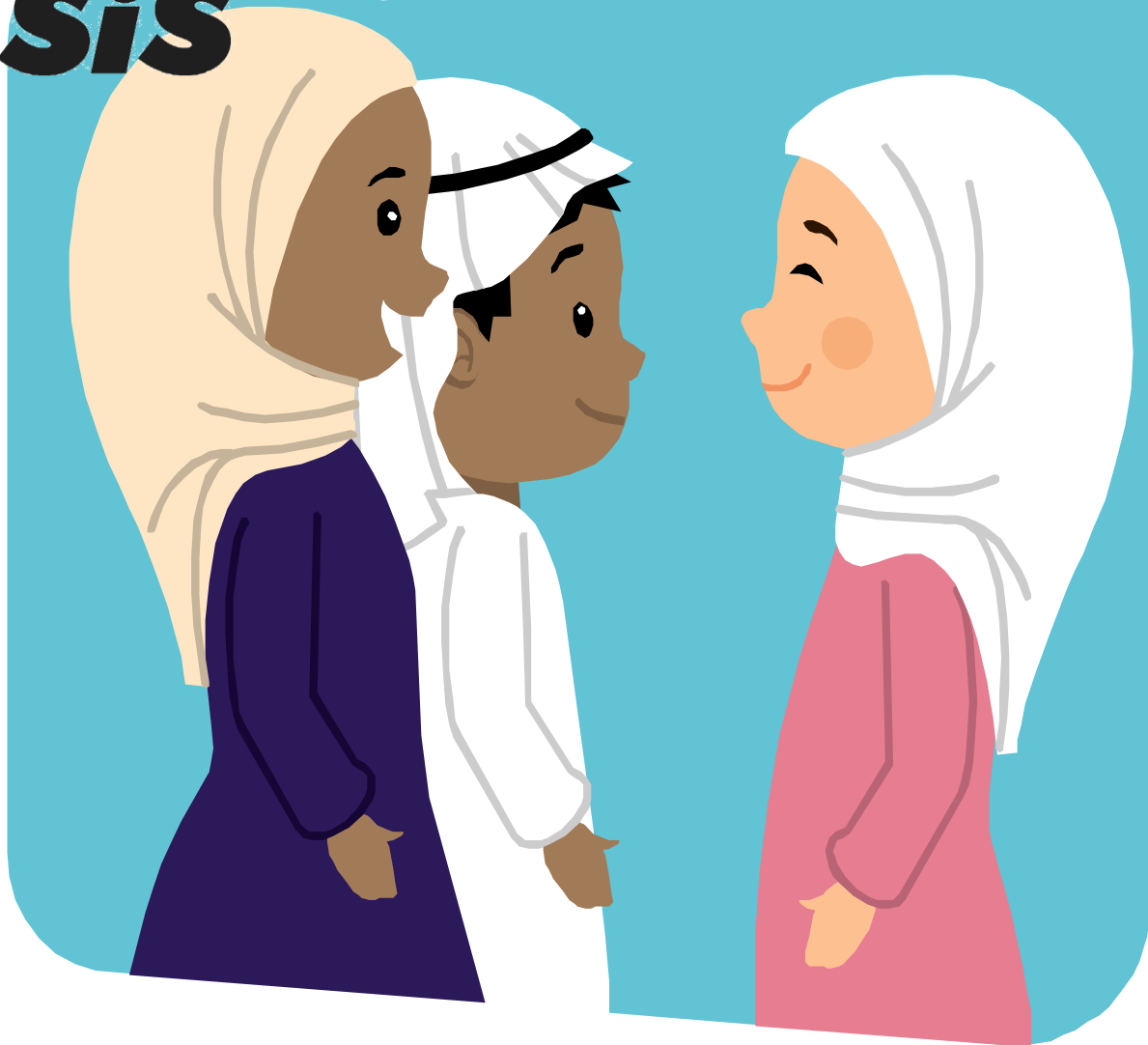


# How to help & support your child at home



Last updated ~ September 2017

An essential read for parents & carers  
on how to get the best out of  
Saturday Islamic School...



السلام عليكم

**W**e would like to thank you for choosing Saturday Islamic School (SIS) for your child and for continuing to support the school.

