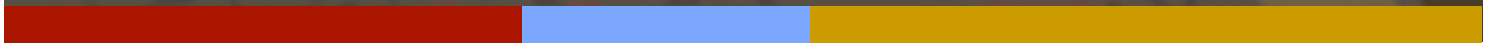


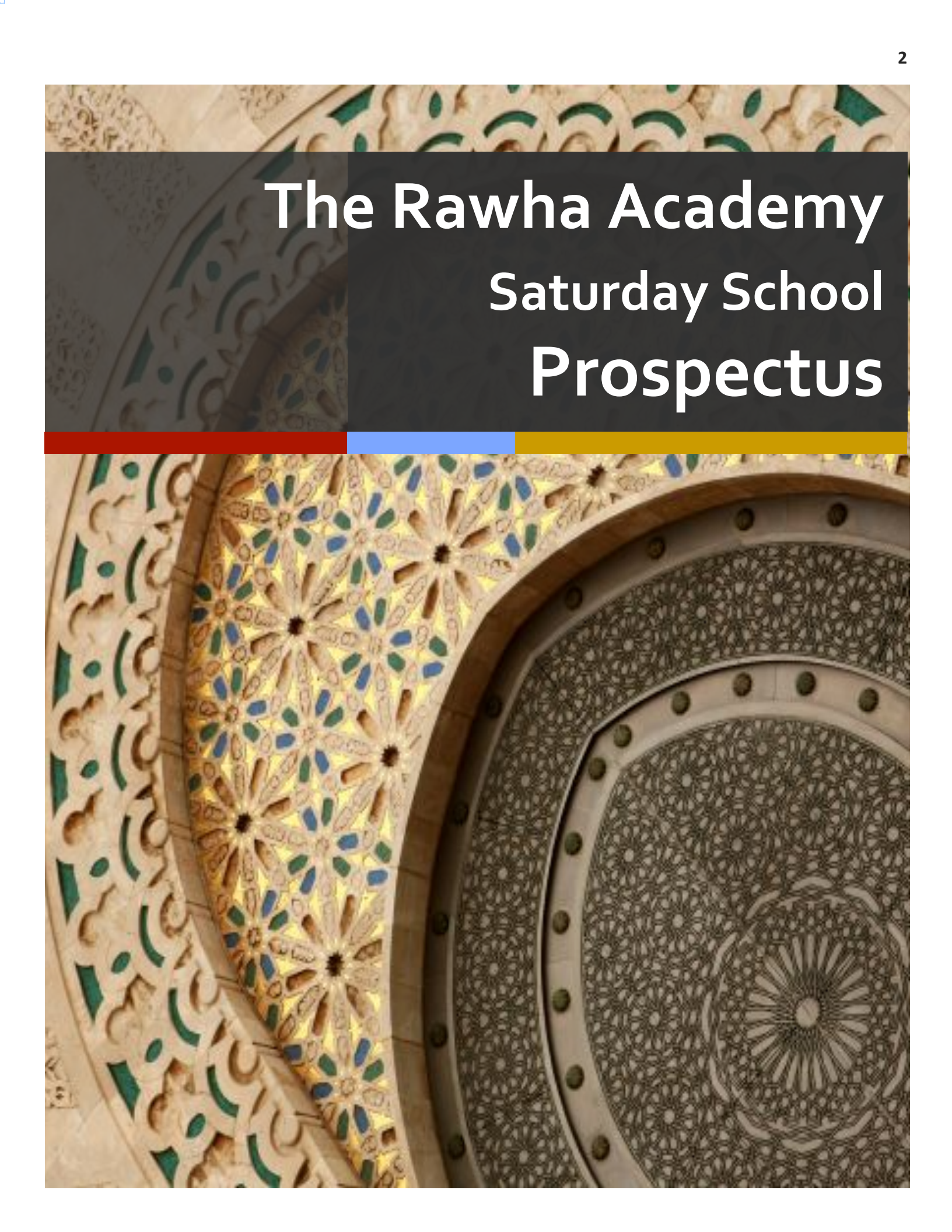


معهد الروحة
The Rawha Academy

THE RAWHA ACADEMY
SATURDAY SCHOOL

SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

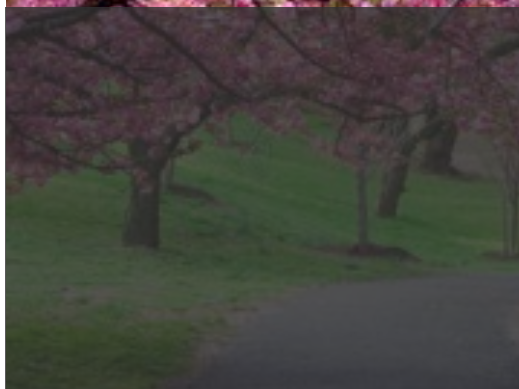




The Rawha Academy

Saturday School

Prospectus



WELCOME TO THE RAWHA ACADEMY SATURDAY SCHOOL

Asalaam Alaikum wa Rahmathullahi wa Barakatuhu

We wish you and your child a warm welcome, and hope this prospectus helps you gain an understanding of how the Rawha Academy Saturday School is organised, and to appreciate the exciting opportunities on offer for your child.

A Transformational Programme

The Rawha Academy has developed a transformational programme for its Saturday School aimed at young children that embraces the essence of our faith. A team of well-qualified and experienced teachers and dedicated staff have developed a syllabus that has been designed to augment Sacred Learning with Sacred Sports to nurture chivalrous children.

What you will find at the Rawha Academy is distinctive 'feel', which makes us quite unique. We believe that the 'special feel' is to do with our caring, friendly atmosphere, which revolves around our staff and exceptional curriculum. Our Saturday School will continue to develop in many exciting ways Insha Allah, providing an even more enriching experience for all our children.

The teaching methodology involves the use of various techniques such as storytelling, hands-on activities, qaseeda singing, and analytical reasoning supplemented through a series of books and worksheets to help children truly love Islam, understand and internalise their faith, and prepare them to live Islam and practice it for life.

