

مدرسة المكرم

MADRASAH TUL MUKARRAM

Madrasah

HANDBOOK

Madrasah tul Mukarram

1484b Dominion Road – Roskill South – Auckland – New Zealand

Phone: 021 0262 4169

madrasahtulmukarram@outlook.com

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ
طَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ

Our Beloved Nabi Hadhrat Muhammad (Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam) has said,

“To seek sacred knowledge is an obligation on every Muslim”. (*Ibn Maja*).

This hadith refers to the acquisition of religious knowledge. It is incumbent (Fard' ayn) upon every Muslim to seek as much knowledge as will allow him to fulfil his religious obligations. For example, a Muslim must know who the Creator is, he must have knowledge of His Oneness and of the prophethood of His messengers, and he must know the way to pray Salaah, fast in the month of Ramadhan, etc.

It is for this very reason, Alhamdulillah, we have established a Madrasah, Islamic classes for your children, where they can come and learn their Deen (Religion) “Islam”.

We at Madrasah tul Mukarram have adopted the South African syllabus. In this we do not only focus on teaching students how to read the Quraan but to be able to read correctly with Tajweed.

Together with learning the Quraan, we also teach the Tasheel series. This series is a tried and tested series by the Ulama of South Africa.

We guarantee that Insha Allah you will not be disappointed sending your child to us and that when your child completes at the Madrasah, he/she will have sufficient knowledge to live a good Muslim life.

Insha Allah.
Madrasah tul Mukarram.

THE TASHEEL SERIES

INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS TASHEEL?

The TASHEEL SERIES is an Islamic curriculum for children and teenagers aging from 4 till 19 years old.

It is Named Tasheel because it draws its inspiration from its Arabic root letters which means **ease**.

After years of living in the secular society, scholars realised whilst developing an authentic, invigorating and stimulating Islamic educational material, ease of use for the child learner is integral to this process.

After some 70 years of experience, the combined efforts of authentic traditional Islamic scholarship, educational theorists, and psychologists The Tasheel Series was born under the auspices of the Jamiatul Ulama South Africa [Council of Islamic Theologians].

The curriculum that has been developed by the Taalimi Board of the Jamiatul Ulama South Africa prepares young Muslims for present and future challenges.

This philosophy of Islamic education is premised on the following verse of the Noble Qur'aan:

“Surely Allah Ta’ala enjoins the doing of justice and the doing of good (to others) and the giving to the kindred, and He forbids indecency and evil and rebellion; He admonishes you that you may be mindful”. (*Surah An-Nahl, Verse 90*)

The aim upon which this curriculum rests is to engender:

- ✓ The recognition of Allah Ta’ala in the manner shown by Nabi sallallahu ‘alayhi wasallam
- ✓ To practice upon whatever is learnt
- ✓ To engage in the propagation of Islam

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS?

By giving the spirit (the heart) its supreme positions in the educational system.

Islamic education insists that piety and faith must be clearly recognised in the curriculum and this has to be systematically personal.

This curriculum has been developed on the understanding that Islam is a religion that enjoins goodness to humanity and that Muslims are active contributors to the development and upliftment of human civilization.

THE TASHEEL SERIES

With the above vision in mind, the Tasheel Series has specific outcomes for the different age groups within the community:

- **Primary Education Phase**

This programme is designed for children from the age of 5 to 11 years old. It aims at teaching Islam in a practical manner so as to build their understanding, extend their appreciation and help them to start discovering Islam.

- **Secondary Education Phase**

This programme is designed for teenagers from the age of 12 to 19 years old. It aims at providing an opportunity for teenagers to find their identity, self-esteem and purpose in life. This is achieved through inspiring, exciting and interesting Islamic educational lessons that work at building up skills on decision making, communication, relationships, etc. that are crucial for them to sail through this stage of their lives.

It aims at providing them with a platform to discuss religious issues at a broader and more intensive level. The focus is to prepare the youth for the challenges ahead as future leaders with the objective to deepen and broaden their understanding of the contemporary contexts in which they live.

