



Southfields Community Primary School

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.

POLICY ON RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS

This policy was introduced in 2023 and will be updated as required. In creating this policy, we have sought advice from various representatives from our community.

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 of the Policy:

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 using Appendix One.
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.
7. 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.
8. 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 using Appendix One. The school has a duty of care to all children and must ensure that the children's safety and wellbeing comes first.
2. The school will inform parents if their child who is fasting becomes unwell and will 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.

First version introduced March '23 (next review as required)

Appendix One: Parent / Carer reply slip

I (Parent / Carer) give permission for my child to fast on the following days:

Day	Please tick below to indicate the days.
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Your Child's Name(s).....

Your Child's Class(es).....

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

Signed

Print Name

Date.....