Alhamdulillah, your child is amongst a very few who has the opportunity to attend and benefit from SIS. Every year a large number of children apply to attend Saturday Islamic School but only a few are successful because of the limited number of places available. We pray to Allah (swa) to provide us with the required resources so that more children can attend and benefit from the school in the future, insha Allah. Currently the school caters for nearly 900 girls and boys across five branches in Tower Hamlets.

The success of SIS is a mercy and blessings from Allah (swa). It is the result of the hard work by parents and their children and the commitment and dedication of the staff, governors and volunteers.

Much of what children get out of SIS very much depends on their parents and the learning environment at home. The school, because of the limited time available, can only sow the seeds of Islamic learning. The rest, Allah willing, is dependent on the children's parents and carers. Since April 1996, Alhamdulillah, many children have benefited greatly from the school and we hope this will be the case for your child too, insha Allah.

The rate of progress made by your child at SIS will be determined by the strength of partnership between home and school. We hope that we can work together and do our best to ensure that your child is offered the best possible learning.

In order to achieve this, we need your support and help. Please take a few minutes to go through this brief guide as it will pay much dividend, insha Allah.



# The values of Saturday Islamic School

The school developed a set of values reflecting its aims and objectives. The values were developed involving all the children, their parents, staff members and partner organisations with whom the school works.

The acronym for the SIS values is S A L A M

**S** - a smile and being respectful

**A** - always trying and doing our best

**L** - learning to read and write

**A** - being ambitious in this life and in the next

**M** - being mindful and honest

Parents can help by reminding and reinforcing these values at home. The school is developing way in which these values can be effectively promoted as part of the SIS syllabus and curriculum.



## The school time

The timing of the school day is slightly different to ensure that parents who have children at different branches can drop and collect them. Kindly make sure that you drop and collect your child on time.



Branch	Start (AM)	Finish (PM)
Bethnal Green Academy	09:30	3:00
Bow School	09:30	3:00
London Muslim Centre & Maryam Centre	09:45	2:45
St Pauls Way Trust School	09:15	2:45
Stepney Green	09:30	3:00

## Term dates and school closures

SIS in general aims to operate the term dates followed by mainstream schools in Tower Hamlets with the exception of half-terms when the school is open. The draft term dates are included in the SIS diary. Any changes are notified in writing in advance, otherwise please follow the dates that are published.

## If your child is absent from SIS

Please avoid your child missing school for trivial reasons. If they are slightly unwell, send them to school and we will look after them, insha Allah. Children often feel better when they are at school.

If your child is away, kindly find out what work they have missed and help them catch up at home. It may be useful to buddy-up with one or two other families in your child's class so that you can help each other by sharing and exchanging information.





# Starting at SIS ~ the first steps...

## Settling in the school

It is natural to be slightly anxious in an unfamiliar environment so allow your child the time and space to settle in the school. We too will do our best to make them feel safe.



Staff will make sure children know where the toilets are. Please tell them to go to the toilets before they are desperate.



## Getting ready for school

Children will pray Zuhr at school. In the winter they may pray Asr too. Please get your child to make wudu at home before they leave for school.

## Can you find a friend?

If possible, try to identify a friend for your child. It could be a child who goes to the same school or lives in the same block. Alternatively, you may have to link with a family of your choice who has a child at SIS. It's an opportunity to develop friendship for the whole family!

## Contact details

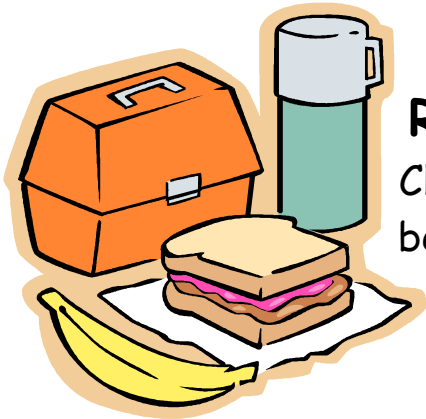
You can contact the school during school hours on 07957 77 53 54 or leave text messages at out-of-school hours. Please avoid leaving voice messages. The best way to contact the school is through email which is [admin@saturdayislamicschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@saturdayislamicschool.co.uk)

If you are able then always check the SIS website <http://www.saturdayislamicschool.co.uk> before choosing to telephone for general information. Please note that the telephone is only checked and answered on Saturdays during the normal school operating hours.