CONTENT AND APPROACH

The curriculum aims to provide rich and enriching learning experiences. It is one that encourages learning in an experiential manner. It covers the broad areas of:

- Qur'aan and memorisation of selected Surahs
- Aqaaid
- Akhlaaq wal Aadaab
- Fiqh
- Seerah / Taareekh
- Hadeeth
- Du'aas



Qur'aan and memorisation of selected Surahs

This subject area focuses on providing the basic skills of Qur'aan recitation.

Memorisation of at the least the last 20 Surahs of the Quraan is essential, so that each student is able to read these surahs in their daily Salaah.

Aqaaid (Beliefs)

This subject area focuses on providing the basic understanding of the Oneness of Allah Ta'ala and explaining essential Islamic beliefs as well as imparting the core topics related to it.





Akhlaaq wal Aadaab (Good Character and Etiquette)

This subject area focuses on instilling in the learners the necessary knowledge of Islamic etiquette and behaviours. Not only are the core principles imparted to them, but also its application in current day situations.



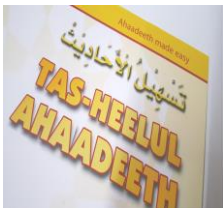
Fiqh (Islamic Rulings)

This subject area focuses on instilling in the students the necessary knowledge of Islamic laws and practices of Islam. Its application in everyday situations is a central focus area.



Seerah / Taareekh

This subject area focuses on bringing the life and personality of Nabi Muhammad *sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam* as close to hearts and minds of the learners, so that they are able emulate him, love him and be able to protect and honour his noble personality at all times.



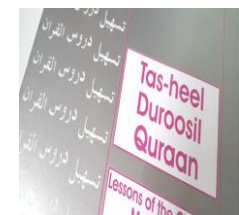
Hadeeth

This subject focus on the memorisation of the sayings and teachings of Nabi Muhammad *sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam*. Not only does this promote the preservation of this legacy but it also engenders love and obedience for his great personality in the hearts of learners.



Du'aas

The life of a Muslim revolves around remembering Allah Ta'ala at every turn and activity of one's daily life. These are embodied in the various Du'aas which Nabi Muhammad *sallallahu 'alayhi wasallam* has taught us to recite while carrying out our daily tasks. This subject aims at teaching learners these essential Du'aas in the life of a Muslim.



Tafseer (in the higher classes)

The Noble Qur'aan is the primary basis in the life of a Muslim. In addition to learning and committing it to memory, among the many duties we owe to the word of Allah Ta'ala is understanding it. This subject focus on teaching learners the broader meaning of a few selected passages of the Noble Qur'aan so as to appreciate and practice the message of Allah Ta'ala.

COURSES AT MADRASAH TUL MUKARRAM

Our Madrasah Provides 2 Main Courses

Maktab Course *(for Boys & Girls age from 5 to 14)*

The Tasheel Series is the curriculum taught in this course. This is an 8 year course with a 2 additional years of Quraan revision.

The Tasheel books aim to build a child's essential Islamic knowledge. The books are comprehensive and reliable. The content is also presented in an age- appropriate manner to ensure it is relevant for today's learners.

Madrasah Course *(for Teenage)*

“Islamic Studies”. This is a 2-year course. This secondary syllabus is for ages 12 and above. It is designed to equip learners with the necessary knowledge and tools to develop a deep-rooted love and relationship with Islam. The content not only contains information but has advice and practical tips relevant to young Muslims. This will enable them to increase their knowledge, deal with emotional and mental issues faced during adolescence, and strengthen their life skills, confidence and Islamic practice.

