

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

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**The main changes to the previous guidance include updated advice regarding face coverings and self-isolation; and removal of the requirements for (i) social distancing, (ii) the one parent limit at morning drop-off and hometime, (iii) maintaining smaller class groups and (iv) minimising the use of shared classroom resources.**

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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 are being put in place temporarily as a response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. **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 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 provide the best possible Islamic education and support for all students and do all we can to support student and staff wellbeing.
- 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 will 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. Members of staff, and students in Classes 7 and upwards, are encouraged to wear face coverings in crowded and small enclosed 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 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 need to be worn on public transport by users aged 11 and over, unless exempt.

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

1. Parents / guardians are encouraged to wear a face covering in crowded areas, and limit prolonged close contact with people from a different household.
2. To avoid congregation, parents / guardians must refrain from remaining on the school premises once students have been dropped off or collected.
3. To minimise congestion, timings for morning drop-off and hometime will be staggered for different classes, and there will be separate class line-up areas. Specific details of staggered timings and line-up areas will be emailed to parents / guardians.
4. Students in Classes 7 and upwards do not have to line-up, and can go to their classes directly.
5. For maximum ease and efficiency, it is essential that parents / guardians and students are **punctual** for morning drop-off and hometime.

### **Break**

For Break, staff and students can bring in their own snack and a filled water bottle from home. For younger classes, we recommend that these items are brought in a lunch box clearly labelled with the student's name.

### **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, Arabic Workbooks, Islamic Studies Books and exercise books are provided to each student by the school.

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

Details of symptoms, testing (including asymptomatic testing for those with no symptoms) 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. If a member of staff develops suspected coronavirus symptoms during the school day, they must inform the Management Team as soon as possible.
3. 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.
4. Staff and students must not attend school for any reason - and must self-isolate - if they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, or if they or anyone in their household has COVID-19.

### **Exemptions**

You are not required to self-isolate if you live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- you are fully vaccinated
- you are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- you have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- you are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

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. 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. Please email us ([fees@albarakah.co.uk](mailto:fees@albarakah.co.uk), [info@albarakah.co.uk](mailto:info@albarakah.co.uk), [admissions@albarakah.co.uk](mailto:admissions@albarakah.co.uk)) with regards to any queries / matters where these relate to fees, admissions, special needs, medical information, holiday, leavers or any other personal / administrative matters. For queries relating to classwork, homework, student progress or feedback, please engage with class / subject teachers via Google Classroom (instructions have been sent via email).

We are aware of how challenging the past year has been and also that some staff and students will be concerned about returning to school. Please do not hesitate to contact us over the coming weeks and months if there is any way we can offer help and support.

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