In the pursuit of excellence, the Rawha Academy aspires to develop children of character that embody the values of our faith in thought and action reflecting Sacred Prophetic Virtues and Morals.

The aim is to imbue a spirit of learning and love for our Creator, His Messenger, and for Islam.

The Rawha Academy programme will embrace the following:

- Trained teachers
- Small group sizes
- Age range 6 - 12 year olds
- Quran and Hadith that is weaved through the syllabus in the pursuit of Prophetic Character
- Child-centered and structured learning environment.
- Uses age-appropriate learning methods and materials to make learning enjoyable.

- The pursuit of Character development that is manifested throughout every lesson
- Islamic syllabus that is broad and balanced
- Disciplines studied:
Arabic Literacy, Arabic Oracy, Islamic Studies,, *Qaseeda / Nasheed Training

*Termly - As well as Islamic Art and Crafts, Sports (Archery, Wrestling, Ji-Jitsu, Swimming, Horse Riding).

There will be an initial assessment for each child to place them in their ability grouping, so that the Academy can effectively differentiate and individualise learning; as well as assessments running throughout the year.

Within the initial phases of the Academy we have planned a phased approach to expansion over the next 2 terms, by which time the Rawha Academy Saturday School will increase to 6 classes and have the space, staff and resources to absorb and cater for the increase in children numbers.

Alhamdulillah we are very excited and extremely honoured to have a team that is committed to providing the very best opportunities for the children who attend the Rawha Academy Saturday School. Staff, supported by volunteers, will work hard to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum; to prepare children for future education; and to help them acquire the skills and enthusiasm needed to pursue learning and practice their faith for the rest of their lives Insha Allah.



Abu Ad-Darda said, "Verily, I heard the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessings be upon him, say: **Whoever travels a path in search of knowledge, then Allah will easy for him the path to Paradise. Verily, the angels lower their wings for the seeker of knowledge**"
Sunan Abu Dawud

SATURDAY SCHOOL OVERVIEW

Age:

6 – 12 Years of Age

Programme Duration:

7-Year Programme

Class Size:

15 Pupils per Class

Initial information:

- ❖ Introductory Offer £6 per session (£75 / term).
- ❖ Limited Places so book early
- ❖ For Boys and Girls
- ❖ An application form will need to be completed by each parent prior to enrolment onto the Academy programme.

Course details:

Time : 10 am – 1.00pm

Date: Every Saturday (commencing 10 January 2015)

Venue: Lapage Primary School & Nursery, Barkerend Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD3 8QX

Madhab:

We equally respect all the four schools of thought, however the Islamic Studies Syllabus will be delivered according to the Hanafi School of thought.

Homework:

Children will receive homework in Arabic and Islamic Studies every week. It is vital that parents actively engage with their children to help with their learning on a regular basis.

Attendance:

All children are required to attend all classes without fail. Please ensure all children arrive approximately 5 minutes before the class starts.

Assessment:

Assessments will be periodically to assess the children's learning. These will be made available to parents in report format.

Parents Meeting:

These will be arranged annually to discuss your child's progress and development with their respective teachers.

The Timetable:

Each Discipline will be taught for 40 minutes and each session will be 3 hours per week.

Subject	Time
Arabic Spoken	10.00 – 10.40 (40 minutes)
Islamic Studies	10.40 – 11.20 (40 minutes)
Snack Break	11.20 – 11.40 (20 Minutes)
Qaseeda Singing	11.40 – 12.20 (40 minutes)
Arabic Written	12.20 – 1.00 (40 minutes)

VISION

In the pursuit of excellence, the Rawha Academy aspires to develop children of character that embody the values of our faith in thought and action reflecting Sacred Prophetic Virtues and Morals. The aim is to imbue a spirit of learning and love for our Creator, His Messenger, and for Islam.

Our vision for the Rawha Academy Saturday School reflects a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners. It is driven by our desire to offer the best possible education for our children in partnership with parents, our teachers and the local community.

OUR ETHOS

Our educational efforts are aimed at shaping the minds and hearts of our children according to the teachings of the Holy Quran and the blessed Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Towards this end, children are introduced by stages to the Holy Quran, Hadith, Seerah, Fiqh, the lives of the Sahabah, and the lives of the greatest religious, scholarly and historical figures from the history of Islam.

The teaching of Arabic is an integral part of the Academy. This opens pathways to a deeper understanding of the Holy Quran, creates a deeper sense of community amongst Muslims, and strengthens the spiritual bonds with the Muslim Ummah.

Our commitment to an Islamic education complements and strengthens our resolve to provide the best education to our children. We are committed to creating a curriculum that maintains an appropriate balance amongst its different components, employs the best texts and tools available, and draws upon the most effective teaching methods. We seek to create in our children, a love of learning, a spirit of inquiry, and a habit of reflection, so that their education can help them to explore the myriad ayahs of Allah in the universe and within themselves.

The teachers and school staff are mentors for our children. We therefore consider it imperative that they combine the highest proficiency in their fields of knowledge with the character and outlook that the Academy seeks to create in our children. The Rawha Academy Saturday School serves its community by working in partnership to provide an education of the highest quality within the context of Islamic belief and practice, and understanding of shared values.

OUR VALUES

At the Rawha Academy we aim at providing an education that is rooted and embellished by the Quran and Sunnah and by drawing upon the noblest Islamic traditions of 'Ilm (Knowledge), 'Ibadah (Worship), 'Ihsan (Excellence) and 'Adl (Justice), and we seek to inculcate these values in our children.

Values are fundamental expressions of what we think and believe. At the Rawha Academy Saturday School we will encourage children to think about their Islamic personal and social values, to become aware of, and involved in the life and concerns of their community and society, and so develop their capacity to be active and effective future citizens.

AT THE RAWHA ACADEMY OUR CORE VALUES ARE: BROTHERHOOD

We value brotherhood as fundamental to the development and fulfilment of others, and ourselves and the good of the community.