THE MAKTAB COURSE

SYLLABUS

YEAR	AGE	QAIDAH/QURAAAN	SURAH MEMORISING	TASHEEL GRADE
Year 1	5-year-old	Qaidah Part 1	Surah Fatihah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Naas ▪ Falaq ▪ Ikhlaas 	Grade 1 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 2	6-year-old	Qaidah Part 2	All Above + Surah Lahab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nasar ▪ Kafiroon ▪ Kausar 	Grade 2 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 3	7-year-old	Amma Para/Juz Complete	All Above + Surah Ma'oon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quraysh ▪ Feel ▪ Asar 	Grade 3 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 4	8-year-old	Quraan Para/Juz 1 – 3	All Above + Surah Humaza <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Takathur ▪ Qaari'ah ▪ Aa'diyaat 	Grade 4 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 5	9-year-old	Quraan Para/Juz 4 – 8	All Above + Surah Zilzaal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bayyinah ▪ Qadar ▪ Teen 	Grade 5 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 6	10-year-old	Quraan Para/Juz 9 – 14	All Above + Surah 'Alaq <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inshiraah ▪ Duha ▪ Layl 	Grade 6 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 7	11-year-old	Quraan Para/Juz 15 – 21	All Above + Surah Shams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Balad ▪ Fajr 	Grade 7 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 8	12-year-old	Quraan Para/Juz 22 – 29	All Above + Surah Ghashiyah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ala ▪ Tariq 	Grade 8 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 9	13-year-old	Quraan Revision	All Above + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surah Mulk ▪ Surah Sajdah 	Grade 9 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's
Year 10	14-year-old	Quraan Revision	All Above + <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Surah Waqiah ▪ Surah Yaseen 	Grade 10 Tasheel/Hadith/ Duaa's

MADRASAH COURSE (*For Teenagers*)

ISLAMIC STUDIES

QURAAN	Surah, Hadith & Duaa's	ISLAMIC STUDIES
<p>Recitation Of The Quraan. Each student will recite on their own pace.</p> <p>Tasheel ul Duroosil Quraan: In this book, the student will learn the translation of the last 22 Surah's of the Quraan. Student will also learn Tafseer of the Ayaats and lessons will be learnt and its practical application.</p>	<p>Surah To Memorise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Last 30 Surah's of the Quraan. ▪ Surah Mulk ▪ Surah Waqiah ▪ Surah Yaseen ▪ Surah Kahf - (first 10 Ayaat and last 10 Ayaat) 	<p>Essential Knowledge <i>The basics of Islam</i> <i>Sirah: an overview</i></p>
	<p>Duaa's To Memorise Students will use the book "Tasheel ud Duaa" and memorise Grade 1 to Grade 10</p>	<p>Islamic Beliefs <i>The hadith of Jibril</i> <i>Belief in Allah and the truth of Islam</i></p>
	<p>Arba'een <i>Memorise 40 Hadith</i></p>	<p>Fiqh <i>Purification & Salaah</i> <i>Fasting & Zakaah</i> <i>Entering adulthood for boys</i></p>
	<p>Islamic History <i>Stories of the Prophets</i> <i>Lives of the Sahabah</i> <i>Muslim contributions to modern civilisation</i></p>	
	<p>Contemporary issues <i>Being Muslim today</i></p>	
	<p>Lifestyle and community <i>Social customs and etiquette</i> <i>Technology and social media</i></p>	
	<p>Spiritual and personal development <i>Al Quraan – the creators guide to human being</i> <i>Journey of the soul</i> <i>Being like the Prophet</i></p>	

Note:

- This Madrasah classes runs every weekday, Monday to Friday.
- Timing 6:00pm till 7:20pm.

MADRASAH RULES AND REGULATIONS

This Madrasah is lead on the teachings of the AHLE SUNNUH WAL JAMMAH

And the FIQH (jurisprudence) of IMAAM ABU HANIFA Rahi ma hullah.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

- Attendance and punctuality are of utmost importance as absenteeism and late coming seriously holds back the student's progress as lessons cannot be repeated for one child due to limited time.
- If due to serious illness or unforeseen circumstances your child can not attend Madrasah, a signed note or a text message written by yourself explaining the cause of absence must be given on the day of absence, prior to Madrasah start.
- Please avoid making any appointments or plan any journeys during Madrasah hours.
- Pupils must not attend any ceremonies or any other functions or programmes during Madrasah hours.
- All sporting or extra-curricular activities should be scheduled for the weekends or after Madrasah hours.
- Madrasah classes runs Monday to Friday on the following timings.

