

SURREY MUSLIM SCHOOL

PARENTS & STUDENTS HANDBOOK 2022-2023



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INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents,

Assalam Alaikum,

As we begin another school year, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all our students back, and a special welcome to students who are new to our school. Communication and interaction between students, teachers and parents is vital to a successful year. This Parent and Student Handbook has been carefully prepared for parent and student use. The Handbook is designed to help our families understand the expectations set by BCMA Schools.

As the Principal of the Surrey Muslim School, I strongly believe that:

First Comes First --- Students Come First

One of school's most important priorities is to develop the individual's learning and intellectual skills through generating integration between the Islamic curriculum and the program of studies prescribed by the Ministry of Education. This can be achieved through our School Model:

A-- Achievement- to foster students' high achievement in all areas of knowledge and skills. We foster high expectations for all students. Thus, the teachers and administration are focusing on teaching which will lead to dramatic improvement in the students' performance.

Parents are strongly urged to nurture their children's high achievements by providing them with support, care and encouragement.

B—Building Character- Knowledge can be of no benefit if not directed by constructive principles and transmitted through productive actions. Thus, proper behavior is constantly promoted in order to maintain a safe and caring learning environment. In our disciplinary approach, we use reminders; encourage making better choices, discussion, problem solving, counseling, and if needed, practical

consequences. We spend a great deal of time encouraging the children to work out social conflicts verbally (i.e. use their words), to listen to each other, to encourage empathy, and to constantly strive for a spirit of harmony and mutual respect.

C-- Celebrating Canadian Muslim Identity - Celebrating and acknowledging our Canadian Muslim Identity is one of our priorities at the school. We feel that we are an important part of the Canadian Mosaic and that our children will be major contributors to the future of Canada. Students will build a strong Islamic foundation and will contribute to the community throughout their years at BCMA Schools.

SCHOOL PRIORITIES

Within an environment of open and clear communication, accountability and professionalism, SMS staff and students will:

- 1. Demonstrate excellence and continuous improvement in academic, Islamic and Arabic curriculum and in all aspects of teaching and learning.
- 2. Demonstrate positive leadership and model citizenship in a globalized society.
- 3. Apply the principles of Islam in everyday life.

2.1 Outcomes

2.2 Graduates:

- 1. **Are practicing Muslims:** Accepts belief in the six articles of faith. Observes the five pillars of Islam. Has consciousness of Allah's presence and acts sincerely for His sake, according to the Quran and the Sunnah of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). Is balanced in his worship and avoids all forms of extremism.
- 2. **Have good character:** Is fair, honest, respectful, modest, patient, cooperative, etc. Observes Islamic social manners.
- 3. Are intellectually well-rounded: Acquainted with the basic principles of Islamic belief and objectives of Islamic jurisprudence. Familiar with Islamic history especially the life of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and his companions. Familiar with the ancient and modern history and the geography of the world. Understands and appreciates the multicultural aspects of the global society. Is able to seek and find necessary information when needed. Strives to be a leader

in his/her field. Has up-to-date knowledge and skills in the use and applications of technology. Uses critical thinking skills to make informed choices and decisions.

- 4. **Are self-motivated leaders:** Sets his/her goals high and strives to reach them. Is willing to take risks. Shows commitment to life-long learning. Possesses an attitude of success, i.e. persistence; and views a setback as a problem-solving learning opportunity.
- 5. **Are self-disciplined:** Behaves in a mature and responsible manner that reflects positively on him/her. Meets his/her obligations and takes responsibility for his/her decisions and actions. Has the ability to reject immediate satisfaction for something better and lawful with more positive long-term consequences.
- 6. **Are organized in their affairs:** Realizes the importance of proper time management. Set their priorities and fulfills tasks and does assignments on time. Uses his/her time constructively to acquire useful knowledge, develop his/her skills, strengthen family ties and support his/her community.
- 7. **Can read, write and speak the Arabic language:** Performs clear recitation of the Qur'an. Can read any Arabic text with correct pronunciation
- 8. **Are physically healthy:** Abides by Islamic teachings on eating, drinking, and sleeping to protect his/her body from diseases and illnesses. Maintains a healthy and active lifestyle. Maintains cleanliness and proper hygiene. Always takes the proper safety and security measures.
- 9. **Are beneficial to others:** Takes pride in being Canadian Muslims. This is characterized by being active, energetic, and skilled in public and community service. Views power and authority as a responsibility, not a privilege. Thinks of his or herself as a steward and protector of Earth's environment. They continuously give charity for good causes and help those who are less fortunate.

