

Madrassa

Timings: Sunday 11am – 1pm

11:00 - 01:00pm - Madrassa

01:00 - 01:30pm - Namaz

01:30 - 01:45pm - Food

Head of madrassa: **Mrs Nikhat Panjwani** Contact no. : 01245 357 577



Mrs Nikhat Panjwani is a graduate having completed a BA Honours in Islamic Studies from the Islamic College of Advance Studies. She has provided voluntary work in many other Idaras and is currently teaching at another London based Idara on Saturdays. Mrs Nikhat began the madrassa in Imamia Mission on 7th January 2007. Her work is based on the idea of bringing children of the community together and to familiarise them with the foundations of Islam in a fun and friendly manner.

Teachers: **Children:** Mrs Nishat R Mawji, Mrs Gulzar R Mawji, Fatema Mawji, Mrs Sophia Syed, Mrs Shehnaz Ladha, Mrs Samia Tahira Hussain, Mrs Shaheda Hussain, Mrs Naeela Shah & Mrs Adila Shah, Kausar Hussain
Women: Shehwar Batool Shah
Boys: Hasan Mazahar Sheikh and assistant Syed Murtaza Abbas



From left to right: Nishat Mawji, Fatema Mawji, Gulzar Mawji, Adila Shah, Samiya Hussain, Mrs Naeela Shah, Mrs Shaheda Hussain, Mrs Shehnaz Ladha, Kausar Hussain & Nikhat Panjwani

Mrs Nadia Kamran Raza also teaches children at her home in Ilford. This facility is provided for those children who are unable to attend Imamia Mission due to personal or transport difficulties. Her contact no. is 020 8220 3725 (address is available on request).



Children

Maulana Raza has been teaching Arabic, Quran and Namaz to younger children for many years. Now, with the help of some volunteers, the madrassa has become a much more organised medium through which the younger children are given the opportunity to learn and practice our religion. The madrassa lead by Mrs Nikhat Panjwami began on 7th January 2007. It is supported by over 15 teachers who have all been trained to provide the necessary teaching. The madrassa has its individual curriculum which the teachers and students follow. This curriculum comes from a London based authority and is strictly adhered to by all the staff.

The madrassa's aim is to teach the children in such a manner in which they continue to be motivated and enjoy what they learn. To do this, the classes have been divided into age groups so that the children can make friends in their age circle. The age groups at the moment are: 4-7, 8-10, 10-12 and 12 and above.



4-7 years headed by Mrs Samiya Hussain, Mrs Sophia Syed, Mrs Shehnaz Ladha, Mrs Naeela Shah & Mrs Adila Shah



8-10 years lead by Mrs Shaheda Hussain



10-12 years headed by Mrs Gulzar Mawji & Nishat Mawji



12 years & above headed by Fatema Mawji & Kausar Hussain

At present the children are encouraged to write poems and do research on our holy prophets and imams and these are presented before the classes on a weekly basis. In addition, the teachers are in the process of introducing plays in which these children will be participating. The idea is to bring to life the history of islam in a more friendly manner rather than research and reading books. It is considered that this would be a better mechanism to help children remember what they've been taught.

The curriculum

All students are required to study the modules set by the curriculum. The modules are taught at a pace according to the ages of the children. Teaching time is from 11am to 1pm. The time is divided into 4 half hour slots. Each slot covers one of the following:

- 1) Quran
- 2) Akhlaq – Islamic Etiquette
- 3) Tareekh – Islamic History
- 4) Fiqh – Islamic Jurisprudence



In order to effectively teach, the teachers have class discussions, presentations (below) and encourage team-working for particular exercises (left).



Namaz

Namaz, one of the fundamental pillars of Islam, is fully incorporated into the structure of the madrassa. After studying, namaz takes place in the basement hall. The hall has row markings on the floor so that the children can sit in an orderly fashion. All the children are united at this point as reading in jamaat is considered best practice.



The teachers supervise the children around the room to ensure concentration and no lack of obedience.

Every week the teachers nominate students to read the azan aloud (left).



Ladies Madrassa

Mrs Shehwar Batool Shah Contact No. 07954 408 459



Mrs Shehwar teaches the ladies on Sundays at the same 11-1pm. She is a well-educated lady and has a wealth of knowledge of Islam having studied in Qum for 2 years. Mrs Shah teaches according to the demand of her students. The women in the group raise topics weekly for discussion and seek advice and authority from Mrs Shah. She provides paperwork and worksheets regarding all topics and mainly covers Fiqh.



Boys

Following the successful running of the Madrassa, it was considered a good idea to have a separate class for the teenage boys. This class has begun recently in November 2007.



Hasan Mazahar Sheikh Contact No. 07828 711 251

Mr Sheikh has recently started teaching young boys aged from 9-18 year olds. So far he has covered topics like: teaching and learning the meaning of Namaz, learning meanings of Surahs and historical research. Syed Murtaza Abbas assists with the teaching by helping with all technical tasks such as planning the lessons on a weekly basis, finding resources (via internet or library) and providing work sheets to students.



Syed Murtaza Abbas

Eventually, the boys group will be following the same curriculum as the other students and will also be enjoying more interesting and motivating activities as the rest of the students. This is dependant on the number of students joining the extra class running exclusively for teenage boys.



Boys Class aged 9-18