



## **S I Madressa Attendance Policy**

Updated and in effect as of January 2023.

**Definitions:** The following definitions apply to this policy:

“Madressa”: the Shia Ithna'asheri Madressa, part of the KSIMC of London.

“Madressa Website”: Madressa’s official website (<http://www.madressa.net/>) or such other website as notified by Madressa.

“Parent Portal”: Portal for Parents which is hosted by the Madressa (<https://sis.madressa.net>) or such other portal as notified by Madressa.

“Academic Year”: Madressa’s academic year commencing January (or such other dates as notified or advertised by the Madressa from time to time).

“Madressa Day”: This is the full day of Madressa beginning at 10am and ending at 1.30pm. Where the Madressa has different timings for students on other sites, those timings will apply.

“Absent”: This is where a student does not attend the Madressa on a given Madressa Day or part of Madressa Day.

“Authorised Absence”: This is where the Madressa has agreed that a student will be able to be absent for either one Madressa Day, or part of a Madressa Day.

“Unauthorised Absence”: This is where the Madressa has not agreed that a student is able to be absent for either one Madressa Day, or part of a Madressa Day.

“Late”: This is where a student arrives more than 5 minutes following the start of the Madressa Day or for any given lesson during the Madressa Day.

### **Introduction:**

Regular and punctual Madressa attendance is important. Students need to attend Madressa regularly if they are to take full advantage of the educational opportunities available to them. A student who has enrolled in the Madressa is expected to attend punctually on all Madressa Days.

In order to counter low attendance and lateness, which is correlated with both low levels of learning and classroom disruption, as well as to provide fair access to all children to the Madressa, an attendance policy is being introduced and will be applicable to all Madressa students who enrol in any class from the 2013 academic year as well as for all future years.

## Attendance Policy Summary

Attendance data will be continuously reviewed by the Madressa to monitor attendance levels and the same data will be made available online to parents via the Parent Portal so that any discrepancies may be rectified as soon as possible.

### Authorised absence definition

An absence is classified as authorised when a student has not attended Madressa for a Madressa Day or part of Day, for a legitimate reason and the Madressa has received notification from a parent or carer. For example, if a student has been unwell and the parent notifies the Madressa via the parent portal.

Absence may generally be authorised for the following reasons:

- illness, medical or dental appointments
- Family holidays (only when this falls under the school holiday dates and Madressa continues to remain open which is expected to generally be half terms only)
- Family bereavement; Attending Funeral of family member; Family emergency
- **Mandatory** school events/exams
- Duke of Edinburgh award participation events
- Ziyarah
- Participation in Charity event
- Suspension or exclusion by Madressa
- Exceptional occasions (the nature of such occasions will be determined by the Madressa on an individual basis)

Only the Madressa can make an absence authorised. Parents do not have this authority. Consequently not all absences supported by parents will be classified as authorised.

### Unauthorised absence definition

An absence is classified as unauthorised when a student has not attended the Madressa for a Madressa Day or part of a day, without the authorisation of the Madressa.

Absence will **not** be authorised in the following circumstances:

- Family holidays (except when taken during school holidays when the Madressa continues to remain open as outlined above)
- School exam revision;
- Tuition
- Leaving early due to travelling distances or any other reason deemed invalid as determined by the Madressa
- Hosting/Attending Majalis (other than family bereavement); attending Religious processions
- Going for a family day out; birthday events; wedding events; sporting, Social & school related events (non-Mandatory)
- No explanation has been offered by the parent/carer
- The explanation offered, if not listed above, is unsatisfactory as determined by Madressa

Therefore the absence is unauthorised if a student is away from Madressa without good reason, even with the support of a parent.

## Procedure

*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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- Once a student has **2** unauthorised absences, parents will be formally contacted by the Madressa to advise them that their child has been absent for **2** Madressa Days and that the Madressa has an Attendance Policy in place. An opportunity will be provided for parents to state if there are any extenuating circumstances which the Madressa should take into consideration. **Parents will be advised that further Unauthorised Absences may result in their child's place being allocated to a student on waiting list.**
- Should a student miss a further 2 Madressa Days through unauthorised absence, the Madressa will contact the parents and advise of their **child's space being re-allocated to a child on waiting list** (unless Madressa becomes aware of any extenuating circumstances which the Madressa should take into consideration).
- Where a student's place is re-allocated to another child, any outstanding fees will still be payable to the Madressa and either be required to be settled at that point or alternatively active standing orders will be required to remain active.
- Any fees paid for the academic year in which a student's space is withdrawn will be non-refundable.

Parents will then need to re-enrol their child for future academic years as a 'new student' and will not be guaranteed a space within the Madressa as their child's enrolment application will be treated as a new enrolment application.