# Is your child ready for SIS...

## Ready for school...

Please make sure your child attends school with all their books. A small pencil case with pencils, pen, ruler etc is essential.



## Ready to learn...

Children need to have a nutritional breakfast and be provided with a healthy packed lunch for school. The school also offers a tuck-shop with healthy choices.

## Ready for the class

It is essential that children attend school on time. It is not the children who are late for school but the parents. Please ensure you accompany your child to their class and explain reasons for any lateness to the teacher. Remember persistent lateness will result in your child being taken off roll.



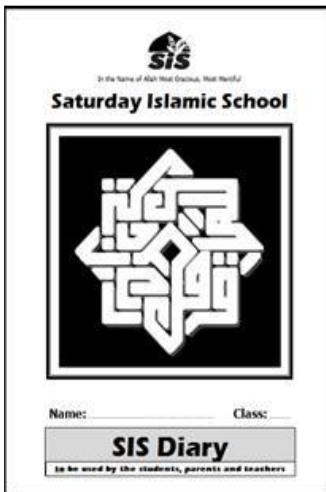
## Dressed to learn

There is no particular uniform at SIS. Children need to dress in comfortable and practical clothes & sensible footwear. Sandals and jewellery items need to be avoided. Also avoid labels and tight clothes. In the winter please ensure your child has layers of clothes and a coat.

# Are you ready to help your child @ SIS...

## Get to know your child's books

The school provides children with a starter bag. Please spend a few minutes and familiarise yourself with its contents. There are text and exercise books, Qur'an CD, and SIS diary. Children write homework in the diary which can also be used for other purposes.

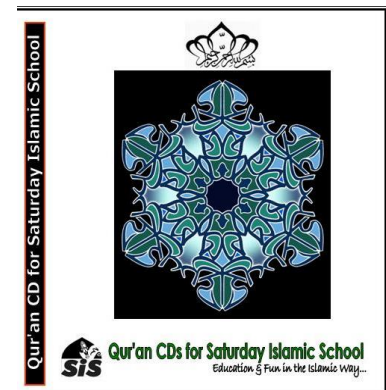


## SIS diary

Please check and sign the diary every week. It provides important information for you and your child. You can also use this to communicate with teachers at school (cover may be different).

## Qur'an CDs

Children are provided with two CDs that have the entire Juz 30 and are arranged to help children memorise the Qur'an. Make opportunity for your child to listen to this CD as often as possible. Put it on during breakfast, while driving and particularly at bedtime.



## Audio-visual & games collection

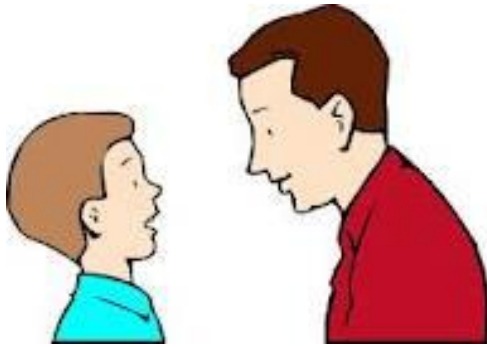
All children are encouraged to borrow books from the school's library and read them at home. Help your child keep a log of the books they read in the SIS diary. Children can also borrow audio-visual & Islamic games items for a small contribution.





# Ways in which you can help your child...

There are many ways in which parents and carers help their children. You will have your own ways. Below are some suggested ways for your consideration...



## Discussion and talk

Please spend at least 20-30 minutes every week to find out what your child is doing at SIS. Children learn more through discussion and talk than from just reading and writing.

Also find some time when you can help your child to complete the homework. Reward and encourage your child with praise and your time

## Provide some quality help

Sit with your child and work on a task together. If possible, make a routine that you can follow. Take them to the public library to borrow books on topics they are learning at SIS. Attend programmes aimed at Muslim children in your locality. Go out and get some fresh air!



## Work, rest and play

Children need a balanced life - work, rest and play are all important for their development. Please make sure your child goes to bed on time. This will help them wake up on time and develop greater concentration. Find some time to play!

