



**BYRON WOOD
ACADEMY**

Astrea Academy Trust

INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE



**Supporting
children during
Ramadan**



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Introduction

The staff at Byron Wood Primary Academy recognise the religious importance of the blessed holy month of Ramadan to Muslim families in our community. This guidance sheet draws upon guidance from The Muslim Council of Britain's publication 'Ramadan Guidance for Schools' and has been updated following consultation with the Association of Muslim Schools and Muslim Teachers Association, in association with ASCL.

The school staff recognises that the decision to fast is a personal one for each family. Children may wish to take part in some of the fast for spiritual and moral reasons in preparation for the full fast that they will take part in when they are older.



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Parents and carers should:

- let the school know if their child is fasting and to what extent if a partial fast is to be observed;
- let the school know if their child is struggling with their fast, is tired or upset;
- enable their child to attend school as normal;
- not ask staff to administer medication to pupils who are fasting unless part of an agreed medical plan.



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School staff will:

- praise pupils who are fasting for the extra efforts they make to stay focused on learning and positive in their interactions;
- during PE lessons and break times, pay careful attention to pupils who are fasting, making allowances for fatigue and the risk of dehydration;
- provide a suitable space for prayer for those pupils who wish to pray during the school day;
- recognise and celebrate the values of Ramadan including devotion, truth, justice, care and charity, including through an assembly to raise awareness for pupils of all faiths and those of no faith;
- call a pupil's parent or carer if they are concerned about the effects of fasting on a child.



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Pupil's should:

- tell their teacher if they are fasting today;
- tell their teacher if they need space to pray during the lunch break;
- follow the school rules and values as normal;
- tell their teacher if they feel too tired, too thirsty or unwell and need to break their fast.



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Prayer facilities

- 22nd-24th March, afternoon prayer times begin during the lunch break and finish during school times.
- On these days, Y5 & 6 pupils may ask to use the Studio for prayers.
- Due to the school facilities, pupils will only be able to wash hands and faces.
- After 26th March, British Summer Time begins, so prayers will be able to be conducted after school.

Prayer room Code Of Conduct

A central tenet of the school is that all children should demonstrate respect for each other, and so, to this end, there are certain expectations that we have so that all children can use the space without being disturbed by others.

- The Prayer Room is to be a quiet space. No children should do anything which disturbs others, and all children should access the room on their own, rather than as a group.
- It is to be a shared, inclusive space for all. Due to space limitations, there will not be able to be any separation of children along any lines.
- Children will access the space independently. They will have to be able to walk calmly to the room on their own, including washing if necessary. They should use this walking time to prepare themselves mentally, so that they are already calm and ready when they arrive at the room.
- The room will be supervised by an adult at all times. This adult is there to ensure that the room remains a quiet, respectful space for all. They will not be able to lead prayers in any way.
- Prayers or reflection are expected to take between 5 and 10 minutes. Children will be able to come into the room and begin independently, and will be reminded to leave quietly by the supervising adult after the appropriate time, if they have not already done so.
- As all of the above points require good understanding and maturity, the Prayer Room will be available to children in Years 5 & 6.



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Prayer room Code Of Conduct

We have a procedure in place to ensure that all children use the Prayer Room appropriately. If anyone's behaviour affects the calm and peace of others, or demonstrates a lack of respect for the resource being offered, in the room itself or in the school before or after, the following will happen:

1. Parents will be called to let them know the details of the child's behaviour and to ask for their support in reinforcing the messages of respect for their own religion and others;
2. At the Principal's discretion, depending on the nature of the behaviour, the child will be offered a second chance to use the room appropriately;
3. If there are further incidents, at the Principal's discretion, the parents will be called and informed that the child will not be able to use the room again.



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Years 3 & 4

- We recognise that younger pupils in Key Stage 2 might wish to begin learning to participate in a fast, but that it would not be appropriate to attempt a full fast at this age.
- If children would like to attempt a partial fast, for a half day, school will support them, and then take them for lunch as normal.

Any questions?



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