

Masjid Noor Boys Saturday School Vision & Structure

Vision

To provide our community's youth with a strong foundation of Islamic knowledge so they may grow into practicing, educated and exemplary Muslims, as well as model citizens.

Students should receive a comprehensive education that is based on

- Aqaid, Fiqh, Aklaq, Ahdaab, Seera and other relevant Islamic studies
- Clear and regular communication with parents
- An approach that brings the students into the Masjid's day-to-day activities and allows them to put their learning into action. Students should look forward to coming to Masjid.

Our long-term objective is to re-establish a comprehensive 6-day a week education program comprising the daily Maktab and Saturday class. In the interim, the Saturday class will strive to accomplish this vision through the following strategy.

Education Structure

Classes - The boys program will include nine grade levels for ages 8 to 17. Younger students are educated through the sisters program (upstairs). Additionally, the Masjid has a weekly halaqa for high-school and college-aged youth that will handle more mature topics.

The criteria for entry into each boys program grade level includes, but is not limited to:

1. Successful completion of the previous grade level, including final and mid-term exams
2. Regular attendance and participation
3. Appropriate behavior and conduct as well as the student's age

The education curriculum is based on the widely acclaimed and accepted "Tasheel Series" developed by Jamiatul Ulama South Africa. The program was specifically designed for students who attend secular school during the day and therefore must focus on their Islamic studies during the evenings and weekends. It has been implemented by Islamic schools across the world and has a proven track record for producing knowledgeable young Muslims, including hafizes.

Detailed information about the program can be found on Jamiatul Ulama South Africa's website:

<http://www.jmtsa.co.za/services/jut-publishers/>.

For our younger students (grades 4 and 5), we will also incorporate books from the Easy Deeniyat series, developed by Baitul Ilm of Karachi. This series offers a similar curriculum but with less details, making it a helpful foundational tool. More information can be found at

<http://www.mbi.com.pk/beta/index.php/en/>.

Grade levels will follow the corresponding book in the program's series, as such:

Grade	Book
4	Level 4 books as well as Easy Deeniyat series
5	Level 5 books as well as Easy Deeniyat series
6a	Level 6 (1st half of books)
6b	Level 6 (2nd half of books)

7a	Level 7 (1st half of books)
7b	Level 7 (2nd half of books)
8a	Level 8 (1st half of books)
8b	Level 8 (2nd half of books)

Masjid Noor will provide the assigned text books to students, free-of-charge. We kindly ask that students keep their books in good condition and return the materials at the term's end so that they may be reused.

In addition to the assigned text books, each grade will rely on in-class discussions, supplemental handouts, homework, assigned projects and other education methods. Students will be responsible for any subsequent materials and notes.

For a detailed breakdown of the lessons covered in each grade level, please refer to the corresponding class description document.

Subjects - the subjects that form our curriculum's foundation are:

- Aqaid (Beliefs and Practices) - Focuses on providing the basic understanding of the Oneness of Allâh and explaining essential Islamic beliefs as well as imparting the core topics related to it. It aims at imparting not only the necessary knowledge, but also the skills so that learners could practice upon Islam holistically and in full faith.
- Akhlaaq wal Ahdaab (Good Character & Etiquette) - Focuses on instilling in the learners the necessary knowledge of Islamic etiquette and behaviors. Not only are the core principles imparted to them, but also its application in current day situations with the aim at having the learners internalize these values so as to be exemplars in society.
- Fiqh (Islamic Rulings) - Focuses on instilling in the students the necessary knowledge of Islamic laws and practices of Islam. Its application in everyday situations is a central focus area.
- Seera/Taareekh (Islamic History) - Focuses on bringing the life and personality of Nabî Muhammad *sallallâhu 'alayhi wasallam* as close to hearts and minds of the learners, so that they are able emulate him, love him and be able to protect and honor his noble personality at all times. It also aims at imparting Islamic history and its contribution to the world to the learners. This acts as the gateway to the development the Muslim identity via the learning and understanding of our Islamic heritage.
- Natural Sciences - Focuses on the biological functions and abilities of the many creation of Allah. As a counterweight to many secular science studies, the aim is to reinforce and deepen our beliefs by studying the miracles of life and nature.
- Hadeeth - Focuses on the memorization of the sayings and teachings of Nabî Muhammad *sallallâhu 'alayhi wasallam*. Not only does this promote the preservation of this legacy but it also engenders love and obedience for his great personality in the hearts of learners.
- Du'âs - The life of a Muslim revolves around remembering Allâh at every turn and activity of one's daily life. These are embodied in the various du'âs which Nabî Muhammad *sallallâhu 'alayhi wasallam* has taught us to recite while carrying out our daily tasks. This subjects aims at teaching learners these essential du'âs in the life of a Muslim.