2.3 Students Rights and Responsibilities

Students Have the Right to:

- ♣ Be treated with respect, dignity, and fairness by other students and staff, learn without being interrupted by others.
- Be provided with a learning environment that is free from physical, emotional, and social abuse.
- ♣ In the event a student breaches the expected good behavior and before any serious disciplinary action is taken by the Administration, the student and his/her parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to offer an explanation.
- **↓** Express their opinions in a socially-acceptable manner.
- Say NO to those who wish to coerce them into doing or saying things they know is against school rules.

2.4 General Expectations

The school expects the following from the students:

- Be respectful courteous to each other and to the school personnel,
- ♣ Respect the class time and schedule,
- Bring all the necessary supplies and homework assignments,
- Follow classroom expectations and guidelines,
- Be honest and truthful,
- Be tolerant of diversity and differences of opinion,
- Avoid using any form of violence or objectionable language,
- Bring healthy food and beverages to the school every day,
- Keep the school clean and tidy,
- Respect and protect the school property,
- Move in safe manner inside the school,
- ♣ Behave with good conduct in school, on school grounds, on the bus, and during school activities in and out of school,
- Cooperate fully with everyone authorized by the Board to provide education programs and other services,

↓ Comply with the rules of the school and be accountable to teachers for his/her conduct.

2.5 Student Code of Conduct

	Treat to chara substitutes descream assistants other students	
	♣ Treat teachers, substitutes, classroom assistants, other students,	
	office, and custodial staff, and volunteers with respect,	
Classrooms	Dress, speak and act appropriately,	
	Be on time for class and give your best effort,	
	Follow classroom and teacher expectations and routines,	
	♣ Be kind and helpful to others,	
	Uala in leasaing record about and tider	
	■ Walk quietly and safely,	
	Be polite and respectful to others,	
Hallways and		
Entrances	Provides assistance to other students and staff	
	members,	
	Clear the hallways quickly at all times,	
	Keep the hallways and entrance neat and tidy,	
	+ Recep the hanways and entrance near and day,	
	Respect the speaker(s) and/or performance(s) by being quiet and	
Assemblies	listening actively,	
	Enter and exit the assembly in an orderly fashion.	
	Sit in your seat when eating or drinking,	
	Stay seated unless permission to go to the washroom is	
	granted,	
Indoor Recess	Bring healthy foods and drinks (avoid sugar),	
and/or lunch	Clean up your space and hands after eating,	
	Check to see if room is tidy and neat; help to put it	
	in order,	
	Put all lunch things away before lessons begin,	
	Respect and protect all equipment and furniture in the room.	

Outside Area	 "Hands off" and no rough play, Play safe and take turns, Play in your designated area, Take care of equipment, Follow playground expectations, Follow the supervisors' instructions.
Outdoor Line- ups	 Go to your class and line-up immediately when the bell rings, Line-up in a straight line facing forward ready to enter the school, Be quiet and listen for instructions.
Gym, Outside Area and Multi-Purpose spaces	 Must be supervised by an adult at all time, Respect and protect all gym equipment, PE equipment is not allowed to be outside unless it is under direct supervision of a teacher, Use indoor/outdoor PE equipment appropriately, Only use equipment with teacher permission, Return all PE equipment to the teacher, when finished.
Dress Code	 Wear the approved uniform, Keep your uniform clean, neat, and tidy and tucked in, Jackets and sweaters with images, decals, messages, or insignia other than those of SMS will not be permitted, All girls (Grade 4 and up) must wear a (white) hijab at school, excluding 'special' days. Shoes made for outdoor play/ weather must be worn outside (sandals and party shoes are not acceptable), Boys' hair must be neat and clean as per the Sunnah. Extreme haircuts will not be permitted. (Mohawks, Highlights etc.) Jewelry and tattoos are prohibited in school for either boys or girls; Boys' necklaces and girls' long earrings will be confiscated.