RESPECT

Develop self-respect, and respect for others. Promote an inclusive Islam, and appreciate and value Islam's diversity of people's circumstances and backgrounds.

RESPONSIBILITY

Take responsibility for the way we lead our lives; how we use our talents, discuss our rights and opportunities.

PERSEVERANCE

Maintain a 'positive' attitude and aspire to achieve excellence.

KINDNESS

Show care and concern, and exercise goodwill towards others.

OUR AIMS

Our aims reflect our beliefs and values, and represent our vision and what we want to achieve as the Rawha Academy Saturday School community. Our aims are translated into priorities to move the Academy forward and meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Nurture self-esteem through the celebration of children's achievements.

VALUES CENTRED

Promote Islamic values, and foster positive attitudes to all people, races, religions and ways of life as exemplified by our noble prophet (peace and blessings be upon).

DYNAMIC & INNOVATIVE

Deliver a dynamic and innovative curriculum that challenges, excites and inspires children to achieve their very best.

ACCOUNTABLE AT ALL LEVELS

Promote collective responsibility for raised standards and improved children outcomes by ensuring that everyone understands their role in contributing to the success of the Rawha Academy Saturday School.

LEARNING CENTRED

Create an inclusive learning culture where children and others within the Rawha Academy Saturday School community are challenged in their thinking, strive for continuous improvement and are committed to life-long learning and living a life according to the exemplar model as personified by our beloved Prophet (peace and blessings be upon).

COMMUNITY ORIENTATED

Help children develop an understanding of citizenship and empower them to make valuable contributions locally and globally. Engaging with the Academy and wider community to enrich and enhance children's achievement and personal development.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Set high expectations to enable children to become effective, enthusiastic, independent learners.

CARING AND SUPPORTIVE

Create a happy, caring and supportive environment based on a spirit of co-operation between the Rawha Academy Saturday School, Muslim organisations and the local community. Ensure the safety of every child and promote opportunities to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle through our Sacred sports.

OUR TEACHERS

Inspirational, committed and talented teachers will focus on the academic success and character development of every student, acting as real role models.

All teachers will be trained to make all teaching relevant, inclusive, purposeful, and exciting; with a aim to nurture righteous children.

THE CURRICULUM

The Rawha Academy Saturday School curriculum comprises all of the learning and other experiences that we plan for our children. The central aims of our curriculum are to work in collaboration with our scholars, families and the local community to provide opportunities for all children to learn, practice and to excel in their faith; to promote every child's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all children for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. The curriculum of the Academy is organised so that children are stimulated, encouraged and challenged to develop their individual potential and Islamic personality to the full.

And He said about those who believed and acquired knowledge:

"Allah will raise up, to (suitable) ranks and (degrees), those of you who believe and who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is well-acquainted with all you do."

(Qur'an, Al-Mujadilah 58:11)

Through a well-planned and organised curriculum, effectively taught by enthusiastic and trained teachers, children are helped to:

- Gain a joy and commitment to learning that will last a lifetime.
- Develop the essential Arabic and Islamic skills they need to learn.
- Develop the attitudes, understanding and skills to become successful, independent learners who love their faith.
- Foster their creativity.
- Develop lively, enquiring minds.
- Develop personal values, qualities and attitudes and be respectful of other people and their views and opinions in harmony with our faith.
- Develop appreciation and concern for the environment.
- Work co-operatively with others.
- Work toward achieving their full potential.

THE TIMETABLE

Each Discipline will be taught for 40 minutes and each session will be 3 hours per week.

Subject	Time
Arabic Spoken	10.00 – 10.40 (40 minutes)
Islamic Studies	10.40 – 11.20 (40 minutes)
Snack Break	11.20 – 11.40 (20 Minutes)
Qaseeda Singing	11.40 – 12.20 (40 minutes)
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A variety of organisational strategies and teaching techniques will operate within each classroom. On occasions it will be appropriate for whole class teaching, and on others mixed ability or friendship groups will operate. We group children by ability and also set programmes to cater for the learning needs of individual children.

The curriculum is planned in detail by class teachers to ensure that work is matched to meet the learning needs of individuals and that every child is challenged to reach his or her full potential.

We pursue excellence through a well-resourced environment and an enthusiastic, committed staff. Above all, we believe that in order to achieve the best for your child, it is essential that we work closely in partnership with you and your child to support them throughout their time at the Rawha Academy.



ARABIC – THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

The Arabic language opens pathways to a deeper loving understanding of the Holy Quran, creates a deeper sense of community amongst Muslims, and strengthens the spiritual bonds with the Muslim Ummah. It is too often neglected in primary Madrasahs education, but at the Rawha Academy, we recognise its importance and are developing our own Arabic syllabus and teaching materials. Starting from the basics and moving up to the more intricate rules of grammar, our course teaches all the knowledge necessary to increase an understanding and insight of the Qur'an.

A primary objective in teaching Arabic as a Second language is to seek God's Pleasure and Grace; and to enable children to communicate with verbal and written competence in Arabic according to their respective levels. Our children are moved gradually from each level towards this objective through the four basic language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The curriculum presents teaching Arabic as a Second language in an integrated manner where all four language skills are systematically integrated.

Giving children an early exposure to the Arabic language is important, since it is at this early age that they absorb second and third languages with ease. This early exposure will greatly speed their learning of the language in later years. Therefore Arabic words, phrases, songs and prayers are spoken and recited throughout the programme with an emphasis on correct pronunciation (Tajweed).

In studying Arabic, children will develop skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing. It will enable them to express themselves creatively and imaginatively and to communicate with others effectively.

The effectiveness of Arabic teaching will determine the success of the whole curriculum. Language is cross-curricular - it is an essential element of learning in all areas of the Saturday school curriculum. We will follow our own Arabic syllabus and believe the development of Arabic skills is best ensured by providing a rich and varied linguistic environment.

Talking is fundamental to a children's learning. Children will be encouraged and helped to talk clearly and confidently and with expression in order to communicate ideas and feelings. Similarly, and just as importantly, is the need to listen to others and respond appropriately. All children will be provided with opportunities in all areas of the curriculum to develop skills in speaking and listening.

