

## **Child Protection Policy**

This document outlines our commitment to the protection of children and aims to:

- Raise awareness of the need to protect children and reduce risks to them;
- Ensure that when abuse is suspected or disclosed, it is clear what action must be taken.

### **We believe that all the children in our Madrasah have the right:**

- to develop in a safe, secure and loving environment.
- to be protected from all kinds of harm, neglect, abuse and exploitation (please refer below)
- to be listened to and heard
- to grow up having their religion, culture, background, experience and most of all education, valued and respected
- to be considered as individuals with particular needs, and to be given encouragement and opportunities to reach their full potential

**It is the responsibility of all Madrasah Staff to ensure these rights are fulfilled. We understand that if this does not happen there could be serious hindrance to the child's development.**

### **We define child abuse as the following at Madrasah Salafiyah and an abuse incident should be raised if any of the following circumstances have or are happening to a child:**

Neglect occurs when adults fail to meet the child's essential needs such as providing adequate shelter, food, warmth, clothing and medical care. It also includes leaving young children who cannot look after themselves, alone or without proper supervision.

Physical Abuse is when a person injures or harms a child or does not knowingly prevent it.

For example: using excessive force, hitting, shaking, squeezing, burning, biting, suffocating or drowning. It includes allowing inappropriate use of drugs, medication or alcohol by children.

Sexual Abuse takes place when a child is forced to take part in sexual activity, using the child to satisfy sexual desires. It is also an abuse to allow children access to obscene books, videos and other materials.

Emotional Abuse occurs when adults persistently fail to show the child love and affection.

For example they may threaten, taunt or shout causing the child to lose self confidence, self esteem and to become nervous or withdrawn.

#### Abuse and Children with a Disability

Children with a disability may be especially vulnerable to abuse for a number of reasons.

Where there are concerns about the welfare of a disabled child, they will be acted upon in accordance with the outlined procedures in the same way as with any other child. The same thresholds for action and the same timescales apply.

### **To ensure that children are protected at all times when in the Madrasah:**

- We will make sure that all adults working with children or accompanying them will be DBS cleared and are vetted appropriately.
- We will make sure of a safe recruitment process for adults working with children.
- We will ensure the safety and welfare of all children within the Madrasah, especially with regards health and safety, anti bullying, protection of children online and photography.
- If a child soils him/her self we will send for the child's parents to deal with cleaning and changing of clothes (*staff will not be permitted to do this*).
- We will make sure teachers, assistants and all other Madrasah Staff are trained regularly in recognising signs of abuse and knowing how to respond appropriately.

### **How An Abuse Incident May Be Raised**

- a child may disclose something that has upset or harmed them
- someone else might report something that a child has told them, or that they believe that a child has been or is being harmed
- a child might show signs of physical injury for which there appears to be no explanation
- a child's behaviour may suggest he or she is being abused
- the behaviour or attitude of one of the staff towards a child may cause concern
- a child demonstrates worrying behaviour towards other children or towards a particular member of staff.

### **What To Do If An Abuse Incident Is Raised**

The Madrasah has a duty to safeguard children and a responsibility to work closely and co-operatively with other relevant agencies to achieve this.

- If a child discloses that they are being abused they must be told that this information needs to be reported to the right person.
- The information should be disclosed to the Head of Madrasah or the designated person with responsibility for Child Protection straight away.
- It is important to remember that an allegation of child abuse or neglect may lead to a criminal investigation, so any concerns must be properly recorded. So all reported concerns are to be recorded in the Child Protection Book which is kept in the Office or a designated area.
- The Head of Madrasah or designated person will then take action in line with the Birmingham Council Child Protection Policy - The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).
- If a situation is an emergency, the Police will be notified as they have the power to intervene if a child is in immediate danger.

### **Confidentiality**

While personal information about a child(ren) held by the Madrasah is subject to a legal duty of confidence and should not normally be disclosed without the proper consent, when there are concerns that a child is or may be at risk of significant harm, then the over-riding objective will be to safeguard that child and disclosure of information will be imperative.

### **The Role of the Madrasah Salafiyyah Staff member**

- (1) Always believe the child and follow procedures.
- (2) Never promise not to tell anyone else
- (3) Explain to the child that you must pass information on to the Child Protection Officer.
- (4) Do not delay in passing the information on.

### **Suspected child abuse procedures**

CHILD → teacher → Designated Child Protection Officer → Relevant Child Protection Authorities

### **The Role of the Designated Child Protection Officer**

- To be fully conversant with the Local Authority and Madrasah Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- They should be available to all staff of the Madrasah for consultation on child protection concerns.
- To ensure that appropriate action is taken in the Madrasah and procedures are followed in all cases of actual or suspected child abuse.
- To compile a record of students in the Madrasah on the Child Protection Register (CPR), to keep this updated as notification is received and to liaise with the relevant professionals in ensuring that children on the CPR are monitored.
- Where appropriate to take part in child protection conferences or reviews or to ensure that another key member of staff attends.
- To ensure that the Islamic Studies curriculum and/or assemblies within Madrasah Salafiyyah offers opportunities for raising students awareness and developing strategies for ensuring their own protection.