

Provision for Pupils during Ramadan Policy

A policy for all employees

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Trust Vision and Values

At Create Partnership Trust, we are committed to excellence, partnership and perseverance. Our approach to Ramadan provision reflects these values by promoting inclusion, safeguarding, respect for faith practices, and consistency across all schools.

1 Introduction and Context

- 1.1 Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar and begins approximately 10–11 days earlier each year in the Gregorian calendar. Fasting is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and involves refraining from food and drink between dawn and sunset, alongside prayer, reflection and charitable acts.
- 1.2 Many pupils in Trust schools may observe Ramadan through fasting or other spiritual practices. This policy ensures provision is safe, respectful, inclusive and consistent across the Trust, with clear communication and safeguarding at its centre.

2 Statutory and Regulatory Reference Points

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)
- Equality Act 2010
- Relevant DfE Guidance on wellbeing, attendance and curriculum access
- Advice from Birmingham City Council and national Islamic organisations
- Safeguarding, health and wellbeing take priority over any decision to fast.

3 Aims

- To provide safe, appropriate provision for pupils fasting during Ramadan
- To ensure families receive clear, respectful communication
- To support staff understanding and confidence
- To maintain consistent expectations across all Trust schools
- To incorporate Ramadan into curriculum and cultural learning

4 Objectives

- Establish Trust-wide standards with scope for contextual adaptation
- Ensure parents are fully informed and involved
- Provide documentation structures for permissions and communication
- Promote safeguarding and health as central priorities
- Value the diversity within Muslim communities

5 Trust Standards and Responsibilities

The Trust ensures:

- Clear Trust-wide policy expectations
- Fasting is supported only for Years 5 and 6, and only with daily parental permission
- Safeguarding and wellbeing are central
- Attendance expectations remain unchanged

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Mandatory Across All Trust Schools:

- Weekly signed fasting permission slips
- Immediate parental contact if a child claims to be fasting without permission
- Clear processes for responding to illness or distress
- Curriculum activities acknowledging Ramadan

Schools may adapt:

- Operational logistics (rest rooms, supervision, timetabling)
- Communication channels
- Staff training formats

6. School Responsibilities

Schools must:

- Communicate early and clearly with families
- Strongly advise that Year 4 and below do not fast during the school day due to health considerations and Islamic exemptions for pre-puberty children. However, some Muslim families expect girls who have begun menstruating to fast, which may include pupils in Year 4. In such cases, the school will make provision only following a 1:1 consultation with parents, supported by appropriate guidance, and with explicit permission from the Headteacher.
- Recommend younger children fast at weekends
- Plan adjustments for PE, dining arrangements and rest areas
- Train staff annually and induct new staff/agency staff
- Name a senior leader responsible for Ramadan provision
- Provide appropriate alternatives for FSM pupils (e.g., take-home/boxed meal)

7. Staff Responsibilities

Staff must:

- Understand policy arrangements
- Respect variations among families
- Monitor wellbeing closely and report safeguarding concerns
- Respond sensitively to pupils' needs

Muslim Staff Observing Ramadan:

- May receive reasonable adjustments where appropriate
- Are not expected to supervise rest rooms solely due to their faith
- May contribute cultural and contextual insight voluntarily

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8. Pupil Responsibilities and Support

Fasting pupils should:

- Understand the school's arrangements
- Use rest rooms responsibly
- Report any concerns or unwell feelings immediately
- Engage in learning about Ramadan appropriately

Pupil Voice:

- Pupils can speak to any trusted adult
- Anonymous reporting available where systems allow
- Pastoral check-ins recommended throughout Ramadan

9 Medical Needs During Ramadan

Schools must ensure:

- Medication (e.g. inhalers) is never withheld
- Parents are contacted promptly if concerns arise
- Risk assessments are completed for pupils with medical needs
- Immediate medical response overrides fasting

If a pupil becomes unwell, food/drink may be offered immediately while parents are contacted.

10. Communication with Parents/Carers

Schools must:

- Contact families prior to Ramadan
- Provide clear guidance on expectations and processes
- Ensure permission forms are returned paper or digital
- Contact parents if a child claims to be fasting without written permission
- Confirm verbal decisions in writing afterwards
- Facilitate direct dialogue between parent and child if there are disagreements

11. Operational Planning

Schools should plan for:

- Quiet supervised rest rooms

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- Reduced dining-hall exposure for fasting pupils
- Lower-intensity PE or rescheduled physical activities
- Consideration of trips, events and timings during Ramadan
- Sensitivity around food-based learning

Examples of Adjustments:

- Morning scheduling of high-energy lessons
- Reduced PE intensity
- Indoor lunchtime supervision
- Pastoral check-ins

Curriculum Opportunities:

- Teach themes of reflection, equality and charity
- Teach about Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr across RE/PSHE
- Offer interfaith learning opportunities

12. Monitoring and Review

- Heads monitor implementation
- Reports made to CEO/Trust Board as required
- Reviewed annually ahead of Ramadan
- Full review every two years or earlier if guidance changes

13. Equality Statement

Create Partnership Trust is committed to upholding the Equality Act 2010 and ensuring fairness, respect, and inclusion for all pupils regardless of faith. Provision for Ramadan reflects our commitment to valuing diversity across our schools.

Appendix 1 – Parent Letter for Years 5 & 6

Appendix 2 – Parent Letter for Years 4

Appendix 3 – Parent Letter for EYFS to Year 3