

# Policy for Examinations during the Muslim Month of Ramadan

## **BACKGROUND**

Ramadan has a 33-year cycle and shifts backwards by about 11 days a year as determined by the lunar cycle. 2016 was the first year Ramadan had coincided with the examination season since the 1980s, this is likely to continue until 2019/20.

## **AIMS**

1. To provide a safe environment for students who wish to fast during part or all of the month of Ramadan;
2. To ensure that our broad and balanced school curriculum is maintained for all students;
3. To fully embrace the understanding and celebration of the different faiths represented within our school population.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Young Muslims need to balance their obligations with their studies and the importance of examinations for the future, noting that the pursuit of education is also a religious and moral duty. Students who are experiencing hardship are allowed to break their fast during Ramadan (and make up the days later).

According to guidelines for those choosing to fast (Muslim Council of Britain), students will be expected to take part in a normal daily routine. Therefore, they will be expected to take part in a full school curriculum, including any examinations as they arise.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in the DfE's statutory guidance Keeping Children Safe in Education, as "...protecting children from maltreatment; preventing impairment of children's health or development; ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes.

If any student is noticed to be showing signs of dehydration or exhaustion they will be offered water (unless a parent has informed us in advance that they do not wish this to happen).

We expect students to be responsible enough to do the following independently:

- to take advantage of the fact that Islam gives allowances to break the fast and make it up later if they feel that fasting will in any way jeopardise their performance;
- to sit quietly between examinations to conserve their energy either inside or outside in the shade;
- to listen carefully to and follow the instructions and advice given by teachers and invigilators should they feel unwell during examinations;
- to give due consideration to carrying water with them during examinations to drink if they show signs of dehydration (headache and/or drowsiness).

In the event of a fasting student becoming unwell during examinations, the school may also consider providing them with something to eat, unless their parent has informed us in advance that they do not wish this to happen.