Dismissal	♣ Dismissal time is at 3:25 p.m supervision until 3:40 p.m.,	
(Pick-up for	Always park your car in the designate parking space,	
Students)	Parents should follow the school zone traffic regulation,	
	♣ If late, please call and notify the office,	
	Supervise your children once you have picked them up,	
Early dismissal	Call the main office ahead of time when you dismiss your child	
	early, Parents must sign their children out at the school.	
Environment	♣ Recycle all appropriate materials,	
	Place litter in the proper recyclable containers: paper, cardboard,	
	glass or plastic,	
	Take care of school equipment and property,	
	Do not trample plants or landscaping; don't pick flowers on school	
	Property- let them grow!	
Washroom/	Use the washroom and wudu area quickly, quietly, and properly,	
Wudu Area	♣ Always wash your hands,	
Prayer Hall	♣ Make Wudu before you come to the prayer hall.	
	Be quiet and be considerate of others in prayer,	
	♣ All girls must wear a proper hijab (plain white color),	
	♣ Follow the mosque/prayer hall etiquette.	

Computer	 Parents and students must sign the technology policy agreement, No games are allowed on school computers unless permitted by the teacher. Computer time should be used for research, assignments, or multimedia content creation, Respect and protect the computer equipment.
	 All forms of Social Media is not permitted. Failure to meet the computer lab expectations may lead to disciplinary actions such as being banned from using school technology, school suspension, and/or expulsion.
Forbidden Items	♣ Do not bring these forbidden items to the school: Islamically inappropriate literature and images, weapons, flammable substances, illegal drugs, alcohol, electronic devices including cell phones.

2.6 Rights of Parents

As Stakeholders, parents and guardians have a right to:

- ♣ Receive and offer information about their children's education,
- Be respected and recognized as a major influence in child's development,
- ♣ Have their voices heard, and be able to express themselves in a socially, acceptable manner on matters of school policy,
- Meet with school personnel at a mutually convenient pre-arranged time,
- Feel welcome at school,
- Have access to school policies and curriculum information,
- ♣ Leave their children in a supportive school environment where consistent;
- "Codes of Behavior" are expected and enforced,
- ♣ Be able to participate in school programs and some decisionmaking processes.

2.7 Responsibilities of Parents and Guardians

The school expects from the parents and guardians the following:

- ♣ Check the School App daily for homework, reminders and important announcements.
- ♣ Be responsible for making sure the children are well rested before bringing them to school; young children need between 8 to 10 hours of sleep each night.
- ♣ Provide children with a healthy breakfast prior to sending them to school.
- **↓** Children who eat a nutritious breakfast perform better at school.
- Make sure that their children are brought to school on time and picked up on time.
- ♣ Always look through their children's bags when they come home from school each day to be informed about any assignments for the day, announcements or notes.
- ♣ Visit the school by booking an appointment in advance.
- ♣ Show support for the school by participating in school functions.
- ♣ Read and understand all the school rules and regulations, including those rules outlined in this handbook.
- ♣ Inform the school office prior to picking up your child for early dismissals by 2:30 pm at the latest.
- ♣ Inform the school office whenever the family changes their addresses, email, and phone numbers, as well as when any other important information about their children changes.
- ♣ The school reserves the right to de-register any family due to unacceptable conduct with any staff member, students, and other parents. Examples of unacceptable conduct include but are not limited to harassment and non-compliance of school rules.