# Help your child with Qur'an and Arabic...

## Listening to the Qur'an CD



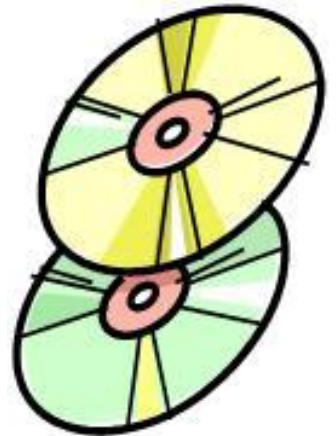
Children only spend a few hours a week at SIS. The time available is not enough to help them with Qur'an memorisation at school.

Parents and carers play a crucial role in Qur'an memorisation. Please ensure your child listens to the Qur'an CD everyday. You may find it useful to play it during breakfast, before bedtime or in your car when

travelling. Identify what works best for you and your child and ensure they get plenty of listening opportunities!

Identify a safe place to store the CDs so that you do not spend hours looking for them.

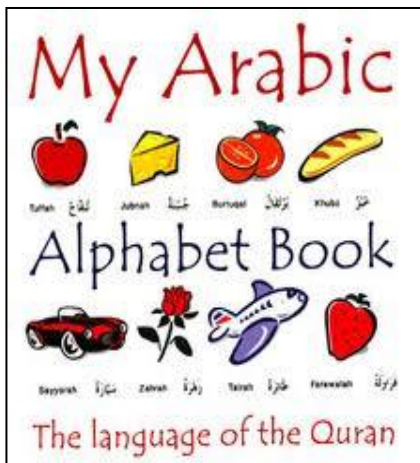
Get your child to recite all the surahs they have learnt regularly so that they do not forget. Record your observations in the space provided in the diary.



## Make use of the Arabic

Make as much use of the Arabic that your child learns at SIS. Get your child to translate the shopping list in Arabic. Use Arabic for

familiar words e.g. doors, window, table, chair etc. Buy books for special occasions.



Watch cartoons in Arabic and listen to Arabic nasheeds. If you find something useful then let us know so we can share it with other parents. There are many useful sites on the internet that can be used with parental supervision to learn & practise Arabic.

## **Health and safety**

Please do not leave your child at school unless a staff member is present on site. Toys or valuables are not allowed. Kindly do not approach other children and report incidents to a member of staff.

## **Parking and safety**

Kindly avoid parking immediately outside the school gates. Be extra vigilant when reversing. If you live locally (within a mile) please kindly consider walking to school. It is healthy and gives you time to interact with your child and reinforce positive behaviour and attitudes.

## **Attendance and punctuality**

Your child could lose their place at SIS if they are late for 3 consecutive weeks or have unauthorised absence for 2 weeks. Please explain reasons for any absences in the SIS diary on their return.

All requests for leave must be in writing. SIS does not authorise holidays during term time. Children should not miss school for trivial reasons. Colds/coughs should not keep children away from school.

## **Collection at home time**

Please collect your child on time at the end of the school day. Late collection results in extra cost to the school and causes inconvenience. Persistent late collection will result in an extra charge to cover costs.

## **Library and audio-visual aids**

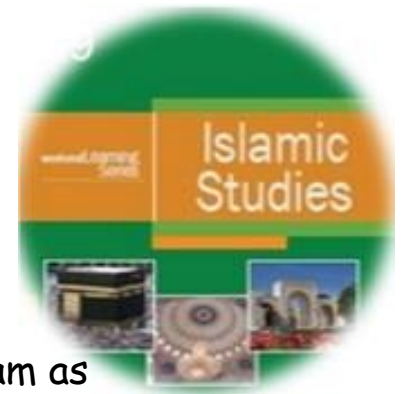
Please make effective use of the school library and other resources. We request you to take care of the resources which you borrow and return them on time so that others can also benefit from them.

## **If you are not sure...**

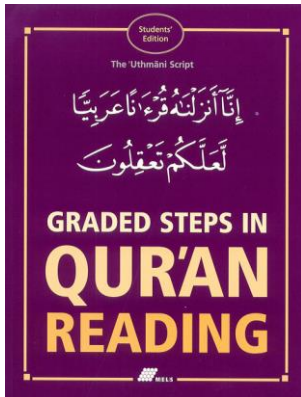
Please talk to a member of staff if you are not sure at the earliest opportunity. We would be very happy to address any concerns that you may have no matter how trivial it may be to you!

