

Advocating for Muslim Students



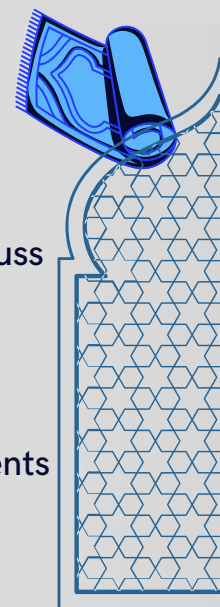
A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CAREGIVERS

Ensuring an inclusive and supportive school environment for Muslim students starts with open communication. Advocating for your child helps educators understand their needs, making them feel safe, welcomed, and valued. Building positive relationships with teachers and administrators fosters collaboration to support learning while honouring Muslim identity.

Here are key ways students and parents/caregivers can proactively address accommodations during Ramadan.

DAILY PRAYER

- **Prayer Space:** Request a designated prayer space through school administrators and ensure educators understand its importance. Students should feel comfortable asking to pray.
- **Communication:** Inform teachers in advance about prayer timings and discuss how missed classwork will be managed.
- **Respect & Time Management:** Use the prayer space appropriately, pray promptly, and return to class without causing disruption.
- **Ablution (Wudu) Considerations:** Since schools may lack proper facilities, students should bring a water/squirt bottle for cleansing. Elementary students should inform teachers about carrying a bottle to the washroom.
- **Cleanliness:** If water spills, clean it with paper towels or notify staff for custodial assistance. Keep wash bottles or dispose of them properly.



FRIDAY (JUMU'AH) PRAYER

- **Prayer Space:** Schools should provide a designated space for Jumu'ah (Friday) prayers.
- **Leaving for Mosque:** Parents who wish to sign their child out for Friday prayers must discuss this with the teacher and school administration in advance.
- **Missed Work:** A plan should be set up with the teacher for the student to catch up on missed work or evaluations, with parental support.
- **Student Responsibility:** When absent, it is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed schoolwork.

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Eid Day

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- Academic Planning: Discuss with teachers before Eid to avoid major assessments or project deadlines on or immediately after Eid, allowing students to celebrate without academic stress.
- School Events: Communicate with administrators to ensure no major school events are scheduled on Eid, preventing Muslim students from feeling excluded.



Dance/Music

- If you prefer for your child not to participate in music or dance lessons during the month of Ramadan, please have a conversation with the class teacher to discuss this accommodation.
- You may also request an administrator to facilitate this meeting. Ask for alternative assignments to be arranged for the student.

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Physical Education

- Inform your teacher that you are fasting, which means that food and water cannot be consumed.
- Ask for lighter activities and breaks between activities. A conversation with the teacher is usually sufficient for positive results; however, an official accommodation through meeting with the teacher and administrator is another option.

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Community Involvement

Students and parents/caregivers play a vital role in informing the school community about Islamic values and culture. Consider:

- Assisting in organizing a school community Iftar
- Speaking or making presentations on various topics to staff and students
- Assisting in setting up displays at schools and community centres
- Inviting school staff to your mosque, community talks/events throughout the year.

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