At the Rawha Academy Saturday School our aim is not only to teach children the skills to read Arabic with confidence, fluency and understanding over the seven year programme but, also to foster a genuine desire to read for pleasure and purpose. We want our children to become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories from our faith, as well as other texts. All children will be encouraged to take worksheets

home to practise and reinforce the skills taught in the Saturday School. Guidance will be provided on how parents can best support their children's learning in this area.

Children will be helped over the course of the full programme to develop the ability to express their thoughts and ideas and communication skills through the written word. We believe it is important that children see their writing as having purpose and that they regard themselves as authors of their work.

Opportunities are provided for children to develop the necessary writing skills required for different purposes and audiences. The link between reading and writing will be strongly emphasised.



ISLAMIC STUDIES – AT THE HEART

At the heart of the curriculum is the story of our beloved Prophet Muhammad peace be upon him and the prophets that came before. These stories will be relayed to the children and are fully integrated into other aspects of our Saturday school life including their prayers (duas) and etiquettes (adab). We believe that children naturally respond to stories; as a result, these stories will act as a frame of reference and help stimulate their imagination. The stories will also be embedded into the themes or projects that children will learn about during their time at the Saturday School.

Our education programme is mainly two-dimensional: individual character development and social development. On an individual level we aim to prepare children to lead a positive and enriched life in tune with ones Creator, aware of the challenges of the world around them, as well as to achieve positive rewards for the hereafter. On a social dimension, education should be a tool to preserve a community's cultural heritage and a means for social change. The main goal of this programme is to help children realise their servitude to Allah and adapt to Islam as a way of life.

In the **Islamic Studies component**, many important aspects of Islam are taught during the seven-year programme, such as:

- Fiqh (Islamic jurisprudence; the rules and practices we follow in Islam)
- Aqīdah (understanding correct Islamic beliefs)
- Sirah (The biography of our beloved Prophet Muḥammad, peace be upon him, and its relevance and reverence)
- Islamic history, spanning the lives of all the previous Prophets as well as major events of importance.
- Ādhāb (Islamic manners and etiquette essential to a moral and rewarding life)

These topics are not only taught to cover classical knowledge but their contemporary applications and implications are explored and explained in detail. This makes the study of Islamic studies at the Rawha Academy a discipline that will be very relevant to our children in their everyday lives. Our aim is develop our children into upright and knowledgeable Muslims that embody sacred character who will be a source of benefit to themselves, their families and the wider community.

“Indeed we have sent it down as an Arabic Qur’an, in order that you may understand” (Surah Yusuf, Verse 2)



QASEEDA / NASHEED – IN PRAISE OF THE DEVINE

The Qaseeda / Nasheed lessons are a place where children can learn about their faith through singing praise of the their Creator, Allah, their final Prophet, Muhammad (peace be upon him) and their beautiful religion, Islam through a form of a classical and modern Islamic songs, in a fun creative way. Its aim is to encourage young children especially those who have never sang before to experience and identify with their faith in a loving, passionate and uplifting manner.

Bringing together the emotional, informational, and devotional art of singing to celebrate the realities of the spiritual

Al-Dhahabi (d. 1348 CE), an author of *Prophetic Medicine*, wrote that "Singing is the soul's pleasure, the heart's delight and food for the spirit; it constitutes part of the most exalted spiritual medicine. It is pleasurable even to some animals. Its moderate enjoyment kindles natural warmth, strengthens the activity of the various faculties, slows down aging, and repels many diseases" (al-Dhahabi, 1961, 139-140).

Abu Nu'am (d. 1038), theologian and man of piety, reported the Prophet as saying that "music beautifies and refreshes the body; apart from the beauty of its words, the soul benefits from its lofty idea (Isgandarova, 2005, p. 96)" The Prophet also said, "embellish the *Qur'an* with your beautiful voices" (al-Dhahabi, 139).

ARTS AND CRAFTS – TRANSFORMING ART INTO REMEMBRANCE

It is through art that a child can observe the world, exploring shape, form, texture and balance. To participate in artwork is to appreciate the sheer complexity and beauty of creation, thus witnessing the Artistry and Perfection of the true Artist, Allah. Our Academy has a dedicated art discipline where children will have an opportunity to use a wide variety of materials and experiment with different art forms.

Islamic art is synonymous with sacred art. It is an art, which transmits a Divine message and transcends time and place. It draws its roots from the Spirit and manifests itself in our physical world. The religion of Islam permeates into every aspect of man's life, leaving nothing untouched by the sacred.

The main influence on this artistic expression is the Quran, in fact the Quran through inscriptions, recitation and prayer sets the rhythm for the life of every Muslim. More exactly the inward beauty, beauty of the soul or of the heart, which necessarily emanates outwards, transforming every human activity into an art and every art into the remembrance of God.

The art of Islam is essentially a contemplative art, which aims to express above all, an encounter with the Divine Presence.

"For the contemplative man a lesson can be learned from everything."

(Sufyan al-Thawri)

SACRED SPORTS: SWIMMING

Swimming is another blessed sacred sport in which you develop physical conditioning, sportsmanship, team co-operation, mental discipline and other skills that provide immediate and lifelong benefits health and physical benefits. Swimming works practically all of the muscles in the body. Swimming can develop a swimmer's general strength, cardiovascular fitness and endurance.

A true believer recognises the wonder of the human body and is grateful to the Creator. This gratitude is shown in the care and attention given to maintaining optimum health. Islam's holistic approach to health covers all aspects of the mind, body and

exercise with the remembrance of God and an intention to fulfill all their religious obligations.

