



Alimiyyah Course

Pre-Admission Information (Boys + Girls)

Assalamualaykum, Dear Parent,

- You are receiving this as you have expressed an interest in enrolling your son or daughter for the abridged Alimiyyah course.
- **Do read this pre-admission information carefully.** It is there to help answer frequently asked questions and has a host of other information. If you still have any specific queries, please email us.
- This pre-admission information is also there to help you make the right decision, and that you appreciate various issues such as:
 - a) Timings / attendance.
 - b) Commitment required.
 - c) Issues surrounding college, apprenticeships etc.
- It is important you appreciate various issues, and you commit yourself in a manner where you are fully aware of the requirements. Enrolling must thus be for the “right” reasons, as this will impact the outcome.

Concluding, this document has been put together after years of experience, hence do take note of the various issues/points raised.

Wassalam

Management / Teachers of Alimiyyah

1. Background

2. “The Suffah Institute” (TSI) premises opened in September 2020, and the Alimiyyah Course has been running since 2019.
3. TSI is run by the management of Al-Ansaar Welfare & Education (established in 2001). Visit our website for more information.

www.alansaar.org.uk

4. Prior to this provision for boys, we have been running the abridged Alimiyyah Course for girls since 2013 in our Garstang Road premises. Two cohorts have graduated so far.
5. The information in here relates to BOTH provisions (boys and girls).

2. The Alimiyyah Course

1. It is important to appreciate that this is NOT the full-time course run in Darul Uloom. Rather this is an abridged version.
2. Nevertheless, pupils who **devote and immerse** themselves to this course will achieve a good grounding and foundation in many areas such as:
 - Classical (Quranic) Arabic
 - Tajweed
 - Seerah & Islamic History
 - Fiqh
 - Quran Exegesis (Tafsir)
 - Hadith
3. For the “serious” student, this is a great “stepping stone” to for example “specialisation” in a particular field of Islamic Sciences.

4. The advantage of the abridged Alimiyyah Course is that you can complete this whilst at school / college.
5. The objective of completing this course is that firstly you safeguard your own Iman and Deen, and on a wider note you engage in some service of Deen, even if it is very part time. It is essential every graduate makes some contribution, as otherwise the benefit is very limited, and it is also a great disappointment if there is no service of Deen.

3. The Alimiyyah Course – Admission

1. We do not have an intake every year.
2. Our intake is usually every two years for both boys and girls.
3. Currently, we have classes running that started in 2019 (both boys and girls) and 2021 (just boys) and 2022 (just girls).
4. The next intake for girls will be September 2024 and for boys it will IA be in September 2025.
5. The reason for not having an intake every year is to manage resources effectively, including achieving an adequate number of admissions, making it viable to run a class.
6. There will be a “baseline assessment” of each applicant to ensure they are able to recite the Qur’an, Tajweed, Surats and Duas. If these absolute basics are not in place, then Alimiyyah is not a viable option.

4. The Alimiyyah Course – Timings

1. The class runs from 5.00pm to 8pm, Monday to Friday.
2. Saturday morning: 9.25am till 12.00.
3. Twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday pupils stay till 8.45pm, to carry out pre-reading. This has been introduced recently, as several pupils were failing to prepare from home.

Note: There may be slight differences in the girls' timings.

4. You must be able to commit 100% to these timings. There are no concessions whatsoever.
5. **The absolute minimum age is school year 8.** The older the better, as maturity is a key factor. If you insist on your child being admitted earlier, this usually results in a very poor foundation, and thus having to repeat the year or even two years. We have experienced this, and this also usually results in an unhappy child. It is important you are realistic, as it is your child who has to attend and do the work.

Very Important: Do not enrol your child with the intention of “let us try it out” or “see how the first year goes”. This is a waste of everyone’s time, and such pupils never progress, as they feel they do not need to commit and can leave anytime.

6. We also admit students aged 16+. This would be subject to discretion and other criteria (every case is different and unique).
7. The current contribution (2023-2024) for this class is £630 for the year, payable in three instalments. There is also a one-off admission fee of £80.00.
8. Madrasah holidays: We try to keep most major holidays in line with local school holidays. Our holiday sheet for the entire year is on our website (please refer to it).
9. This is a six-year course, and it is essential you appreciate this from the outset.

