

BOARDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE

Reviewed: Jan 2018 | Next review: Jan 2019



This document is for the information of all boarding staff, students, and parents. It outlines the aims and organisation of boarding at Jamea Al Kauthar.

Mission statement

Jamea Al Kauthar is dedicated to welcoming students into an Islamic environment which is safe, vibrant, and enriching. We aspire to cultivate a strong sense of spirituality, morality and scholarship within our students, inspiring our learners of today to graduate as the able, confident citizens and outstanding role models of tomorrow.

Aims and objectives

Jamea Al Kauthar actively promotes an environment which encompasses and reflects fundamental British faith ethos and values. We ensure that difference and diversity is celebrated across the whole school community, enabling all students to feel a sense of harmony and kinship with peers and staff alike. Our values reflect those that will be expected of our students by society when they leave school and enter the world of work or further study. Our individual aims and objectives are as follows:

- Providing opportunities for students to acquire an in-depth understanding of religion (deen).
- Developing the love for Allah and His Prophet (peace be upon him).
- Instilling religious and moral values, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.
- Producing individuals who have the capacity to think for themselves, to know their own minds but to have the flexibility to listen to others.
- Encouraging all pupils to appreciate the needs of others and be sensitive to them, to work in teams and be able to recognise right from wrong.
- Encouraging students to respect and abide by the rule of law and be an exemplary citizen.

Our aims are realised by, among other things:

- Clear communication of the principles to and by those with boarding responsibilities
- Acceptance and adoption of these principles by those with responsibilities
- Implementation of appropriate policies and processes in the areas of pupil welfare
- Monitoring policies and practice, and measurement and evaluation of boarding standards
- Dissemination of good practice through effective teamwork and communication
- Development of a sound model of pastoral care, appropriately staffed
- Appropriate physical conditions of at least minimum care standards
- Training and induction of those responsible for boarding
- Providing an organised and rich programme of activities beyond the curriculum

Pastoral care

Jamea Al Kauthar is a home away from home for boarders. The school ensures that students feel safe, secure and comfortable by providing consistent and supportive links between the school, the boarders and parents. In addition to addressing boarders' physical needs and their requirements for security and safety, the school seeks to contribute to its pupils' development in terms of their confidence, self-esteem and self-awareness.

There are four boarding houses (Dars) within the school: Dar Fatima, Dar Umme Kulthoom, Dar Ruqayya and Dar Zainab. Each Dar is named after one of the daughters of the Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him).

We have a team of dedicated Apas (female members of staff) both inside and outside the boarding, who give individual guidance and care to students at Jamea Al Kauthar. Each house has a senior Dar Apa whose first priority is the welfare of the girls. The Apas also keep in touch with the Head Apa to oversee the development and well-being of each girl.

Our boarding provision is evaluated against the regulations set out in the National Minimum Standards for Boarding Schools, under the inspection framework of the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted). We also evaluate the quality of our boarding provision on an on-going basis.

Boarding life

We intend that all those who have opted to board will both enjoy the experience and gain much from it. For those who have not boarded before, the relief of being free from the daily journey to and from school will be considerable and there will be a gradual awareness of how much valuable time this took up each week. In order to make profitable use of this time there is a specified independent study period every evening during which boarders are required to complete their homework and preparatory work. Boarders will also have many possibilities of gaining from the various extra-curricular activities that are open to them at Jamea Al Kauthar and time to relax and socialise with friends too.

Boarding develops confidence, independence, social skills, respect for others and a sense of responsibility for the welfare of the community. We commonly find that a result of boarding at Jamea Al Kauthar is that boarders become more tolerant, less selfish and make strong friendships. All of this provides excellent preparation for the different demands that will be made of those who move away from home.

The range of services and facilities for boarders can be seen in the **school's prospectus**, a copy of which is provided for each new family and can be found on the school's website.

Inevitably in a community there have to be some clear expectations for all to follow if all are to be successful. These are made clear within the school policies which can be accessed from the school office and are available upon request.

Induction of new staff

Staff who are new to a position within boarding follow a structured induction process, so they are fully aware of our procedures and fully able to care for the wellbeing of our boarders. Any concerns should be raised with the relevant Head Apa or Headteacher.

The induction process will include a full briefing on our Child Protection and Anti-Bullying procedures so that the welfare of all boarders is safeguarded. Every member of our boarding staff will get a full list of all relevant policies together with this document and the relevant staff handbook.

New boarders

New boarders join the house at the start of the academic year and every effort is made to make them feel comfortable in their new home. Boarders are welcomed into house life by all staff and students. The vast majority of our boarders settle into house life with great ease and make many lifelong friends within the boarding community.

New pupils are assigned a "buddy" to help them settle into the school routine. The buddy is expected to help them meet their daily commitments during their first weeks within the House. New pupils are made aware of the School Rules & House Regulations at the earliest opportunity and are issued with this document. They will also be made aware of the staff within the House who are responsible for their welfare.

School policies

School Policies are available in hard copy and accessible to all upon request. These policies will give a clear indication of the principles that the School wishes to maintain on a range of issues and the systems that we have in place to try to uphold these principles. Each member of staff and boarders will also have access to relevant policies, so that all members of the Jamea Al Kauthar community are able to uphold these.