Maktab class "Batch 1"	starts	4:45pm till 6:00pm
Maktab class "Batch 2"	starts	6:00pm till 7:15pm
Teenagers boys class	starts	6:00pm till 7:20pm

- All students must be at the Madrasah **at least 5 minutes** before class start.

DRESSING

- Students should always be encouraged to dress Islamically, especially when attending Madrasah.
- Boys **must** wear kurta or Jubbah and have a topee – Islamic head covering.
- White kurta or jubbah and white topee is preferred.
- Jubba/Kurta should be of sufficient length, that is below the knees and above the ankles.
- The lower garment (trousers/Izar) should be of such fitting that it is above the ankles and not folded.
- Jeans, shorts, and T-shirts will **not be allowed**.
- Students must not have PJ's under the Kurta or Jubbah.

- Girls **must** be modestly dressed in black cloak, Abaya and black Burqa/Hijab – long head covering.
- Girls **must not** wear jeans or shorts or PJ's under their cloak or Abaya.
- Girls will not be allowed to wear any jewellery.

HAIR CUTS

- The hair of both boys and girls must comply with the teaching of our beloved Nabi Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam*.
- The hair for boys must be cut in a way that it is of the same length on all sides.
- Adopting any hairstyle that entails shaving or trimming some part of the head and leaving the other unshaven or untrimmed is prohibited by our beloved Nabi *Muhammad Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam*.
- As we are an Islamic Institute, we will request parents to ensure that students of the Madrasah should not have haircuts which are against the teaching of our beloved Nabi Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam*.
- Girls must not cut their hair.
- The jurists (fuqaha) have instructed not to cut the hair of girls/women. It is for the reason of imitating men, as in the Hadith women who imitate men are cursed by the Messenger of Allah *Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam*.

CLEANLINESS

- A child must be closely examined at home to see whether purity of body and clothing is maintained, especially after going to the toilet.
- All children must be made aware of the importance of cleanliness - not standing and urinating, using water after relieving oneself etc.
- All students must use of the toilet and make Wudhu before attending Madrasah.
- All students must come to Madrasah with clean and presentable clothing.

BEHAVIOUR

- Students should behave and show respect to the Ustaa'd, supervisor, trustees, and any other officials of the Madrasah.
- Any form of bad behaviour, disrespect or rudeness will not be tolerated.
- Students will be disciplined for bad behaviour.
- If any un-Islamic or undesirable material is found in the possession of any student, it will be confiscated.
- No cell phones will be allowed during Madrasah hours.
- The Madrasah has the right to suspend or expel any student who violates any rule of the Madrasah.

UNREASONABLE PARENTS

- Any parent not abiding to Madrasah rules and regulations, OR
- Parents causing any form of disrespect or offense (verbal, physical) to any members of staff or other parents,
- Any parent uses offensive, hurtful words or statements to any of the staff either in person or over text messages, phone calls etc,

Such parents will be warned with a warning letter issued by the Madrasah,
And repetitive offensive behaviour will result in the student being removed from Madrasah immediately. (the Madrasah will issue a withdrawal letter). (Any fees paid will be refunded).

PARENT CONCERNS, FEEDBACKS AND SUGGESTIONS

- If any parent has any issues or concerns regarding Madrasah or any Ustaad /staff, it must be submitted in writing and no verbal communication will be entertained.
- All feedback and suggestions are welcomed in writing.

Please address all writings to “*Madrasah tul Mukarram Management*” in an envelope covered and sealed. Drop off at the Madrasah.

BALIGAH GIRLS

As girls get older and reach the age of maturity, we will request the following:

- The parents must inform the Madrasah as soon as possible once your daughter becomes Baligah.
The Madrasah will make other arrangements for their classes with female teachers.
- The girls will not be allowed to mix with boys and male teachers.
- The girls must cover her hair properly and wear a face cover.
- Baligah girls must not attend classes while she is in the monthly periods.

