Gilnow Primary School

Ramadan Policy

Headteacher: Miss K Hesketh

This policy was reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team and accepted by the Governing Body in March 2025. Other members of the school community, including parents and representatives from the Muslim faith, were also consulted and guidance from the Islamic Society of Britain and 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' was referred to.

INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE

At Gilnow Primary School, we respect and value the different cultures and faiths that we serve within our diverse community and endeavour to meet their needs within our school.

This policy outlines how school will ensure that a safe environment is provided for children who wish to fast during part or all of the month of Ramadan and includes how school and parents will work together to ensure that appropriate care and involvement in school life is maintained.

FASTING DURING RAMADAN

At Gilnow Primary School, we recognise that some children may wish to fast during part or all of the month of Ramadan in order to prepare for adulthood, even though fasting is not compulsory in Islam until after puberty.

If children in Year 6 wish to fast, we ask parents to complete a weekly permission form (see below for more detail). Without this, we will not be able to allow children to fast in school.

If younger children wish to fast, we would ask the parent to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher prior to Ramadan starting.

Gilnow Primary School will:

- Incorporate learning about Muslim faith and traditions into our RE lessons and assemblies across the school year as we do with all cultures and religions represented in our school and community.
- Recognise that fasting and charitable activities during Ramadan are viewed as a positive achievement.
- Provide a clear system for parents to notify school about children's fasting arrangements.
- Provide a supervised space for children who are fasting to stay in at lunchtimes.
- Provide a packed lunch for children who are fasting, and eligible for Free School Meals, to take home.
- Ensure that all staff who work with children who are fasting are aware and able to support the children.
- Be aware of the possible physical impact of fasting, for example, headaches or reduced concentration.
- Attempt to make contact with parents if a child who is fasting is feeling unwell or wants to break their fast. However, if we are unable to make contact with parents and we feel that the child's health is being impacted, we will carry out our Safeguarding duty and responsibility for the children in our care by encouraging them to break their fast.
- Not give permission for children with a medical condition which could be complicated by fasting (e.g. diabetes), to fast at school.
- Not give permission for children below Year 6 to fast on days when they have PE lessons.
- Expect children to continue to access the full school curriculum, which includes PE and Music, and continue to engage in the life of the school.
- Make efforts to plan swimming and puberty lessons outside of the month of Ramadan whenever possible.
- Make use of timetable variations when this is possible if Ramadan falls during End of KS2 assessments (SATs).

We would ask parents to:

- Complete a weekly permission form to notify school if their child is fasting. This should be done weekly to enable school to ensure appropriate supervision is in place for all children. If this is not received, we will not be able to allow your child to fast in school.
- Communicate regularly with school staff regarding fasting arrangements and in order to ensure the ongoing health and wellbeing of the children.
- Continue to promote good school attendance and engagement in all parts of school life.
- Consider which days children will be expected to take part in PE lessons, including swimming lessons, when making fasting arrangements.
- Consider the importance of end of KS2 assessments (SATs) and how to support children to perform well in these as well as engaging in the spirit of Ramadan, if Ramadan falls during End of KS2 assessments.
- Work alongside school and support school systems when making arrangements for their children to fast.

ATTENDANCE DURING RAMADAN

We recognise that during Ramadan, children may be more tired than usual during the school day, and we will ensure that staff are aware and able to make reasonable allowances for this. However, we take attendance very seriously at Gilnow and would expect families to maintain good attendance and punctuality throughout Ramadan.

Children are entitled to one day off school as an authorised absence for religious observance in order to celebrate Eid if Eid falls on a normal school day. School would ask parents to notify the School Office using our normal absence procedures if a child will not be in school. Any additional days that children have off school will be classed as an unauthorised absence.

When planning our school calendar for the year (from 2023-24 academic year), consideration will be given to the timing of religious events celebrated by children in our school.

Example of a Weekly Permission Slip:

Name of child _____ Year group _____

I give consent for my child to fast on the following days this week:

M	T	W	Th	F

My child is entitled to Free School Meals and requires a packed lunch to take home on the days that they are fasting.

Yes		No	

Signed _____ (parent / carer) Date _____