5. The Alimiyyah Course – Daily + weekly commitment

1. Your child must be ready to work hard. The abridged Alimiyyah Course is not for those pupils who have a poor work ethic and are unable to commit themselves in a manner where they assume responsibility for their learning, conduct and progress.
2. We mention this, as your child will have other commitments such as:
 - School or College.
 - School / College work / assignments.
 - GCSE's / other exams.
3. From the classes we have run to date, it is very possible to achieve and progress in both school and Madrasah. However this requires effort, commitment, a good work ethic and a robust daily schedule / routine.
4. If your child has to be pushed to do school work, revision, etc, then this is not a good sign.
5. On average, your child will have to devote **ONE FULL HOUR everyday (Mon to Fri) at home without fail**, and an additional 4 hours on the weekend. Thus, there is an element of commitment that is required in order to progress and get the most out of Alimiyyah.

It is very important to appreciate that this course is not simply about “physical attendance”, rather time must be devoted at home. The aim is to build ability, and this will only materialise if the pupil is working and preparing for lessons independently from the outset.

6. It is thus important your child is ready to enrol, and is not simply coming on your wishes, as this usually results in a poor attitude to learning, resulting in a poor foundation, and then wanting to no longer continue.
7. As time must be devoted on the weekends, it is very important you keep social events to a minimum. The weekends are also there to “recharge and relax”, thus it is very important your child after a hectic week does not have a “packed” weekend. As an example, you must not attend activities such as scouts, as this takes up 2-3 hours on a Sunday morning.

7. The Alimiyyah Course – High schools outside Preston

Very Important:

Due to the time commitment mentioned above, which equates to four hours a day, Monday to Friday, **and almost 27 hours in one week**, we no longer accept pupils who are going to a school outside Preston (such as Lancaster, Bolton etc). The reason is very simple, those admitted to date have failed to show commitment and consistency. And this is not surprising, as these pupils have to wake up as early as 6.00am and return to Preston at around 4.30pm or even 5.00pm. Although your child may just about make it to class (and will also be very tired), they will not be able to devote time outside class, as there are simply not enough hours in the day.

Parents need to be realistic and appreciate the fact that at times we have to make sacrifices, including choice of school. It is unfair on all concerned if your expectations are unrealistic, in particular as this is a 6-year course.

8. The Alimiyyah Course – Older students

1. At the time of enrolment, if your child is for example in Year 10/11, or in college, then it is very important to consider:
 - a) In Alimiyyah Year 3 or 4 he/she may start university.
 - b) Or he/she may start an apprenticeship.
 - c) Or after leaving school or college he/she may start work.
2. It is very important to think of this prior to admission, and appreciate that we cannot allow any concessions in terms of coming late / missing days etc. Hence, we are making this clear to you from the outset.
3. Therefore it is very important your child chooses a pathway that allows him/her to comfortably attend Madrasah every day, including Saturday mornings. It would also be extremely regretful and disappointing if your child left Madrasah after completing almost half or even more of the Alimiyyah Course.

9. Older students who are “working”.

1. “Working” refers to and includes:

- If your son/daughter is not at school or college.
- If your son/daughter is in paid employment (including part time / weekends).
- If your son/daughter is undertaking an apprenticeship with an employer.

2. As mentioned, this course requires around 27-28 hours of commitment every week, this is almost like a full-time job.

3. Due to this, your son/daughter cannot work / carry out an apprenticeship that is more than 30 hours per week. **30 hours is the absolute maximum we can allow**, as otherwise your son will not be able to commit to the Alimiyyah Course.

4. If your son/daughter is working for MORE THAN 30 hours, then this is totally unrealistic, as it will not allow them to devote quality time to the Alimiyyah Course. We have learnt this from experience; hence we have had to implement this rule.

5. If your son/daughter is working / has an apprenticeship outside Preston, then this is also not manageable in terms of getting to Madrasah on time.