MADRASAH CONTACT NUMBER

Phone Number: 021 0262 4169

The Madrasah will be using the above number to contact and send text messages to parents.

Please be advised, the Madrasah will only be using WhatsApp to send messages. All parents are required to download the app and save the Madrasah number on your phones.



If the parents require to contact the Madrasah, please use the above number. If parents require to call and speak to the management of the Madrasah, please adhere to the following:

Call timings are: Before Madrasah hours – 4:00pm to 4:30pm.
After Madrasah hours – 7:30pm to 8:00pm.

FEES

- The fees for the Madrasah are **\$16.00 per week per child.**
- Fees can be paid as per term or per year.

Term 1 - 10 weeks = \$160.00

Term 2 - 9 weeks = \$144.00

Term 3 - 10 weeks = \$160.00

Term 4 - 9 weeks = \$144.00

Total for year 2021 –

\$608.00 per child

Payment Details: Two options to pay:

1- pay full amount all at once.

2- pay in instalments – weekly or monthly.

BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS:

Bank: *Westpac Bank*

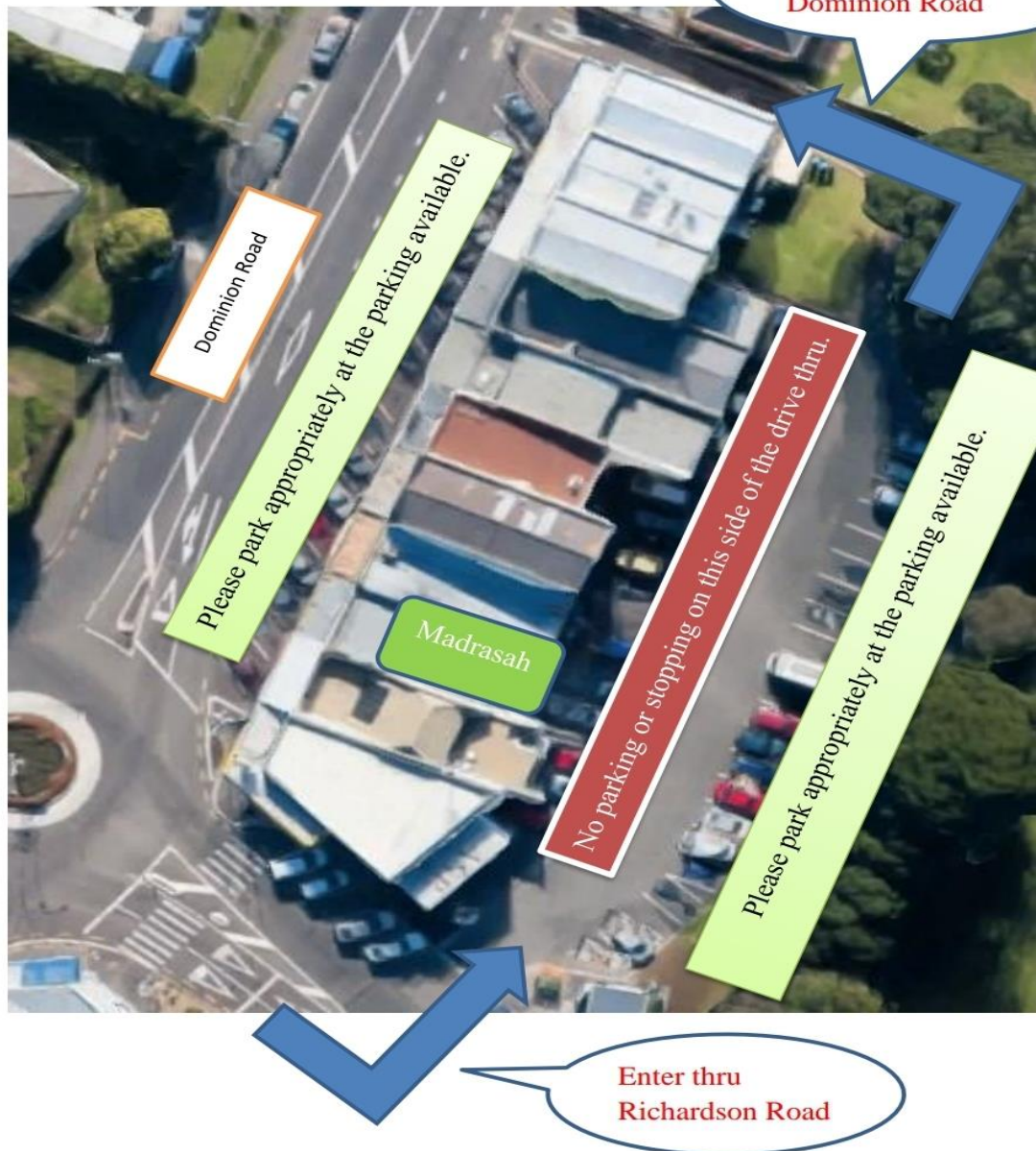
Account Name: *Mukarram Educational Trust*

