



Admission and Educational Policy regarding Learning Support (LS) / Special Education Needs (SEN) students

The Madressa is committed to increasing the opportunities for pupils with LS/SEN (Special educational needs) to experience a quality mainstream Islamic education with their peers.

Overview

Learning support covers a wide range of needs and disabilities that can affect a child or young person's ability to learn. These can affect their:

- Behaviour or ability to socialise
- Reading and writing, e.g. because they have Dyslexia
- Ability to understand things
- Concentration levels, e.g. because they have ADHD
- Physical ability
- Limited communication and verbal reasoning

Enrolment

When an enrolment application is received which includes details of needs or disabilities that require support, the administration team will forward the request on to the LS/SEN Head of Department (HoD) who will follow up the inquiry with a detailed email and phone call in order to ascertain the needs of the child, the child's "Statement" would also be requested.

A decision will be made following receipt of all relevant information as to whether the Madressa can support a child and if so, the child will be able to enrol as a student in the Madressa.

Your child's happiness and success are important to us and every available measure will be taken to nurture this. Whilst the Madressa would like to deliver an Islamic education to every child who applies to join us regardless of ability, this is not always possible. It is important to remember that unlike any other department the LS assistants allocated to your child are intended to be there during the duration of your child's education with us. Once a child is with us we are committed to seeing them go through every year group, unless the child's needs prevent us from doing so or the Madressa's curriculum, staff numbers or premises can no longer accommodate the child's needs.

Who to talk to?

If you think your child may have Special Educational Needs or requires learning support, please contact the Madressa Administration (admin@madressa.net) who will arrange for someone from the LS team to contact you.

Support your child can receive

As a parent you will receive regular communication from the Learning Support Assistant and LS HoD regarding all aspects of your child's Madressa experience via email, telephone and text. Your child will also be provided with a learning passport so you can keep track of what is being taught etc.

Ample assessment and support strategies will be provided to your child prior to any testing or assessments. You will also be provided with details as to how to communicate with the LS HoD through the Madressa's online portal.

The LS Team is here to ensure that your child is progressing depending on their unique ability under their care, they are also on hand to liaise with the teachers on how to engage the child should there be any need to. Regular meetings will be held with the LS team members and the LS HOD ensuring that the child is progressing.

Inclusion

Inclusion into the mainstream class is what we ideally work towards provided that it would not be incompatible with the efficient education of other pupils with him or her in the class. Our policy is to meet needs within their own resource provisions whenever these can be appropriately met; this depends on various factors which are highlighted below:

- 1) The availability of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) – our commitment to the child's education and needs is taken very seriously. The LS HoD will liaise with the parents and also look at the child's "Statements" in order to ascertain whether at any specific time the needs of the child can be facilitated. Every case is looked at on an **individual basis**. The unique facility that the Madressa provides is that a LSA is allocated to each child with the intention that they will hopefully see the child all the way through their time at Madressa. Naturally we have to factor in life changes that can occur, therefore should a member of the team leave we do our utmost to limit any disruption and ensure that a replacement LS member is paired with your child. This may not always be possible for numerous reasons.
- 2) Meeting the child's needs – Where possible a great amount of effort is put in place in order to differentiate work for children who require LS support inside the classroom. It is paramount that a realistic view of whether a child's needs and learning style can be accommodated by the Madressa. The decision is normally taken by the LS HoD in conjunction with a member of the Madressa leadership team.
- 3) Decisions as to whether a child would benefit from being taught independently and not with their peers will be at the discretion of the LS HoD, however every effort will be sought to liaise with the Teachers, Parents and the Madressa leadership team prior to this occurring.

Please note that authorisation is given to the LS HoD to remove a child from a lesson should there be a necessity to do so on the following grounds:

- The child is unable to access what is being taught at the time as the content is too difficult for their ability.
- The child is being disruptive to the rest of the class.
- During assessments the child may be removed from the class so the LS assistant can talk or write down any relevant information that is required by the child.
- On occasion where the child has specific requirements and access arrangements the child will be taught separately.

Graduation

In certain cases a decision will be made through consultation by all the appropriate people (Mainly the LS HoD and Madressa leadership team) as to when a child has reached a stage where the Madressa can no longer facilitate their continued learning or that the student has reached their maxim potential regarding their Islamic education. This will be viewed as a "Graduation" where a child's achievements will be celebrated and therefore their time at Madressa will come to an end. Parents will be informed prior to this occurring as we naturally hope for a smooth transition for all involved.

The S I Madressa is an organisation formed under the Hujjat KSIMC of London (charity no: 288356) providing education services since 1985.

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