Our beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) said, **"Teach your children swimming, archery and horse riding".**

The Prophet (peace be upon him) said **"Every activity that does not contain the remembrance of Allah is falsehood and heedlessness, except for a man doing four things: Walking between two purposeful goals, grooming his horse, playing with his family, or teaching someone to swim."** [14]

Ahmad and Abu Dawood

It is also reported that our blessed Prophet (peace be upon him) could swim very well in the well of Banu 'Ady ibn Al-Najjar. Through this incident, As-Suyuti could prove that the Prophet (peace be upon him) knew how to swim. As-Suyuti also reported that Abu Al-Qasim Al-Baghawi narrated on the authority of Ibn 'Abbas that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and some of his Companions once swam in a stream. That day, the Prophet said, **"Let everyone among us swim towards his friend."** The Prophet himself swam towards Abu Bakr until he embraced him saying, **"Here I am my friend"** (see Al-Zurqani's comment on *Al-Mawahib Al-Ladunniyyah*, vol. 1, p. 194).

Ibn 'Abbas (may Allah be pleased with him) said, "Once, 'Umar ibn Al-Khattab **may Allah be pleased with him**) said to me, 'Let's compete in water and see who can hold his breath under water longer than the other.'"

Teaching children sacred sports was encouraged by the companions; 'Umar ibn Al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him) wrote to Abu 'Ubaydah Ibn Al-Jarraah (may Allah be pleased with him) instructing: "Teach your children how to swim!"

The Prophet (peace be upon him) advised his followers, to work, to be energetic, and to start their day early, all of which are conditions for a healthy body. **He said "O God, make the early morning hours blessed for my nation."**

Respected Islamic scholar Imam Ibn ul-Qayyum stated that movement helped the body get rid of waste food in a very normal way and strengthened the body's immune system. He also stated that each bodily organ has its own sport (or movement) that suited it and that horse riding, archery, wrestling and racing, were sports that benefitted the whole body. Related in *Zad-Al-Ma'aad*



SACRED SPORTS - ARCHERY

In all of the Prophet's (peace be upon him) directives there is wisdom and benefit, and archery is no exception. For the youth within our school we believe sacred archery will help and nurture them at every level; physical, mental and spiritual. Archery is not a game or play but in fact a means of helping the mind focus, the body breathe, the limbs exercise, the heart connect and the spirit develop.

At a time when our children are struggling to engage with their religion, to get sufficient exercise, to maintain focus and concentration, archery presents itself as a hidden gem buried deep within our very own history.

"At the time of corruption, if one revives the Sunnah, one will be rewarded to the equivalent of one hundred martyrs in Islam" (Baihiqi & Targhib).

The physical elements of archery develop all the elements of the body and assists in advancing fit, strong and healthy individuals. The act of aiming helps the mind ignore distractions, set one's sites and have clarity of purpose. Releasing the arrow reconnects the heart and soul to the concept *La hawla wa la quwatta illah billah* (there is no strength nor force but Allah) where one's trust is in their Lord. The very act of shooting is of huge unseen benefits as not only is one practicing a Sunnah but also The Prophet (peace be upon him) is narrated to have stated, "Whoever removes his wrap from his shoulder and walks between the two targets of the archery field, will receive the reward for the freeing of a believing slave for every single step".

best one of your games." The Prophet (peace be upon him) made camel's race, watched young people who



wrestled and encouraged archery.

"The best kind of entertainment is archery." (Daylami, Musnadul-Firdaws),

"Learn to shoot arrows because it is the best one of your sports." (Tabarani, Awsaf)

The Apostle of Allah (peace_be_upon_him) said: "Allah, Most High, will cause three persons to enter Paradise for one arrow: the maker when he has a good motive in making it, the one who shoots it, and the one who hands it; so shoot and ride, but your shooting is dearer to me than your riding. Everything with which a man amuses himself is vain except three (things): a man's training of his horse, his playing with his wife, and his shooting with his bow and arrow. If anyone abandons archery after becoming an adept through distaste for it, it is a blessing he has abandoned; or he said: for which he has been ungrateful."

Sunan Abu Dawud

It was reported that the Prophet had three bows. One was backed (al-mu'aqqabah), called "The sweet smelling" (al-rawha'); another was made of the shawhat wood, called "The white one" (al-bayda'); and the third made of the nab' wood, was called "The yellow one" (al-safra').

SACRED SPORTS: HORSE RIDING

So what makes us, as Muslims, want to venture into this world of horse riding, those majestic, honourable, graceful and mighty horses. Horse riding awakens the spirit and inspires the soul to lofty sacred goals and connects us to our natural state. The Prophet (peace_be_upon_him) said: "Everything with which a man amuses himself is vain except



three (things): a man's training of his horse, his playing with his wife and his shooting with his bow and arrow." [Abu Dawud].

Horse riding is an almost forgotten sunnah of our Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) "And [He created] the horses, mules and donkeys for you to ride and [as] adornment. And He creates that which you do not know." [Qur'an: Chapter 16, Verse 8].

"By the racers, panting, and the producers of sparks [when] striking, and the chargers at dawn, Stirring up thereby [clouds of] dust, arriving thereby in the center collectively..." [Qur'an: Chapter 100, Verses 1-5].

In these ayaat, Allah (Glorified be He) describes the grace and might of the horses charging into the battlefield, as such loyal warriors in the battles of Islam.

As Muslims, we benefit from horses on three levels: physically, by keeping our bodies fit, as they are an amanah (trust) from Allah; emotionally, as horse riding helps us de-stress, unwind and refocus our minds on our real purpose in life i.e. to live a life pleasing to Allah (Glorified be He) and eventually attain Jannah, In sha Allah; and lastly, we benefit from it spiritually. With horse riding being a sunnah and if it is done with these intentions, then we are receiving reward for even this enjoyable enriching activity. This in turn, is pleasing to our creator Allah and so any act that is pleasing to Allah (Glorified be He) will bring us closer to Him.

The following hadith, the Prophet Muhammed (peace be upon him) had said: "There is goodness in the forelocks of horses till the Day of Resurrection." [Al-Bukhari]



SACRED SPORTS: HORSE RIDING

In Surah Al-Imran, Allah (Glorified by He) describes the deep hearted love that mankind has for certain things of this world, of which 'fine branded horses' (Wa'l Khayl) is mentioned.