**WE NEED YOUR HELP AND SUPPORT... AND YOUR DU'A**

# The curriculum at SIS...



## The school curriculum and ethos




The main purpose of SIS is to help children learn the basics about Islam as a way of life. At SIS equal emphasis is placed on social education and learning as well as academic attainment.

SIS curriculum tries to ensure that what is taught is relevant and realistic. Emphasis is placed on 'learning how to learn' rather than memorising a few facts in isolation.

## Classes at SIS

SIS caters for nine Year groups from 6½ to 16 years old. Currently there are 22 classes across the branches. The classes and the curriculum are organised in the following way:

Class	Qur'an & Tajweed	Arabic language	Islamic studies	Etiquette
1	2 lessons focusing on memorisation and Tajweed	1 lesson of basic reading and writing	1 lesson on the basic of faith and fiqh	Islamic manners taught through assembly and group projects
2				
3				
4	1 lesson focusing on Tajweed and memorisation	2 lessons leading to ORC Asset language assessment in Arabic	Fiqh and Seerah	
5				
6				
7	1 lesson – looking at Tilawah & Tafseer	2 lessons leading to GCSE in Arabic	Project based studies on chosen topics	
8				
9				

- 'Graded Steps to Quran Reading' by MELs is used to teach Qur'an
- For teaching Islam SIS uses 'Islamic Studies' published by Weekend Learning
- For Arabic we use  a Tunisian publication. This is supplemented with material which is available for teaching Arabic.



## Towards our goal...

SIS is a means to an end rather than an end in itself. We request all parents to do their best to improve the home learning environment and provide their children with a wide range of inspiring opportunities to learn about and enjoy Islam. Our focus should be on the quality rather than the quantity. Allah will reward us for our endeavours, insha Allah.



## Assessments

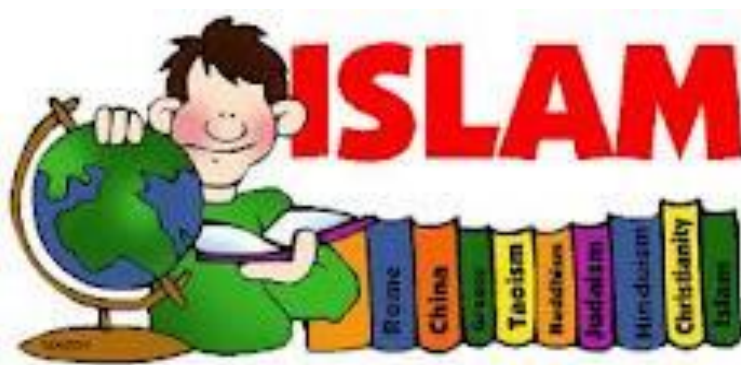
Teachers assess children through observation as well as setting structured tasks. Children also have opportunities to evaluate their own work. At the end of the year children have the final assessment which is used to decide whether they are ready to move to the next level or need to remain in the same class.

## Progress reports and meeting with teachers

At SIS children are taught by different teachers. You can arrange to meet teachers before or after school to discuss your child's progress. You will be invited to a mid-year report in January and the end-of-year report will be given in July, insha Allah.

## Summary syllabus

SIS now has a revised syllabus for all the subjects. The syllabus for Qur'an is to memorise Juz Amma and Learn to read the Qur'an with correct tajweed. Islamic Studies aims to teach children all that they



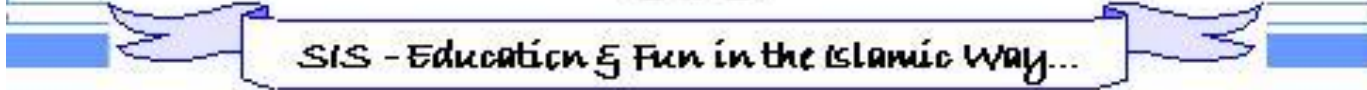
need to know in relation to Aaqeedah, Fiqh and Seerah. Learning basic Arabic language is at the core of the syllabus for Arabic. Parents can download the syllabus from the school website.



Saturday Islamic School

Saturday Islamic School  
is a joint venture by  
The East London Mosque &  
Islamic Forum Europe  
and was established in April 1996

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SIS - Education & Fun in the Islamic Way...