Additional classes may be added based on student/parent interest as well as teacher availability.

Student Evaluation

Students will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Exam performance (Mid-term exam, Final Exam, quizzes)- 50%
- Class participation and projects - 25%
- Behavior and Attendance - 25%

All students are required to adhere to the Masjid rules of behavior that are included in the registration forms and are also on the Masjid Noor's website. These rules will be reviewed during our first class and reinforced throughout the school year.

To ensure that parents and students are receiving regular feedback, weekly report cards will be provided for each student. Each report card will cover the areas described above, with emphasis placed on class participation, behavior and attendance. Parents will be required to sign each report card to ensure receipt.

In mid-January, Parents will receive a Mid-Term Report Card for their student(s), which will provide a summary of grades, performance and feedback through the first half of our school year

The objective is to ensure that each parent is receiving individualized feedback for their child and also to identify ways that we can collaboratively improve student performance throughout the academic year.

Class Schedule

Classes will take place Saturday mornings from 10:00 am to 1:15 pm (subject to Zuhr Jamaat timing).

Each grade will have Five classes per day with each class lasting 30 minutes and a 20 minute recess.

Students are expected to arrive promptly at 10am, otherwise they will be marked as late.

Communication

The Masjid will strive to maintain regular contact with parents through e-mail, text message and letters given to students. Students will be responsible for conveying any additional announcements or notifications given in-class.

Parents should confirm that they have provided the Masjid with their most up-to-date phone numbers and e-mail addresses to ensure that they receive all notifications.

Parents are also expected to attend Back-to-School meetings, parent-teacher conferences and any other Masjid programs/events relevant to their child's education.

Should parents have any questions about the Boys Saturday program or need to speak to someone, please feel free to e-mail education@masjidnoorli.org or contact the following individuals:

Principal: Mulannah Ibrahim

Parent Coordinators: Br. Javaid Shaikh and Br. Shaan Khan

Role of Teachers

As Imam of the Masjid, Mullanah Ibrahim is responsible for guiding the education priorities and policies, including oversight of the curriculum and materials.

Teachers are tasked with carrying out the Masjid's vision for education through weekly lessons. This includes leading discussions, assigning homework, evaluating students based on the program's criteria and maintaining regular communication with parents and students regarding performance.

Teachers are expected to arrive prior to start time and to be ready to begin classes on-time. If a teacher is unable to attend class, then he is responsible for notifying the appropriate people in advance of class.

Role of Parents

Education requires a strong partnership between parents and teachers in order to best allow students to grow and prosper.

In that spirit, **we respectfully ask each parent to take an active role in your child's education.** This includes:

- Helping your child with their homework, reviewing class lessons and learning the material. Lesson plans for each grade are posted on Masjid Noor's website and are also available upon request. Please use these plans to stay engaged in what your child is learning.
- Encouraging your child to implement what they have learned at the Masjid in their everyday life.
- Creating a conducive environment at home to help the child in their studies and implement what they learn.
- Encouraging, rewarding and reprimanding your child, when necessary. Please take a moment to review the Masjid rules of behavior. This document is part of the registration form and can also be found on Masjid Noor's website.
- Maintaining constant contact with teachers and the school about the performance and behavior of your child. This includes attending mandatory parent meetings, parent-teacher conferences and Masjid events/programs associated with classes.
- Making sure that your student attends classes on-time. Lateness disrupts classes, interferes with the lesson plan and will also negatively impact your child's grades.