Narrated Ibn 'Umar (may Allah be pleased with him):
Allah's Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,
"There is always goodness in horses till the Day of Resurrection."
(Sahih al-Bukhari)

It was narrated from Abu Hurairah (may Allah be pleased with him) that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said:
"There should be no awards (for victory in a competition) except for arrows, camels or horses." (Sunan an-Nasa'i)

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said,
"Horses are always the source of good, namely, rewards (in the Hereafter) and booty, till the Day of Resurrection." (Sahih al-Bukhari)

The Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, was seen wiping the face of his horse with his cloak. He was questioned about it and said, "I was asked in the night about horses." i.e. taking care of them. (Sahih al-Bukhari)

The Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) of Allah said: "Tie up horses and pass your hand over their forelocks and their humps, and adorn them with belts, and adorn them not with odd belts." (Abu Dawood, Nisaai)

The Messenger (sallallahu alaihi wassallam) of Allah said: "Don't cut short the forelocks of horses, nor of their tails, because the tails keep off the flies, and regarding manes, they keep them warm, and blessings are interwoven with the hairs of their foreheads." (Abu Dawood).

SACRED SPORTS: WRESTLING

Wrestling is another one of the great forgotten sacred sunnah, it requires strength, flexibility, speed, building body mass and develops better posture. It helps develop self-confidence as well as personal discipline, which can improve various aspects of one's life. Wrestlers are the most conditioned sportsmen, both in muscle mass and weight. To increase body mass, you have to perform weightlifting exercises combined with intensive drills in order to improve physical endurance and strength.

It is imperative to develop a certain mindset to prepare for competition (emotions, focus, intensity, attitude, thoughts). There is also visualization training that can help you reprogramme your muscles, emotion and mind for success.

Once the Prophet (*peace be upon him*) observed his grandsons, hadhrat Hassan and Husayn wrestle. In order to encourage Hassan, he called out, "Come on Hassan! Catch Husayn!" Hadhrat Ali (may Allah be pleased with him) was also there. He said, "O Messenger of Allah! You should support Husayn. Hassan is older." The Prophet (*peace be upon him*) said, "Look! Gabriel says to Husayn, 'Come on Husayn! Catch him.'"

The Prophet (*peace be upon him*) wrestled with a number of men, one of whom was Rukanah ibn 'Abd Yazid ibn Hashim ibn 'Abdul-Muttalib, who lived in Makkah and was one of the strongest men of Arabia, a skillful and fearless wrestler. People used to come to him from distant territories and challenge him in wrestling. Ibn Ishaq narrated the story of Rukanah:

SACRED SPORTS: WRESTLING The story of Rukanah

Once the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) met him in one of the mountain paths of Makkah, whereupon he said to him, "O Rukanah! Will you not fear Allah and accept what I am calling you to?" Rukanah replied, "O Muhammad! Do you have a witness to verify your truthfulness?" So the Prophet the Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) said, "If I beat you in wrestling, will you believe in Allah and His Messenger?" The man replied, "Yes." The Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) wrestled him and defeated him. Rukanah was astonished with that, and he asked the Prophet the Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) to acquit him of their agreement, which is belief, and to have a rematch. So they had a second and a third rematch where the Prophet the Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) also defeated him. Rukanah was astonished and said, "This is very strange indeed!" Then he immediately embraced Islam. Other narrations state that he embraced Islam after the conquest (fath) of Makkah" (Al-Hakim, Abu Dawud, and At-Tirmidhi).

The Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) also wrestled and beat Abu Al-Aswad Al-Jumahi, who was so strong that he would stand on a cowhide, and ten men would pull the hide to take it from under his feet, but in the end, the hide would be torn and he had not moved an inch.

Whenever an army of Mujahidin moved out from Madinah, Rasulullah (Sallallaahu Alayhi Wasallam) first inspected them to ensure that nothing was lacking in men and equipment. If anyone was underage, he would send them back to Madinah. While setting out for Uhud, Rasulullah (Sallallaahu Alayhi Wasallam) carried out this inspection. He ordered the young boys to go back. Among them were 'Abdullah bin Umar, Zaid-bin-Thabit, Usamah-bin-Zaid, Zaid-bin-Arqam, Baraa-bin-Aazib, 'Amr bin-Hazam, Usaid-bin-Zuhair, 'Urabah-bin-Aus, Abu Said Khudri, Sumurah-bin-Jundub and Rafe'e-bin- Khadij.

All of them had just entered their teens. Khadij said to the Prophet (Sallallaahu Alayhi Wasallam), 'O Prophet of Allah! My son Rafe'e is a very good archer.' Rafe'e too stood on his toes to show himself taller than he actual was. Rasulullah (Sallallaahu Alayhi Wasallam) permitted him to stay on. When Samrah bin Jundub learnt about this, he complained to his step-father Murrah bin Sanaan saying, 'Rasulullah (Sallallaahu Alayhi Wasallam) has permitted Rafe'e and rejected me, while I am sure to beat him in a wrestling contest and, therefore, I was more deserving of the Prophet's favour.' This was reported to Rasulullah (Sallallaahu Alayhi Wasallam), who allowed Samrah to prove his claim by wrestling with Rafe. Samrah did actually beat Rafe in the bout and he too was permitted to stay in the army.

When the Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) observed some young people wrestling, he said, "The real wrestler is the one that stops his soul from fury." Thus, he reminded us that it was necessary to bear in mind an eternal reality while playing sports.

The Prophet (*peace_be_upon_him*) said "the strong man is not the good wrestler; the strong man is only the one who controls himself when he is angry." (Bukhari).

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS

Additionally, the Rawha Academy will host of extracurricular activities and award programmes to help enrich children learning while recognising the children' various accomplishments within and outside of the Academy. A few examples:

- ❖ *Qur'anic* Recitation Competition:
- ❖ Islamic Quiz Competition:
- ❖ Qaseeda Competition
- ❖ Inter Academy Quiz and Essay Competition:
- ❖ Annual Islamic Academy Weekend Event
- ❖ Annual Graduation Ceremony
- ❖ Merit Scholarships:

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Character development is an important area of the curriculum that helps children grow and develop as individuals and as members of families and communities. Through our character development programme children will have the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes they need to lead positive Muslim lives confident, healthy, independent and to become informed, active and responsible Muslim citizens.

