

Saturday Islamic School

Brief Information for parents and guardians



April 2017

For more information please visit www.saturdayislamicschool.co.uk You can email the school admin@saturdayislamicschool.co.uk

Aims and values of Saturday Islamic School (SIS)

SIS aims to equip children aged 6½ – 16 years (girls and boys) with the essential knowledge and understanding of Islam. It addresses issues so that the achievement of Muslim children can be improved. It educates children so that they can make better choices and be prepared to lead an Islamic way of life and contribute positively to the society as British Muslims. The school curriculum has a strong emphasis on social education and learning through play.



The values of SIS have the acronym SALAM – an Arabic word which means ‘peace’.

- S is a smile and being graciously respectful
- A is always trying and doing our best
- L is learning to read and write
- A is being ambitious in this life and in the next
- M is being mindful and honest

How we teach

SIS strives to provide an inspiring and challenging learning environment. The styles, the methods and the approaches are based on the Qur’an and the Sunnah. The school’s way of teaching and learning encourages children to be self-disciplined, self-motivated, active and independent learners. It develops and fosters Islamic behaviour in children by means of discussions and appropriate examples. The school rejects any sort of punishments, which degrade the child, or hinder self-esteem. It has a strict behaviour policy, and works in strong partnership with parents/guardians in which the child plays an active role.

Resources and facilities

Children are provided with textbooks and folders. The school has its own library and holds a large number of titles suitable for children to borrow every week. It has an audio-visual collection of Islamic CDs/DVDs and games available to members. The teachers are experienced and some have UK qualified teacher status. DBS checks are made to ensure that staff and volunteers are suitable to work with children. Staff members have regular training to ensure consistency and continuity in the quality of teaching and learning.

What we teach

The school’s curriculum is organised to cover four main areas/subjects of learning. These are:

- ☞ Qur’an & tajweed
- ☞ Basic Arabic language
- ☞ Islamic studies
- ☞ Adaab/manners

SIS provides a foundation for basic Arabic language. It teaches children to recite the Qur’an accurately, and memorise Juz Amma. Children are taught about the various aspects of Islam which include Aqidah, Fiqh, Seerah and Du’a. Islamic etiquette and manners are taught through whole school assemblies. Children are encouraged to organise presentations and talks, and participate in practical demonstrations. The school day is organised into four lessons with breaks for play, lunch and Salah.

Branches	Stage	Class	Qur’an & Tajweed	Arabic language	Islamic studies	Adaab
Bow School, Green Spring, Stepney Green & St Paul’s Way	Basic	1	2 lessons - Memorisation & Tilawah (reading)	1 lesson of basic reading and writing	1 lesson per week	Islamic manners taught through assemblies and group projects
		2				
		3				
Central	4	1 lesson - Tajweed & Memorisation	2 lessons leading per week	1 lesson per week		
	5					
London Muslim Centre - LMC	Advanc ed	6	1 lesson - Tilawah & Tafseer	2 lessons leading to GCSE in Arabic	Project based studies	
		7				
		8				

School organisation

SIS has five branches in Tower Hamlets. The school year begins on the first Saturday of September and ends in July. The term dates are usually in-line with mainstream schools in Tower Hamlets but excludes the half-term closures. More information about what the branches offer is on the other side.

Name of branch	Postcode	Classes	Hours	Spaces available in September
Bow School	E3 2QE	1 to 4	9:30 to 3:00	30 aged 6½ to 7½ years old + others
Bethnal Green Academy	E2 6NW	1 to 5	9:30 to 3:00	30 aged 6½ to 7½ years old + others
Stepney Green	E1 4SD	1 to 5	9:30 to 3:00	60 aged 6½ to 9 years old + others
St Paul's Way	E3 4FT	1 to 5	9:15 to 2:45	30 aged 6½ to 7½ years old + others
London Muslim Centre	E1 1JX	6 to 8	9:45 to 2:45	12+ years old for GCSE in Arabic language only



Children have lunch at school. Some have packed lunch and others use the school tuck shop. Children are not allowed to leave the school premises during lunch-time.

Admission to the school

Children are admitted by selection and organised both in terms of age and ability. Applications for September intake are in two rounds. The first round involves parents attending 'Open Days' during the Spring term to the branches of their choice. The main round is during April/May with the deadline being 12 May 2017. Minimum age for admission is 6½ years. Applicants may be interviewed which will decide the outcome of the application. Unsuccessful applicants need to re-apply as the school does not operate a waiting list. SIS applies the following admission criteria when selecting pupils:

1. children of the right age group for which places are available
2. children whose needs can be met by the school
3. children who live close to the school
4. children who have siblings (brothers and sisters) in the school

Attendance and punctuality

The school has a strict policy on regular attendance and punctuality. Children are expected to attend school on time every week. Children may be taken off roll if they are late for 3 consecutive weeks or miss 2 weeks in a row without prior authorisation from the teacher in-charge or the Headteacher.

Contribution / fees

SIS is a non-profit making organisation which runs with financial *contributions* from parents and guardians. Partners who support the school subsidise much of the cost. Stepney Green and LMC make their premises available at no cost – Bethnal Green, Bow School and St Paul's Way make a nominal charge. Without their support it would be difficult for the school to function without raising the current *contribution* (fee) from parents which is:

- A starter kit - £25 (only payable in the first year of admission – includes a school bag with goodies)
- Annual contribution - £150 (for each child attending the school – include books and all materials)

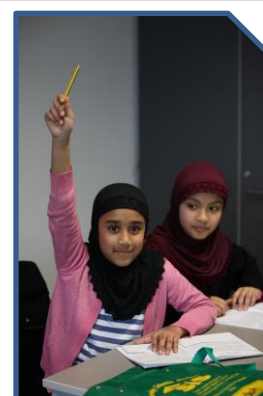
Parents are requested to pay their contribution as one payment. However, requests for payment by instalments are considered on their individual merits which will include admin costs. Contributions made are non-refundable.

Homework and parental support

At SIS homework is integral to the curriculum. All parents are expected to spend at least 30 minutes every week talking to their children about the school, and the work which they are doing. Children have a diary so that parents know what homework has been set and are expected to give additional time with their children. Parents are requested to communicate with the teachers using the homework diary and sign the diary on a weekly basis.

Assessment

Teachers assess children through observation as well as setting structured tasks as and when appropriate. Children also have the opportunity to evaluate their own work at the end of each term. At the end of the year children have the final assessment which is used to decide whether individuals are ready to move to the next level or need to remain in the same class. A re-sit can be organised should there be a need.



Governance of the school

SIS is managed by a Governing Body (GB) consisting of 11 people. There are representatives from parents, staff, supporting organisations and the local community. The term of office for the governors is four years. The Headteacher manages the day-to-day running of the school on behalf of the Governing Body.

The closing date for the submission of applications is Saturday 13 May 2017