SECTION 3

MISSION, PHILOSOPHY AND BELIEFS

3.1 Our Vision

To cultivate an environment that facilitates the development of students with a deeply rooted faith, breadth of knowledge, and prudent ingenuity.

3.2 Our Mission

We strive to develop an enriched learning community that is dedicated to fostering excellence in Islamic character, academic achievement, and civic engagement.

3.3 Beliefs

- ♣ All students have the right to equitable access to quality education programs that meets their diverse needs.
- ♣ Students are entitled to a safe, secure and caring learning environment where each individual is respected and value
- ♣ Providing an Islamic education and atmosphere develops the whole person.
- ♣ Our educational system must provide our society with creative, critical thinkers, and problem solvers, who are well prepared for post-secondary studies, diverse work environments, life-long learning, and global citizenship in a complex, multicultural world.
- ♣ All students should challenge themselves to reach their highest potential.
- ♣ The success of students is the shared responsibility of students, families, school, community, and government.
- ♣ Parents should have opportunities for meaningful involvement in important decisions about their children's education.
- ♣ Parents and the public should have access to timely information about the performance and cost of the educational system in which they enroll their children.
- ♣ Resources and relevant decision-making should be available where education exists.

SECTION 4

SCHOOL VALUES

Core Values:

RESPONSIBILITY	RESPECT
HONESTY	MODESTY
COMPASSION	COOPERATION
PATIENCE	HEALTH & SAFETY

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 New Students

The School accepts students between the ages 5 and 13 on a space-available basis both at the beginning of each new school year and on a rolling-admissions basis during the school year. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, religion, familial status, genetic origin or native language.

5.2 Returning Students

The suitability of every child's continuance at the school will be assessed each year. Current students will be assessed continually throughout the school year and ongoing interactive communication about progress will be shared with the parents and, when appropriate, with the students themselves.

If the school feels that the child's best interests are not being met, the parents will be informed no later than April 15th. For certain students with exceptionalities, we may recommend testing and certain accommodations, which we will supply in-house wherever possible. We may also refer students to public schools when we cannot meet or support the child's learning needs. If such a recommendation is presented to the family, the administration will work closely with the parents to assist them with finding accommodations, assistive technology, or a more suitable placement for their child.

5.3 Changes to Student Admissions and Bus Services

Any request for cancellation of bus services and student admissions must be submitted in writing. Any approved requests will be effective the next month unless notified otherwise by the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS AND APPEARANCE OF STUDENTS

All students are encouraged to feel pride in being members of the School community. Their uniform identifies them as such. Our uniform ensures that students are neatly and sensibly dressed, and that competition and extremes of fashion are avoided. Appropriate dress is expected of all students and good grooming is equally important. All members of staff have been asked to review and enforce the school's uniform policy. Parents will be contacted if the uniform worn by the student is incomplete or inappropriate. Students are not permitted to change out of their school uniform at the end of the day, unless they have permission from the school administration due to special circumstances. **Inappropriately dressed students will be asked to change promptly into a school uniform or will be sent home immediately**.

Please see school uniforms below:

Boys:	Girls:
- white, long sleeved button up shirt	- white long-sleeved blouse
- white short sleeved Polo Shirt	- white hijab
- white undershirt	- dark blue pants (loose fitting)
- dark blue dress pants (no jeans/no sweat pants)	- dark blue tunic
- dark blue sweater	- dark blue sweater

Parents can buy the school uniform from Canadian Apparel, Walmart, Old Navy and Children's Place .

Every child must come to school with the proper uniform. All teachers have been instructed to send any student who is not dressed in the proper uniform to the office so that the school office administrative assistant can contact the parents of the student. Students who receive three uniform infraction warnings will be asked to remain at home until the matter is rectified.