Character Development running through the Saturday School:

- covering a character trait each week
- how it manifests in the home, school, friends
- giving examples from seerah and real life

Children will encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities and experiences across and beyond the curriculum, contributing fully to the life of the Rawha Academy Saturday School and communities. They reflect on their experiences and understand how they are developing personally and socially, tackling many of the spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues that are part of growing up. They learn to understand and respect our common humanity, diversity and differences so that they can go on to form the effective, fulfilling relationships that are an essential part of life and learning.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

The character development of children is a central aim of our curriculum. Through a carefully planned programme, supported by all who work in or with the Rawha Academy Saturday School, we want children to leave the Academy able to:

- Think critically
- Express opinions confidently
- Be self-reliant
- Be self-motivated
- Be self-disciplined
- Take responsibility
- Make choices within a moral context
- Have clear values and attitudes
- Be able to co-operate with others
- Make and sustain good relationships
- Have a healthy lifestyle
- Be safe

On the whole the Rawha Academy's systems emphasise praise, recognition and reward to promote and celebrate positive behaviour and sustained effort and hard work.

Perhaps, most importantly, we want children to leave our Academy with feelings of self-confidence, self-worth and high self-esteem as Muslim's.

EMULATING PROPHETIC BEHAVIOUR

At the Rawha Academy Saturday School we believe that children learn best in a well-organised, calm and secure environment where purposeful and self-disciplined behaviour is expected. We want every child in the Rawha Academy Saturday School to feel confident, happy and safe. As a caring and nurturing school, at the Rawha Academy we have the highest of expectations in terms of learning, behaviour and attitudes, and encourage our children to develop Islamic beliefs and their own potential, together with pride in their faith and achievement.

The aims of the Rawha Academy Saturday School, and the rules of behaviour consistently promoted in each classroom, are ones that emphasise positive behaviour and collaboration in striving for moral excellence. These are embodied in the principles of our Code of Behaviour:

- Every child has an entitlement to learning without being distracted by the negative behaviour of others.
- Every child in our Saturday School is valued.
- Abuse of any kind will not be tolerated.
- We strive to develop the full potential of every individual in our Saturday School, therefore, we do not accept discrimination in any form.
- Everyone in our Saturday School community should be happy.
- Bullying is completely against our ethos and will be dealt with firmly and fairly if it ever occurs.
- All children should respect the Rawha Academy Saturday School property and the property of the school and of others.

On the whole the Rawha Academy systems emphasising praise, recognition and reward exist to promote and celebrate sustained effort and hard work, and contributions towards the Rawha Academy community.

All forms of bullying and harassment are considered to be unacceptable and are not tolerated within the Rawha Academy Saturday School environment. All incidents will be taken very seriously and followed up accordingly.

SNACK TIME

You may like your child to have a mid-morning snack. We welcome fruit and vegetables, and would ask you not to send your child with chocolate, crisps or sweets of any kind. Children are not allowed to bring fizzy drinks or glass bottles.

SACRED SPORTS

It is important for children to wear correct clothing for physical activities. For wrestling and archery children require a white t-shirt and tracksuit bottoms. For games activities outside, children need a white t-shirt, tracksuits and trainers are preferably.





COURSE FEES AND HOLIDAYS

Fees are paid for a full term of £75 in advance (which includes £3 for the Academy folder); prior to commencement to the Saturday School.

The fee for each child is paid towards reserving his/her place and not for teaching or attendance. Any child not attending (no matter what the length of time) with/without notification will still have to pay the fee in full.

Cancellation and Refunds

Should you cancel your application, you shall forfeit some or all of your payment, depending on the date of such cancellation, as follows:

1. Notification received by the end of Week One of the programme: The deposit of £25 is non-refundable.
2. Notification received by the end of Week three of the course: You will owe 50% of the full course fee (£37.50).
3. Notification received after Week Five of the course: There are no refunds. You will owe The Rawha Academy the full termly fee (£75).

Please note fees are likely to increase periodically however we will provide written confirmation before applying any new charges.



HOLIDAYS

There have been various holidays planned throughout the year, which have been aligned with the mainstream school calendar within Bradford. These also include holidays during the two Eid festivals as well as during the school summer holidays. Written reminders of dates will be given prior to the breaks.

HALF TERM

The Rawha will be closed on the Saturday 14th February and 21st February

Spring

The Rawha will be closed 4th April and 11th April

Half Term

The Rawha will be closed on the 30th May

Summer

The Rawha will be closed on the 18th July 2015 for Eid ul Fitr

* Please note the dates above are subject to change

RECRUITMENT OF TEACHERS / USTADH'S

- All our Ustadh's are passionate, capable and competent to teach within their subject areas.
- All Ustadh's will be required to undertake the compulsory DBS check.
- All our Ustadh's will comply with the Rawha Academy Safeguarding Policy
- All Ustadh's will respect the ethos and rules of the school and be a role model and example to all the pupils.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- A health and safety policy has been developed for the whole school
- A child protection and safeguarding policy has been implemented
- Teachers will be the children's first aiders with accident kits onsite
- A compulsory register of pupils weekend attendance will be recorded which will form the basis of any emergency evacuation that may be required
- The main entrance gate and doors will be closed approximately 10 minutes after the commencement of the Start of the Saturday School to ensure no child leaves the premises
 - No cars will be allowed onsite (except staff and authorized users)

In any absolute emergency contact one of the staff members onsite on 07518 836056

EQUIPMENT YOUR CHILD WILL REQUIRE

It is very important that children realise the importance of attending the Rawha Academy, hence it is essential that children bring with them the following items every week:

1. Bag (clearly marked with full name)
2. The Rawha Saturday School Folder
3. Homework diary
4. Pencil Case
5. Colouring pencils and crayons
6. Scissors
7. Pens and Pencils
8. Rubber and Ruler etc

SUGGESTION AND ADVICE

As part of our continued effort to improve our services to the community, all comments and suggestions for furthering and developing the Academy are welcome from parents in written form only.

