



Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Introduction

At Madrasah Al Furqan, we are fully committed to protecting all children and young people. We aim to provide a safe, caring, and supportive environment for every student. This policy explains how we keep students safe and what steps we take to protect their well-being.

Aims and Objectives

Our goals are to:

- Protect children from harm, abuse, or neglect.
- Support the welfare and emotional well-being of all students.
- Provide staff with clear steps to follow if they are concerned about a child.
- Follow UK safeguarding laws and guidance.
- Encourage a culture where everyone understands their safeguarding responsibilities.

Who This Policy Applies To

This policy is for:

- All staff, including teachers, admin, volunteers, and trustees.
- All children who attend the Madrassah.
- Any outside visitors, contractors, or partners working with us.

Children at Risk

If we believe a child is at risk of serious harm, we will follow the guidance of the Leicestershire County Council.(First Response Children's Duty 0116 305 0005

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

If there is a concern or allegation against any adult working with children, we will contact the LADO.

Tel: 0116 454 24400

The LADO is informed when someone:

- Harms or may harm a child.
- Commits or may have committed a crime involving a child.
- Acts in a way that suggests they may pose a risk to children.
- May not be suitable to work with children.

LADO's definition of harm includes:

- Any mistreatment or damage to a child's health or development.
- Emotional or physical abuse.
- Sexual abuse.
- Seeing or hearing someone else being mistreated.

Our Key Safeguarding Principles

- A child's safety comes first.
- Every child deserves protection.
- Safe children learn better.
- All staff are responsible for keeping children safe.
- Early action helps prevent serious harm.
- Students must feel safe and supported in the Madrassah.

Roles and Responsibilities

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):

The Madrasah has a DSL responsible for:

- Handling all safeguarding concerns.
- Advising staff on safeguarding issues.
- Working with external agencies if needed.
- Keeping proper safeguarding records.

All Staff Must:

- Put students' safety first.
- Report any concerns about a student immediately.
- Attend safeguarding training and follow procedures.
- Create a respectful and open environment for students.

Parents/Guardians Should:

- Help keep their children safe inside and outside the Madrasah.
- Work with the Madrasah when concerns arise.
- Share any concerns about their child's safety with us promptly.

Recognising Abuse

Staff should look out for:

- Physical abuse: Unexplained injuries or frequent doctor visits.
- Emotional abuse: Anxiety, anger, low self-esteem, or withdrawal.
- Sexual abuse: Unusual behaviour or fear of someone.

- Neglect: Poor hygiene, hunger, or lack of clothing.

If unsure, staff should speak to the DSL right away.

Reporting Concerns

If a staff member is worried about a student, they must:

1. Write down the concern as soon as possible.
2. Report it to the DSL or another senior staff member if the DSL is unavailable.
3. Not try to handle the issue themselves.

What Happens Next

Once a concern is reported:

- The DSL will assess how serious it is and decide what action to take.
- If needed, external services (e.g. social care, police, health teams) will be contacted.
- Every concern will be handled seriously and confidentially.

Staff Training

All staff are trained in safeguarding when they join and will receive regular updates to stay informed about current procedures and responsibilities.

Ongoing Awareness

The Madrasah holds regular meetings and refresher sessions to keep safeguarding knowledge up to date.

Safer Recruitment

We follow safer recruitment processes. All staff, volunteers, and contractors must:

- Pass an enhanced DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.
- Go through a proper interview.
- Provide references from previous roles.

If a Staff Member is Accused

If a staff member is accused of abuse or misconduct:

- The DSL will be informed immediately.
- A full investigation will take place.

- The staff member may be suspended to protect students.
- If necessary, the case will be reported to external safeguarding authorities.

If the staff member resigns during the investigation, the investigation will still continue. They will be given a chance to respond. Compromise agreements will not be used in these cases.

Keeping Records

Detailed records will be kept of:

- Any allegations.
- How the case was investigated.
- The outcome.

The person involved will get a copy of these records. This ensures:

- Accurate references can be given to future employers.
- We avoid repeated investigations if the issue comes up again.

False Allegations

If an allegation is false:

- We may refer the child to social services for support.
- If the claim was made on purpose and is malicious, the

Headteachers will decide on the right action, which could include suspension or expulsion. The Trustees may be consulted.

- If someone outside the Madrasah makes a false claim, it may be reported to the police.

Referral to the DBS

If a person is found to be a risk to children, and they are dismissed or resign, we must refer them to the DBS. The DBS will decide if they should be banned from working with children.

Reviewing Allegations

No matter the outcome, we will review each case to learn and improve our practices so similar incidents do not happen again.

Online Safety

The Madrasah also protects children in the digital world. We will:

- Teach students how to use the internet safely.
- Make sure all online activities are suitable.

- Use filters and monitoring on devices used during lessons or activities.

Special Considerations

Some children need extra protection. This includes children who are:

- Disabled or have special needs.
- Living with domestic abuse.
- Affected by drug or alcohol misuse in the family.
- Refugees or asylum seekers.
- Frequently absent.
- In temporary or unstable housing.
- Experiencing bullying.
- From ethnic or religious minority backgrounds.
- Involved in trafficking or sexual exploitation.
- Not fluent in English.
- Subject to a Child Protection Plan.
- Missing from education.
- Showing unusual or concerning behaviour.

Next Review Date: 31 August 2026