Each item of clothing **must be marked with the student's name** on a conspicuous inward facing seam or hem line. The student's name should not be visible when the item is worn. It is wise to use a laundry pen or specifically manufactured iron-on labels. Do not use ink pens, as they will run and smear in the wash. We do have an informal "Lost & found" area; however, checking for lost items is the child's responsibility (not the teacher's or the parent's). The school will not be responsible for lost clothing

SECTION 7

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

We are concerned about safety when students are being dropped-off and picked up by parents. To minimize the dangers and hazards as much as possible, parents are asked to abide by the list provided below.

7.1 General - Safety when Dropping-Off and Picking-Up Students

- Use and make the children aware of safety procedures;
- Obey all posted traffic and parking signs;
- Watch for students who may inadvertently dart out from between vehicles;
- Be respectful of other drivers and the community.

All parents are to drop off and pick up students from the main entrance of the school grounds. All staff, parents, and volunteers are to park their <u>vehicles on the sides</u> <u>of school parking lot</u>, if they need to enter the school. Otherwise, follow the arrows and flow of traffic in the proper directions. Drive slowly and watch for unaccompanied children who may dart out.

7.2 Morning Drop-Off

Parents are to drop off their children between 8:00 a.m. and 8:10 a.m. Access to the building is not available to students before 8:00 a.m. unless a prior arrangement has been made with the school office, or there is a planned, pre-arranged school activity under the direct supervision of a teacher. Leaving your child at the school before 8:00 a.m. without any contact with the school authority is negligence

and the school will not be held accountable for such actions. (We are <u>not responsible</u> for any student outside of the building before 8:00 a.m.). Teachers are not required to arrive until 7:45 a.m. and they have morning duties to prepare their classrooms for the day's work.

To ensure the safety of all students, parents who are driving their young child/children to school are requested to park their cars and accompany their children to the front door. Older children are asked to walk safely to the front door using the sidewalks. Do not rely on older siblings to be responsible for walking children inside.

7.3 Afternoon Pick-Up

On Monday through Friday, school ends when the 3:30 p.m. bell rings. Parents are asked to refrain from coming into the building or the classrooms, as it is disruptive to school proceedings. The school building will be locked at 4:00 p.m. We cannot provide supervision for children after 3:45 p.m. Please ensure that travel arrangements for students are settled and shared with your children in advance.

Only people authorized by the parents IN WRITING can take your child from the school. We are not permitted to release a child to someone other than the parent or guardian with phone permission. Please fill out the form in the office naming all people you wish to allow to pick up your child. In the case of a family separation proceeding or court ordered child custody arrangement, please provide the school with the court order designating custody.

7.4 Non-Compliance with School Hours

In the event that a child is routinely left on the premises before and/or after school hours, we are obliged to take action, including but not limited to, informing Child and Family Services. The following steps will be taken:

- a) Step 1: Email warning to arrange a formal meeting appointment with parents;
- b) Step 2: Written letter to parents- also with second copy placed in child's file;
- c) Step 3: Contact Child and Family Services.

Parents are not to use drop-off or pick-up times to engage teachers, administrators, office staff or other parents in conversations concerning student progress. Teachers and the school leadership are always willing to discuss student progress, but at mutually convenient times. Parents are requested to arrange for a formal appointment for such matters.

SECTION 8

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance and punctuality on the part of the student is an important component of the learning process and student achievement. All teachers will keep attendance records. Absences and tardiness will be recorded on the report cards. Consistent tardiness or excessive absenteeism is possible grounds for suspension from school. Teachers are required to report excessive tardiness/absences to the Principal. Parents may then be required to attend a meeting with the Principal to explain these absences.

8.1 Tardiness

Parents are asked to send a note in advance or call the school by 8:00 a.m. if their child will arrive at school late. If stuck in an excessively slow traffic jam, please have another adult or responsible child call the office from your mobile phone. All students arriving after 8:25 a.m. must proceed to the office to receive a late slip prior to entering their classes. If you know of an upcoming lateness (e.g. an appointment), please communicate this to the homeroom teacher and school office in advance.

