

Leicester Grammar School

Supporting Muslim Pupils within the School

Introduction

Leicester Grammar School has a Christian Foundation, but serves a community that is diverse and multi cultural, and this enriches the life of the school. To that end, the School will seek to make reasonable adjustments to enable those of other Religions to practise and celebrate their faiths within school.

This document is set up to enable the Muslim members of the community to carry out their obligations throughout the weeks and the year, and to clarify the School's position on certain issues. It has been produced as a result of pupil and parental engagement in recent months. If parents have any concerns or queries about anything in this document, they should, in the first instance, contact Mr Millward, the Trust Chaplain (millwardp@leicestergrammar.org.uk) .

Daily and weekly prayer times

Wudhu

If pupils wish to make wudhu before praying, there are a number of single toilets on site with a sink, where washing may be carried out in privacy. Mr Millward also has a Mudd in his office, if any pupil wishes to use it.

Dhuhr

A classroom (normally H2) is available at lunchtime for Muslim students to pray. If that room is not free at any time, Mr Millward will seek an alternative venue, and communicate this change to pupils.

Salat

H2 is also available on Fridays for corporate prayer, and this is overseen by a Muslim member of the school staff. Currently pupils meet at 1.15pm for Salat.

Asr

Between November 1st and January 31st when the days are very short, pupils in Year 10 and above are permitted to absent themselves five minutes early from period 7 and be five minutes late for period 8. This gives them a ten minute opportunity to pray between 2.40pm and 2.50pm to observe Asr. Generally speaking, the school hall (St Nicholas) is available for this. In the case of double or treble lessons this may not be possible. Pupils are asked to be respectful if this is the case, but to contact Mr Millward if there are any concerns.

Shortly before the Advent Half Term, Mr Millward will contact parents to ask if they wish their child to observe this prayer time. On receipt of an email from the parent, Mr Millward will issue a prayer pass to the pupil, in order for them to receive permission to undertake this obligation. The pupil needs to show this prayer pass to the member of staff who is teaching them in order to leave the classroom.

There will be some times when permission will not be able to be granted to allow this to happen, such as during a sports fixture, an exam or test, or simply because, for some reason, in the teacher's judgement it is not appropriate for the pupil to be released.

Parent prayer

A new initiative is for any parents who wish, to meet together via Microsoft Teams probably twice a year to pray for the needs of the school. Mr Millward will be in contact with parents about this.

Ramadan and Eid

Ramadan

LGS is aware of the impact that observing Ramadan can have, especially on younger pupils who are fasting. As such, the following measures are put into place:

- The dates of Ramadan are in the school calendar, so that staff are aware of this as they make plans.
- Mr Millward will compile a list of pupils who are observing Ramadan, which will then be circulated to all staff, so they are aware. The Medical team will also receive the list.
- Sport and Music. If any parents have any specific concerns/requests regarding sport or music participation during Ramadan, they should seek to contact the relevant teacher in good time. The earlier the communication is made, the more chance there will be of coming to a satisfactory arrangement for all.
- Community Muslim Iftaar (breakfast): At a date to be specified and publicised by the school, LGS will invite Muslim families to an annual iftaar one evening during Ramadan.

Eid ul Fitr & Eid ul Adha LGS recognises that families may wish to have time together during these special festivals. Permission to be off school for this will need to be obtained via the normal channels.

Christian Services at LGS

In line with the School's Christian tradition, there are a number of Services held in St Nicholas throughout the year, for occasions such as Christmas, Lent and Easter. Muslim students are expected to attend these, as they are corporate school events. However, they are welcome to attend as observers rather than participants.

Clothing other than uniform for certain school activities

If there are any concerns regarding clothing (e.g. shorts or swimwear), parents should contact the relevant teacher. Once again, the earlier the communication is made, the more chance there will be of coming to a satisfactory arrangement for all.

Any other queries?

If parents have any other queries that have not been covered above, they should contact Mr Millward in the first instance. This document will be reviewed annually, and so any feedback regarding how the support of our Muslim pupils can be further improved (within the context of the foundation of the school) would be greatly appreciated.