Account number: *03-0179-0041987-000*

CLASSES VENUE AND PARKING

- The Madrasah classes will be conducted at:
Baitul Mukarram Musallah.
1484b Dominion Road, Mt. Roskill.
- We request parents to please drop off and pick up your child from the carpark area and not from the road.
- Park your car appropriately in the parking area and drop off and pick up your child from the doors of the Musallah.
- Do not park or stop your car on the driveway.
- Please **DO NOT** park your car at any of the neighbour's driveway.
- If and when the carparking area is full, please go around and come back to pick up your child.
- Alternatively, if and when the car parking area is full, please park your car on the road (Dominion Road or Richardson Road) and walk down to the Madrasah to pick up or drop off your child.
- The Madrasah or the Musallah or the trust cannot and will not take any responsibility of any parent parking their car incorrectly.
If any neighbour has to complain to Auckland Council or complain to the authorities, this will be on the parent, the Madrasah or the trust will not get involved.
- The Madrasah cannot take any responsibility of any child getting injured at and around the carpark area.

Student Drop off & Pick up



Please Note:

- When dropping off and picking up your child enter the drive thru from Richardson Road.
- Please park cars appropriately in the parking area available on the right side of the drive thru.
- Please DO NOT stop or park cars on the left side of the drive thru. *(as marked in red in the above picture)*
- Parents must drop off & pick up from the doors of the Madrasah and not from the car.
- Please Exit from the drive thru going onto Dominion Road. DO NOT make a U-turn and exit from Richardson Road.
- If parking is full please exit and come back around.

Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Jazakallahu Khairan.

EDUCATION

- Parents should ensure that children revise their Qaidah / Qur'aan and other Madrasah lessons daily.
- Any homework given should be completed.
- Parents should ensure that their children practically implement their Islamic education and uphold their Islamic identity at home and elsewhere.
- Parents should encourage their children to perform their five daily Salaah and they themselves should also perform it in front of them as an example.
- Duaa's and Sunnats should be practiced on their respective occasions, e.g., upon entering and leaving the toilet, eating, sleeping, etc. Our homes will Insha Allah be enlightened with the Noor of the Sunnah.
- Parents should protect their children from un-Islamic or harmful literature, activities.
- Parents are encouraged to communicate with the Ustaaad, principal or supervisor in matters concerning their children.

MADRASAH / STUDENT DIARY

- Madrasah provides all students with a Madrasah Diary.

The purpose of the Diary

It is a means of communication between Ustaaad and parents.

The diary tells the parents whether your child:

- has learnt his/her lessons.
- behaved in class.
- has learnt his/her Surah/ Duaa and Hadith for the week.
- has completed his/her homework.

The diary also has a "Monitor my Duaa and Hadith" page. This is to keep a track of all the Duaa's, and Hadith learnt.

Parents must listen to each child's lesson's, check whether he/she knows his/her Surah – Hadith – Duaa's and **sign each day**. The signature tells the Ustaaad that the child has learnt his/her lessons at home.