6. Note that we have no option of “part-time” attendance, where you attend for certain lessons or on certain days only.

Important 1: These issues must be thought out well in advance, as they cannot be addressed on the last minute. Neither can we give any type of concessions to an already abridged / concise course.

Important 2: If your son/daughter is in school or college or in any other type of education, he/she must not undertake any part-time jobs, including on the weekends.

There is no time for this, as it hugely impacts and affects performance. Weekends are there to “catch up”, get ahead in work, relax, rest, and prepare for the week ahead.

10. The Alimiyyah Course – The first two years

1. The first two years are the foundation and backbone of the Alimiyyah Course.
2. If your child fails to take advantage of the first two years, and does not build a good foundation, then this will result in not having a wholesome, fulfilling, and fruitful experience in subsequent years, especially as the majority of the texts are in Arabic.
3. **The first 2 years involves:**
 - Arabic Grammar (the Arabic of the Qur'an, also known as "Classical Arabic").
 - The biggest focus is on this, and two lessons on average are devoted to this every day.
 - A variety of resources are used over 2 years, including handouts, booklets, actual text books, short Ahadith, Qur'an verses etc.
 - Arabic Grammar is the key to unlocking the Quran and Ahadith and allows pupils to directly understand and benefit from the Qur'an and Ahadith.
 - There are also other subjects such as:
 - ✓ Tajweed
 - ✓ General Knowledge
 - ✓ Basic Fiqh
 - ✓ How to use a dictionary
 - ✓ Arabic writing practice
 - ✓ Seerah
 - ✓ Islamic History
4. Sometimes, a pupil is "too young / inexperienced" to appreciate the relevance of these foundation years and does not put in the required effort and commitment, resulting in a very poor foundation. Rectifying this later is just not possible, hence having the right attitude from the outset is very important.

11. The Alimiyyah Course – Is my son/daughter ready?

1. You know your child best. You need to be honest and realistic, and ask yourself:
 - Does he/she already show a positive attitude to learning?
 - Does he/she want to commit to this course?
 - Have I had discussions with him/her?
 - Will I as a parent support him/her over the duration of this course?
 - What are my own intentions with regards to enrolling my son/daughter?
2. A “decent” grounding in the basic Maktab system is essential. Your child must be able to recite the Qur’an fluently with Tajweed, have covered basic books on Fiqh, Seerah, Aqaid etc, and able to recall Duas and Surats. **We cannot consider admission if these basic competencies are not in place.**
3. From our experience, we unfortunately have dropouts, many who fail to carry on after the first or second year. Some of the reasons for this are:
 - A failure to appreciate the commitment required, and thus no time is devoted at home in preparing / revising etc.
 - In addition to the above, copying work from others rather than attempting it yourself. With social media and electronic communication, this is easily done from the comfort of your son’s bedroom.
 - Rather than engaging in “interactive” learning where (for example) you **understand** concepts, your child engages in rote learning. This results in a failure to appreciate what you are learning and does not allow a “transfer” of knowledge and application.
 - Some pick and choose lessons / subjects, meaning making effort only in certain areas of the course. This results in huge learning gaps, and results in your child falling behind.
 - Some of the very “childish” pupils due to immaturity and a lack of responsibility “mess around” in the first few months (which are essential in building a strong foundation). This involves making frequent trips to the toilet in every lesson (other teachers will not know your child has already been), resulting in three journeys of

anything up to 10 minutes **every day of the week**. When covering new work this has a HUGE impact, and results in falling behind.

4. Another reason some pupils fail is a failure to acknowledge problems when we raise them. Some parents become defensive and look to point the finger of blame elsewhere. Due to this barrier and mindset, dealing with such parents is very difficult, resulting in the child “having their way”. Eventually the cracks get bigger, and even if parents cooperate at a later stage, it is usually too late.

12. The Alimiyyah Course – Your intention matters

- It is very important to appreciate that your child is going to be a future LEADER of the community.
- This is how you must view the Alimiyyah course.
- Your child must thus be ready to make various sacrifices and immerse fully into learning the Islamic Sciences.
- You are not sending your child here for reformation and rehabilitation, this is not the purpose of Alimiyyah.
- Neither are you sending your child for “just a bit of learning”.

Appreciating the above is very important, as it will impact the progress and attainment.

