



MADRASAH CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

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

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

We believe that it is the responsibility of all adults in our Madrasah:

- to ensure that children are protected
- to provide a safe, secure and loving environment
- to provide support, encouragement and stimulation to enable each child to reach his/ her full potential

WE DEFINE CHILD ABUSE AS FOLLOWS:

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 For example they may threaten, taunt or shout causing the child to lose self-confidence, and to become nervous or withdrawn. Children need love, praise and affection from adults, or there may be serious consequences for their development.

Broad Guidelines:

- If any member of the Madrasah team suspects child abuse they should speak to "The Designated Safety Officer" with responsibility for Child Protection straight away.
- The "Designated Safety Officer" is Imam Idris Nawab.
- All reported concerns are recorded in the Child Protection Book which is kept in the Office.
- The "Designated Safety Officer" will then take action in line with the West Sussex County Council Child Protection Policy.

General Guidelines for parents:

- We (The Imam and Mosque Committee) will ensure that all adults working with children or accompanying them will be DBS cleared.



- If a child soils himself/herself, a member of staff will contact the child's parents to deal with cleaning and changing of clothes. (Staff will not be permitted to do this).
- It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that children arrive safely to the "designated place of learning" (upstairs hall and classrooms) within the Mosque premises.
- Children who are below 10 years of age will only be permitted to leave the "designated place of learning" with an older sibling or when a parent or designated adult arrives to collect.
- Adults excluding teachers and members of the Mosque management committee will not be allowed to enter the "designated place of learning" without prior permission and without being accompanied by a member of staff or the committee.
- Parents may contact the Imam, member of staff or a committee member at any time if they are concerned about their child's welfare. We advise that this is done as soon as possible.
- Parents who inform of their arrival by means of the intercom are advised to wait by the entrance rather than returning to their cars as they are responsible for their children once they have been sent out from the "designated place of learning."
- If parental responsibility is removed from any parent, it is the responsibility of the parent who continues to assume responsibility that they inform "The Designated Safety Officer" of the change. The Masjid is duty-bound to comply with any rulings made by the courts.

Please be informed that Worthing Masjid gives extreme importance to child wellbeing, child safeguarding and child protection.