8.2 Absences

Parents are asked to call the school by 8:00 a.m. or send a note in advance if their child is to be absent. To avoid congestion on the phones between 8:00 a.m. and 8:20 a.m., parents are encouraged to leave a voicemail message or email at their earliest convenience in the morning. When making outside appointments, parents are asked to be considerate of the child's school schedule and arrange appointments during non-core instructional time when possible. For an early dismissal, parents are to meet their child at the office to sign them out.

8.3 Acceptable Excused Absences

The following are the acceptable criteria for an excused absence:

- > Family crisis
- Medical reasons (unavoidable medical appointments and sickness)
- Compassionate reasons (a death/funeral in the family)
- Extended Leave of Absences School work is provided to the students for the period of time the student is away. Teachers verify that the work has been completed.

In the above circumstances, parents must communicate with the school either by written note, phone call or email.

8.4 Extended Leave of Absences

Students are expected to attend school during the entire school year. Similarly, parents are expected to arrange their travel times according to the school calendar. Students who will be out of the school for an extended period of time and do not meet the criteria for excused absences are considered truant. The School may refuse the re-admission of any student who is absent from school without permission (10 or more consecutive school days). Further, the School reserves the right to test a student who has gone on extended leave before deciding on a promotion to the next grade in all missing tests. It is the parent's responsibility to make sure that the student is provided with adequate opportunities to acquire and develop all the necessary skills and knowledge in the case of an extended leave of absence from school.

If a student is to be absent from school for an extended period of time, the Principal and teacher should be informed in **writing**. A minimum of two weeks' notice is expected so that the necessary materials/homework can be collected. It is the student's responsibility to redo the missing tests and hand in all work that has been assigned during the time away from school.

If this extended leave of absence results in a student not meeting the minimal hours of instruction required by the Ministry, parents must compensate the school for any grant loss. To qualify for a full grant, a student must meet the Ministry's minimum attendance of 600 hours by May 15.

8.5 Withdrawal from School (Mid-Year)

Due to the fact that we are committed to the teachers' contract for the entire year, penalties exist for withdrawing children from school before the completion of the entire school year cycle.

We understand that people move, change jobs, and other circumstances arise. However, we cannot guarantee any reimbursement, unless a waiting-list exists for your child's spot in a particular grade level.

Any request for cancellation of bus services and student admissions must be submitted in writing. Any approved requests will be effective the next month unless notified otherwise by the school. A withdrawal fee of \$200.00 per child will be charged.

SECTION 9

STUDENT'S EVALUATIONS

9.1 Report Card

Report cards are issued three times a year. Formal parent/teacher interviews are held after the first and second reports are distributed. Both parents are encouraged to attend, when possible.

Teachers may schedule special conferences to discuss specific issues with parents or guardians. Parents are also welcome to make individual appointments with the teachers of their children, as needed.

SECTION 10

HOMEWORK POLICY

Students can expect homework almost every evening throughout the school year, beginning in Grade one. Support for education must be provided at home and is directly related to a child's success at school; however homework is for the child to improve skills, not for parents to do their work for them. We expect parents' support by creating a space, providing a quiet environment for the students to work

in, providing necessary tools and endorsement for homework time by encouraging students to complete and submit all assignments by the stated deadlines. Suggested homework times are as follow:

Grade 1 and 2 15-20 minutes Grade 3 and 4 30 - 45 minutes

Grade 5 to 7 1 hour - 1 hour 30 min.

It is the responsibility of the student and parent(s) to inform teachers of classes that will be missed. Arrangements will then be made to deal with work that the student will miss. If a student is ill, it is his/her responsibility to make up any missed work upon his/her return. Families are advised not to arrange holidays during the school term as the absence disrupts the child's studies.

Incomplete assignments will be recorded and these form part of a student's academic achievement records. Teachers may also elect to keep students indoors during recess to complete homework assignments, so that each child continues to progress along with his or her class. Should a student consistently choose not to complete homework assignments, his/her continued attendance at SMS will be reviewed.

SECTION 11

DISCIPLINE & EXPULSION POLICY

Students should share in making our school and community better. They should not do anything that could negatively affect the improvement of our school and community.

