

**AL BARAKAH SCHOOL**  
**CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) POLICY**

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**The main changes to the previous guidance include updated advice regarding face coverings, testing and self-isolation requirements.**

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**ALL STAFF MEMBERS, STUDENTS AND PARENTS / GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS WHO ATTEND AL BARAKAH SCHOOL ARE DEEMED TO ACCEPT AND ADHERE TO THIS POLICY AND THE PROCEDURES SET OUT HEREIN.**

These cautionary measures have been put in place as a response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. **This policy remains contingent on ongoing guidance from Public Health England and could therefore change at any time.** The well-being of our students, staff and community remain our utmost priority and we hope to support the management of risk of what is an ongoing and much-changing situation as best as possible. We will continue to keep you updated if there are any further changes to be implemented insha'Allah.

This policy is informed by the latest government advice for out-of-school settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protective-measures-for-holiday-or-after-school-clubs-and-other-out-of-school-settings-for-children-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/protective-measures-for-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

The government has released the following accompanying guidance for parents / guardians: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>.

We would be grateful if you could please ensure that you are familiar with the procedures set out below, and request you to please allow plenty of time in your school journey in order to make the process as smooth as possible. We all have a collective responsibility to keep the community safe, and it is therefore essential that we all follow the latest procedures. JazakAllahkhair for your patience and cooperation.

**Key Principles and Aims**

- To provide the best possible Islamic education and support for all students and do all we can to support student and staff wellbeing.
- To do everything we reasonably can for students and staff, to minimise the transmission and infection of COVID-19, including following government advice and directives.
- To focus on hygiene and safety protocols.

**General**

1. Please note that, for safety purposes, **no parents / guardians will be allowed inside the main school building**, unless in exceptional or specific circumstances.
2. Regular hand washing / sanitising is encouraged to be undertaken throughout the school day. We recommend that members of staff, older students or those with allergies to generic hand sanitiser / hand soap bring in their own hand sanitiser.
3. Northwood School will ensure that the building is thoroughly cleaned prior to use by Al Barakah School. Additionally, disinfecting wipes and cleaning sprays will be used on frequently touched surfaces at regular intervals throughout the school day.
4. Face coverings are no longer required to be worn in crowded areas and in corridors / communal areas.
5. Staff and students are encouraged to avoid touching their faces – particularly mouth, eyes and nose.

6. Staff and students are encouraged to cough or sneeze into a tissue or their elbow; bin the tissue and wash / sanitise hands afterwards.
7. Staff and students are encouraged not to gather together in large groups, especially in corridors / communal areas, unless in exceptional or specific circumstances.
8. Weather permitting, ventilation is recommended in smaller enclosed spaces, and outdoor provision for learning / break is encouraged.

### **Transport**

1. Staff and students are encouraged to walk or cycle to school, where it is possible and safe to do so.
2. If it is necessary to travel to school using public transport, where possible try to: maintain a social distance from other users; minimise touching of surfaces; and use hand sanitiser upon boarding and disembarking. Face coverings must be worn on public transport by users aged 11 and over, unless exempt.

### **Morning Drop-off and Hometime**

1. To minimise congregation, parents / guardians must refrain from remaining on the school premises once students have been dropped off or collected.
2. To minimise congestion, timings for morning drop-off and hometime have been staggered for different classes. Details of staggered timings and class line-up areas have been emailed to parents / guardians. Students in Classes 7 and upwards do not have to line-up, and can go to their classes directly.
3. For maximum ease and efficiency, it is essential that parents / guardians and students are **punctual** for morning drop-off and hometime.

### **Resources**

1. **All students in all classes** are requested to bring in their own school bags, books, stationery and equipment. For younger classes, we recommend that these items are clearly labelled with the student's name to avoid sharing and mix-ups.
2. In particular, students in Classes 1-4 are requested to bring in the following items:
  - Pencil case with pencils, sharpener, eraser and ruler.
  - Starter Pack (issued to students in Classes 1-4 upon Registration) - containing laminated alphabet sheets, mini whiteboard, board pen and board eraser.
3. Students in Classes 6 and upwards are requested to bring in their own Qur'an.
4. Starter Packs (Classes 1-4), Arabic Workbooks (Classes 1-10), Islamic Studies Books (Classes 1-5) and exercise books are provided to each student by the school.

### **Sickness / COVID-19**

Details of symptoms, testing, self-isolation and other COVID-19 related information can be found at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>.

1. Only staff and students who are free of coronavirus symptoms should be attending school.
2. All parents/guardians, members of staff and students in Classes 7 and upwards (including students in Adult Classes), are strongly encouraged to test twice weekly (3 to 4 days apart) at home using lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, prior to attending Al Barakah School. Individuals with a positive LFD test result must not attend school for any reason and should self-isolate immediately.

3. If a member of staff develops suspected coronavirus symptoms during the school day, they must inform the Management Team as soon as possible.
4. If a student develops suspected coronavirus symptoms during the school day, they will be taken to First Aid in Reception; the Administrative Team will contact parents / guardians for collection as soon as possible.
5. Anyone who displays symptoms of COVID-19 can and should get a test, and should engage with NHS Test and Trace. **The Management / Administrative Teams should be informed as soon as possible in the event of a positive result following a test.**
6. Adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result. Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:
  - fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine
  - all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
  - people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons
  - people who are taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine
7. Children under 5 years old who are identified as close contacts are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily testing of close contacts. They are advised to take a PCR test if the positive case is in their household.
8. Individuals who are 18 years old will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday. This will allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated, at which point they will be subject to the same rules as adults.
9. Individuals who are not vaccinated will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact of someone with COVID-19.
10. If you have a clinically vulnerable household member then please do inform the school, and follow appropriate guidelines: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>.

### **Communication, Support and Wellbeing**

Please know that we continue to maintain an open communications policy; do not hesitate to contact us if any concerns or worries arise.

We are aware of how challenging this time has been, and also that there may be concerns about attending Al Barakah School. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any way we can offer help and support.

We pray that Allah keeps us all safe from harm, ameen.