Please leave them with the administrator or email them to rawhaacademy@gmail.com, we assure you that we will give due consideration to all proposed suggestions and ideas.



We are honoured and blessed to have the support of our Shaykh's and teachers in our endeavor to nurture the learning and development of the future generation of children within our community.



We praise Allah Glorified Be He, for the establishment of this blessed Academy that follows the Prophetic way, and nurtures by way of mercy and love upon the traditions and character of the beloved Prophet peace and blessings be upon him.

We ask Allah our Master to benefit the Ummah via this Academy and inspire and enable those working behind it with everything that it contains of bliss and success in both abodes.

Shaykh Habib Musa Khadhim Assagaff



I ask Allah the most generous to give them success in that which is good and pious, and to take them by their hands to what He is pleased with, and to place barakah in the Rawha Academy and to give the people who have established this academy and also those who work in it, an ability to perfect the role of responsibility and trust that is put upon them, and to give them a good reward for this pious pursuit.

And I also ask Allah to strengthen the ummah with more teachers and murabeen of goodness, and He is the one who we turn to in all of our affairs. And there is no success other than from Him. And there is no proclamation other than through him. And praise be to Allah lord of the worlds.

Shaykh Habib Hashim bin Sahl bin Ibrahim bin Aqeel



"The Rawha Academy is a great attempt to bring Sacred Learning to children from a young age maintaining the tradition of Islam.

May Allah accept the attempts of Bilal Ismail in this effort of his."

Shaykh Haroon Hanif



A Message of Support for The Rawha Academy:

"The Rawha Academy has an excellent Saturday School that offers a complete and comprehensive future for our children in one inclusive programme."

Shaykh Saad Al Attas



"My elders and beloved ones for the sake of Allah, may peace and blessings from Allah be upon you.

It is an honour and delight for me to write these words for the young individuals who are dedicated in serving Islam and Muslims, and have sacrificed their time in serving the Muslim children and presenting to them the essence of goodness. May Allah Ta'ala enable them to do that which is pleasing to Him and bless us all with inspiration out of His mercy and generosity.

May every year, month, week, day and moment bring us closer to Allah.

And finally, we ask Allah Ta'ala for ability, guidance, sincerity and acceptance in word and action."

Sayyid Shaykh Dr Ahmad at-Talahi Al'Sanusi



We are honoured and blessed to have the support of our Shaykh's and teachers in our endeavor to nurture the learning and development of the future generation of children within our community.



Praise be to Allah and salutations be upon his prophet his family and companions and those after them. The Beloved Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: "A morning or an evening spent in the path of Allah Ta'ala is better than the world and everything it contains."

What is present in the majalis Arawha is higher than the dunya and whatever is in it and it's purpose and effort is heavenly. The angels of the heavens participate in this with their characteristics and actions. May Allah (SWT) give you success and help you and make you of the inheritors of the prophet peace and blessings be upon him.

Habib Shaykh Muhammed Abdullah Ali Aidaros



I ask Allah to place blessings in the Rawha Academy which is a place of concern for the future and a hope for our nation. And verily in these academy's is a lifeboat, which saves us from the waves of tribulations.

May Allah aid you and make firm your footsteps.

Shaykh Habib Tahir Al Attas



"The Rawha Academy is a unique project in the heart of Bradford which combines the tradition study of Islamic Sciences with extra curricular activities that are desperately needed to engage our youth.

I urge all parents to give their children the opportunity to benefit from the Prophetic environment provided at the Rawha Academy.

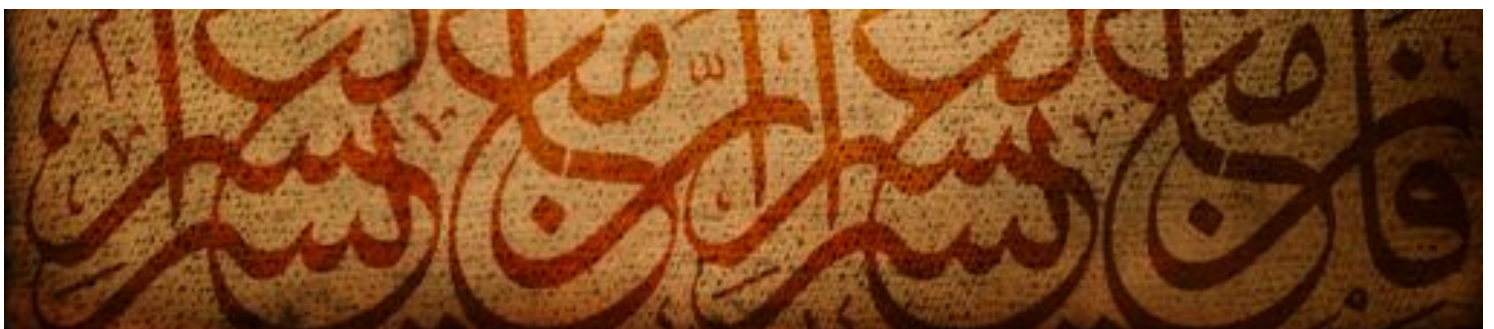
May Allah bless and give sincerity to everyone involved in bringing the Rawha Academy to the community.

Shaykh Mohammed Ishtiaq



This is a groundbreaking initiative for our young children, Teaching the next generation the prophetic way in an engaging manner. The project and activities are very well structured in the limited time. I pray and hope it will provide them with the much needed spiritual energy and enthusiasm that will keep them wanting to attend and look forward to each week.

Shaykh Ilyas Yaqub Patel





The Rawha Academy

CONTACT US:

To register your child for a place at the Saturday School
please contact us by emailing rawhaacademy@gmail.com
or call 07518 836056.