The Salaah chart

At the bottom of each page there is a Salaah chart, we request parents to keep a check on all Salaah prayed and mark the chart accordingly.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARD

Our Madrasah uses the “Student of the Week” award to encourage and motivate the students. To be “Student of the week”, the student will need to get all stars in their Madrasah diary.

A student will get a star if:

- ✓ there are No more than 3 mistakes in Quraan lesson/Qaidah lesson/ Hadith & Duaa’s.
- ✓ Completes all homework given.
- ✓ Behaves well in class /Not late to class or absent.

2021 YEAR PLAN

<i>TERM</i>	<i>start date</i>	<i>end date</i>	<i>Total weeks</i>
<i>TERM 1</i>	27 th of January	9 th of April	10
<i>TERM 2</i>	17 th of May	16 th of July	9
<i>TERM 3</i>	26 th July	1 st October	10
<i>TERM 4</i>	18 th October	17 th December	9

<i>HOLIDAYS</i>	<i>start date</i>	<i>end date</i>
<i>Ramadhan holidays</i>	12 th of April	14 th of May
<i>Eid-ul-Adha</i>	19 th of July	23 rd of July
<i>School Holidays</i>	4 th of October	15 th October

EXAMS

Our Madrasah conducts 3 exams a year.

1st term exams – Midyear exams & End year exams

Exam dates for year 2021

	<i>start date</i>	<i>end date</i>
<i>1st term Exam</i>	29 th March	9 th April
<i>Mid-year Exam</i>	5 th July	16 th July
<i>End of Year Exam</i>	6 th December	17 th December

MADRASAH JALSAH

At the end of each year the Madrasah has a Jalsah.

The purpose of the Jalsah is to recognize the achievement of students who excelled and did well throughout the year.

There are 3 categories of students who receive certificates, prizes, and recognition of their achievements.

- 1- Certificate of Excellence
- 2- Certificate of Merit
- 3- Certificate of Achievement

These certificates are awarded to those students who excel throughout the year, behavior wise, learning wise and do well in the exams.

MADRASAH BOOKS

- Students will require books to study at the Madrasah.

THE TASHEEL SERIES

- Tasheel syllabus is a 10-year course, with 10 grades. One grade per year.
- Each grade has 5 books – History - Fiqh – Aqaid – Akhlaaq and Hadith.
- New students that start from grade 1 will require the following books:

Madrasah Dairy	\$12.00
Duaa Book	\$15.00
Qaaidah book	\$20.00
Madrasah Bag	\$20.00
Grade 1 Tasheel books	\$50.00

- Students moving on to other grades, see below prices for each grade:

Tasheel Grade 2	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 3	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 4	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 5	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 6	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 7	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 8	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 9	\$50.00 per set
Tasheel Grade 10	\$50.00 per set

30 Juz Quraan	\$25.00
5 Juz Quraan	\$15.00

Shaykh Maulana Muhammad Saleem Dhorat
Taken from Riyāḍul Jannah, Vol. 15 No. 12, Dec 2006
Islāmic Da‘wah Academy

Our children attend Madrasahs every evening, yet we as their parents do not attach much significance to them, regarding them merely as places that look after the ummah’s infants. We hold them on a par with nurseries, as places of elementary learning. We should realise though, that as long as we fail to attach importance to them, we will remain ignorant of our children’s development and progress.

The Madrasah’s Legacy

The Madrasah is not an insignificant institute. The flame of Īmān (faith) is first kindled in the Madrasah. The light of Īmān first permeates the heart of a Muslim child in this environment. It teaches our young children moral values.

It is in the Madrasah where we learned that to lie is a very great evil and that we should always speak the truth. It warned us against the use of bad language and that stealing, cheating, and oppressing people are wrong. The Madrasah taught us not to be a thorn in the side of our parents and to care for the elderly, orphans and widows. It was in the Madrasah that we learned that we should be kind to our neighbours, be they Muslim or non-Muslim.