13. Friends / electronic gadgets / social media

1. Social media, gadgets, electronic games have also been the downfall of many, where some are so addicted that even during weekdays 2-3 hours are spent daily playing games, accessing social media etc.
2. Even before your child enrolls with us, it is important to curb any addiction of electronic gadgets / gaming. Your son/daughter cannot overnight go from being addicted several hours a day to zero or almost zero. **Tarbiyah etc thus starts from a very early age, as early as 6-7 years old.**

3. Allowing your child to go out with “friends” on the weekend (Saturday afternoon till late / all day Sunday) is **wholly detrimental**. Not only time is wasted in futile pursuits, but the greater concern is that your child will pick up bad habits. This usually results in your child not wanting to continue due to these external influences. In addition to this, your child’s friends must not be those who do not attend Madrasah, as this will have an impact in terms of losing motivation to continue.

14. The Alimiyyah Course – Tarbiyah (1)

1. Tarbiyah / spiritual development is extremely important. This applies to everyone, and in particular students of Deeni knowledge.
2. Your child has embarked on a journey to acquire knowledge of Deen, and although he may be “young”, the sense of responsibility begins from now.
3. As an example, your son’s beard must conform to Shariah and Sunnah, as must the haircut (it must be equal on all sides). ***Your son will not be allowed to sit in class if there is a violation of this.***
4. Also, as appropriate, and relevant, we allow pupils (boys) to lead Fardh prayers, and this further magnifies the issue of both haircuts and beard.
5. Having daily “Ta’leem” at home also helps immensely and involves all members of the household.
6. Parents must play an active role in Tarbiyah, from ensuring punctuality in Salaah to observing the Sunnah. Your son/daughter must also attend bayans, discourses etc with you in the holidays, Ramadhan etc.

15. The Alimiyyah Course – Tarbiyah (2)

- As mentioned, Tarbiyah / spiritual development is extremely important.
- One very important aspect of this is the attire.

- We have specific guidelines on this, which will be communicated, however an overview is:

Boys	Girls
Your son must wear his Jabbah and Topi at all times, especially when outside / social events / Masjid etc.	Your daughter must cover her FULL Star at all times, including the hair. The clothing must be modest, and ideally a Jabbah.

16. The Alimiyyah Course – Going in Jamaat (boys)

1. If your son is in Year 10, then he will be required to go to Jamaat once a month. The benefits of this are huge, as it connects your son to an effort of Deen that enhances spirituality and motivates towards good actions.
2. Your son will go to Jamaat after Madrasah on Saturday until Sunday afternoon. He can take any work with him and do this on Sunday morning.
3. Parents must be fully supportive of going to Jamaat, as there are huge benefits, and it also gives a boost to their spirituality. Your son will learn to interact with the public, build up confidence in public speaking, and hopefully build an appreciation of Deen.

17. The Alimiyyah Course – Conclusion

1. We hope these guidelines and information has been of help. It is there to ensure you commit yourself in a manner where you are aware of our rules and policies, and to avoid potential misunderstandings at a later date.
2. We all aspire to have a Hafiz or Alim/Alimah in our family; however this requires commitment from both parents and pupil. Parents must be ready to play an active role, including taking part and assisting in the spiritual development of their child.
3. These guidelines will be sent to the parents of MTQ (our mainstream classes at our Garstang Road premises), so that they can prepare their child well in advance. A child cannot simply “change” at the age of 13, hence parents must start Tarbiyah and adopting a “Deeni mindset” from a very early age. The same applies if you aspire to make your child Hafiz.

4. In the UK there are numerous opportunities after completing the Alimiyyah Course to study, engage in further education, apprenticeships etc. For the “serious” student, sometimes it may be necessary to take a gap year or even two years.

4. Ultimately, your child after completing Alimiyyah **must engage in some sort of Khidmah (service of Deen)**. This could be formal (Imam, teacher etc), or informal, where your son/daughter (in addition to day time commitments) volunteers even a few hours every week. Otherwise, their efforts will never be realised, and sometimes due to the poisonous, immoral, and toxic environment, your son/daughter could easily be influenced towards wrong.

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