The intent and spirit of the current discipline policy, is designed to:

- **♣** Streamline discipline process and procedures.
- ♣ Clarify to the students, teachers, and the parents the school expectations of Student's behavior; and anticipated logical consequences of misbehavior,
- **↓** Implement the Discipline Policy efficiently, effectively and fairly.

It is the goal of the school to provide an exemplary learning environment for every student in the school. We will do our utmost to provide this environment. In very few cases, students may be deemed to be unfit to attend classes. If a SMS schoolinitiated expulsion occurs for any reason, the remaining fees and tuition will be pro- rated accordingly and the balance of money remaining returned to parents or guardians.

SECTION 12

TUITION AND OTHER FEES

Full version of the Annual Tuition Fee is available at the school office.

SECTION 13

TUITION FEE - PAYMENT POLICY

Tuition and bus fee payment is required to enroll your child/ren in the school. School fees can be paid via following methods as stated below:

1. Cash:

Cash payment is accepted for full year tuition/bus fee payment only at the time of registration.

2. Pre-Authorized Debit Payment (PAD)

- a. Parents are to provide PAD form and a void cheque as per the payment schedule.
- b. PAD form will be used for advance fee payment.
- c. Cash payment will be required for declined payment along with the NSF charges.

3. Credit Payment

- a. Parents may provide the credit card authorization form as per the payment schedule.
- b. There will be an additional 3% processing fee for all credit card transactions.
- c. Credit card will be used for advance fee payment.

d. Cash payment will be required for all credit card declined payments along with the NSF charges.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

	Processing Transaction	Processing Transaction
	1st Option	2 nd Option
Month	Payment Due Date	Payment Due Date
September	Along with application	Along with application
	(Advance Fee Payment)	(Advance Fee Payment)
October	September 1st	September 20 th
November	October 1st	October 20 th
December	November 1st	November 20 th
January	December 1st	December 20 th
February	January 1st	January 20 th
March	February 1 st	February 20 th
April	March 1st	March 20 th
May	April 1st	April 20 th
June	May 1st	May 20 th

SECTION 14

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

14.1 Mediation

The School will do its utmost to ensure harmony and cooperation between all. In the event of conflict, we train our students to be good mediators and advocates for their own rights. The students are taught to be fair and to expect justice from adults. Inevitably, conflicts do arise between different students, parents, and teachers or between teachers and administrators.

For a conflict between two or more students, the procedures we advocate are:

♣ The students attempt to solve the conflict amongst themselves, using their words;

- ♣ If unable to resolve things, they can bring the issue up for adjudication to their teacher;
- ♣ If he/she deems it necessary, it will be brought before an impartial referee- first the Discipline Committee, then the Principal, and if still unresolved, to the Board of Directors and if unsatisfied to the Ombudsman. Their decision will be final.

14.2 Grievance Resolution Procedure

In the event that there is a grievance which is at an impasse, the following diagram indicates the process for resolving/reporting the issue.

Between Student or Parent/Student	Teacher	Support Staff	Other, such as Community
©	@	©	©
Teacher	Principal	Principal	Principal
©	@	©	©
Discipline Committee	Board of Education	Board of Education	Board of Education
• •			
Principal	FISA Ombudsman	FISA Ombudsman	FISA Ombudsman
©			
Board of Education			
©			
FISA Ombudsman			

SECTION 15

COMMUNICATION

We believe in open, honest, and transparent communication. If you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact the school administration. The recommended protocol is listed below.

15.1 Communication Protocol

- ♣ Should the question/concern be directly related to the delivery of an academic program, parents are asked to speak with or email the teacher involved first.
- ♣ Should the question/concern be general in nature about the overall operation of the school, please contact the Principal.
- ♣ Should the question/concern be related to payment of fees, please contact the Accountant.
- ♣ Should the question/concern be about admission/withdrawal, please contact the Office Staff.

