



Festivals Policy

INFORMATION ON THE SCHOOL POLICY-FESTIVALS

There are many important religious times during the year for our pupils and we value these festivals. We feel this policy will be useful as it helps us to all work together with a common understanding.

Yours faithfully

Headteacher

POLICY ON RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

This policy was devised in 2014 and updated as required. It was updated again in 2022 as a result of our Home/School partnership. We have sought advice from various representatives from the local community.

DAY OFF FOR RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

Parents should complete the online request form prior to the day being requested via the online form. If the form is not completed your child/children will need to attend school to school for registration. Please let the staff know if you need further support.

Fasting:-

Whilst we recognise that fasting is not compulsory before the age of puberty in Islam, we understand that children are often encouraged to fast or indeed wish to fast to prepare them for adulthood. We do not encourage children in KS1 to fast.

AIMS

1. To provide a safe environment for children who wish to partake in fasting at school.
2. To ensure the proper welfare and care of children is maintained and to keep parents informed if their child is unwell.
3. To further develop understanding of the different faiths represented in the school community and wider.

IMPLEMENTATION

Fasting:-

1. To recognise fasting is not compulsory before the age of puberty.
2. All parents must inform the Office by letter if they wish their child to fast.
3. If a child says that he or she is fasting but the school has not received a letter from his or her parent this will be dealt with in a respectful way but the child will not be allowed to miss lunch.
4. Children who are fasting should not be expected to exert themselves physically but will join in with PE and swimming.
5. If children are considered sensible enough by their parents to deal with the religious observance of fasting, they should be encouraged to make use of quiet areas on the playground.
6. Children who are fasting can opt to use the seated areas outside (during playtime) in order to conserve their energy but will not be kept inside when other members of their class are having their lunch.
7. As is the tradition in the school, some assemblies held will take place

during fasting and children are encouraged to participate ensuring mutual respect.

8. A child who fasts on some days and not others should be provided with a packed lunch for the days she/he is not fasting. If a child is eligible to free school meals the child's parents **must** liaise with the school office in writing/email.

9. If a child becomes distressed when he or she is fasting, the school will provide the child with something to eat or drink.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. Parents **MUST** inform the school if their child is fasting.

2. The school will inform parents if their child who is fasting becomes unwell and provide nourishment for the pupil.

IMPACT

1. There is mutual co-operation between the parents of children who are fasting and the school.

2. All children in the school are encouraged to feel positive about their family, their culture and their faith.

3. Parents wishing for their child to have **ONE day off** for an approved religious festival must complete the form online.

Reviewed March 2022 (next review as required)



Fasting Letter

I _____ (Parents/Carer's name) give my permission for my

Child _____ Class _____ to fast on the following days:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday

Thursday Friday

I agree that if my child feels unwell they will be provided with water or a school meal and a slip sent home if he/she needs to pay for the meal.

Signed _____ Date _____