The Madrasah even taught us things that we do as adults without paying attention to them, like the simple yet rewarding act of removing an obstacle from a path. The good morals and character we take credit for as adults were acquired through the Madrasah. All the teachings we are familiar with and today practice in our lives spring from there. By taking stock of every good Deed we are performing and every evil that we detest and avoid, we will be witnessing the legacy of the period of our lives between the age of four or five up to thirteen or fourteen: the years spent in the Madrasah.

Madāris Benefit the Nation

The Madrasah not only brings our children benefits in relation to the hereafter, it also provides them goodness in this world. Parents too, receive worldly gain: a child that spent its time well at Madrasah will become a means of comfort and joy for its parents. The Madrasah is a boon for the country as well because it produces good citizens, regardless of whether it operates in an Islamic country or a secular state. At Madrasah, children are taught to respect the rights of all people and are warned against involvement in drugs, alcohol, theft, vandalism and all types of antisocial behaviour. It contributes towards a socially cohesive society and is a great blessing for humanity as a whole.

Nabi Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam* came into this world as a mercy and all his teachings are full of mercy. What is taught in the Madrasah is what the Nabi Muhammad *Sallallahu Alayhi wa Sallam* taught. His life, his character, his dealings – they all form the basis of what our children learn. Every child who attends a Madrasah becomes familiar with

these Prophetic teachings and is equipped to go on to embody them and serve humanity and work for its betterment.

Parents' Responsibilities Towards their Children

In order for a child to get the most out of his/her Madrasah education, parents need to work in partnership with the Madrasah. Parents should not hand over their children to the Madrasah and feel that they have fulfilled their share of educational responsibility. Some parents are content with just enrolling their children in any Madrasah, but even those that take the time to find one that offers the best ta'lim (education) and tarbiyah (upbringing) should not feel that after enrolling their child their duty has ended.

It is the parents who will be questioned by Allāh Ta'ala about their children's education. If the teachers, principal or the management committee failed in fulfilling their responsibilities, they will also be held accountable for their actions, but the parents will be questioned and held primarily responsible for any negligence regarding their children.

Allāh Ta'ala will demand the answers to two questions from every parent concerning their child: what 'ilm (sacred knowledge) did they give him and what ādāb (good manners/social etiquettes) did they teach him? Each mother and father will have to answer for each one of their children. And at that moment, no parent will be able to blame the child's teacher or Madrasah chairman.

It is the parents' duty to give the correct ta'lim and tarbiyah to their children. They cannot exonerate themselves from it. In light of this, the parents have to keep a close watch on the performance of their children.

Partnership Between Parents and the Madrasah

Parents should also cooperate with the Madrasah and try to understand its aims and objectives. If a Madrasah emphasises punctuality and regular attendance, with few breaks in between, parents should cooperate. For instance, if the board of scholars or committee of a particular Madrasah consider it necessary to decrease holidays to allow enough hours to complete the curriculum, parents should ensure the attendance of their child. The people responsible are aware that if they allow longer holidays, the end result will be academic, religious and social underachievement. Therefore, parents should cooperate with the Madrasah; a vast amount of time and effort is spent in deciding what is best for our children.

Being involved with both the Madrasah and Dārul 'Ulūm educational systems, I am of the opinion that it is the Madrasah more than the Dārul 'Ulūm that is of crucial importance to the Muslim community, since ninety percent of Muslim children will pass through it. Not every Muslim child will participate in Tablīgh Jamā'ah, associate himself to a Shaykh for spiritual guidance, sit in the company of the 'Ulamā or pursue studies at a Dārul 'Ulūm. However, nearly every child will study at a Madrasah. This fact is enough for us to understand the primary importance of the Madrasah system in educating our children to become good Muslims who will serve as role models for our society.

Therefore, we all must work together: the principal, the teachers, and the parents. Cooperation will enable us to build a secure future for our coming generations, in which the Masājid will continue to be attended, the Dīnī environment we take for granted now will be maintained and society at large will continue to benefit from good citizens. Our children are the future.

May Allāh Ta'ala assist, bless and guide us in this noble task.
Āmīn.

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