15.2 Newsletters

Newsletters will be sent home electronically (School APP & Email) during the first week of each month. Notice of special days, field trips, concerns and general school news will be included. Student work and achievements will be highlighted. As our newsletter is an important means of communication, we ask all families to read the newsletters to become familiar with events and activities within the school community.

15.3 Notices

Notices are sent home electronically (School App and Email) or with students as needs dictate. Please check with your child (or in their backpack, bag or homework folder) on a daily basis to ensure that all notices are delivered and received. We will always attempt to email notices, as well, but some (eg. permission slips) require signatures. For families with more than one child, our goals is to send home one notice with the eldest child, unless there is a need for each child to have something signed. Parents should advise the school office of current e-mail addresses, and update contact information, should things change.

15.4 Appointments

Parents and teachers may contact each other in order to arrange a meeting. If you would like to initiate a meeting with a teacher, please email that teacher, send a message using the School App or call the main office to leave a message for the teacher. Please be advised that although teaching time finishes at 3:30 p.m., teachers are often busy with after-school activities. A scheduled appointment ensures that your concern will have the proper amount of time, preparation, and attention.

15.5 Phones/ Cell Phones, iPads and e-readers

Telephones in the school office are for business purposes only. Students will only be allowed to use the phone in an emergency or if they become ill during the school day. Please make all arrangements for drop-off, pick-up, and appointments prior to the school day.

In our increasingly global and rapidly-changing world, some teachers may request students to bring IPads, laptops or e-reader digital touch devices. These will be allowed in the particular class by that teacher for educational purposes only, and subsequently must remain in the office for collection after school.

15.6 Electronics, Toys and Sports Equipment

You may not bring toys or sports equipment from home to school without prior permission from the School Administration. Kindergarten has scheduled "Show & Tell" days. Appropriate items to share include interesting items from nature, from a recent trip, cultural objects, art work done at home, crafts, or even wearing a new piece of clothing. The purpose of "Sharing Time" is to encourage a child to talk to their classmates publicly. Any toys brought to school will be confiscated and placed on a high shelf by the teacher. These will not be returned until departure time.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

A school calendar, with details of all scheduled activities and reporting periods for the school year. **Note:** the schedule may be subject to changes. Make sure you check the School App and Email daily.

SECTION 17

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

17.1 Membership

Every parent is automatically a member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and, as such, is invited to attend and take part in the meetings. Meeting times will be announced throughout the year. The PAC has supported the school in numerous ways including fundraising for the playground, book fairs; hot lunches, sports events, and helping to arrange some student community service placements. They are an integral and necessary part of the school; your participation is highly encouraged.

17.2 Governance

All leadership positions for the Parent Council in the new school year will be selected at the first meeting.

17.3 Designated Positions

Chairperson chairs all meetings, sets up the agenda, and ensures the order of the

meeting

Vice Chair works with the chair and can perform the same duties if the

chair is not available

Secretary records the minutes of all meetings, publishes minutes

Treasurer handles all financial transactions for the PAC, arranges for

audited statements each year

Volunteers organizes the school volunteer program in cooperation with the

Coordinator parents and teaching staff

17.4 Parent Advisory Committee Objectives

♣ To promote the welfare of students.

♣ To support the school's unique programs, both with time and financial resources.

- ♣ To facilitate the involvement of parents with the school through coordination of volunteer opportunities.
- ♣ To offer advice and make recommendations to the school principal and administration team.

17. 5 Volunteer Program

Parent involvement is crucial to the sustainability and success of any school. The success of the volunteer program depends upon each family doing their part. We can use volunteer help in many areas of the school.

SECTION 18

SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

Based on the spirit of Islam, there will be absolutely no physical contact whatsoever between male and female students and/or male and female students and staff at any time. Any advances, sexual remarks or contact, whatsoever, whether wanted or unwanted, will be construed as sexual harassment and will be cause for immediate and permanent expulsion of the student whereby **the parent will take full responsibility their child(ren)'s education.** If it is determined that a staff member is in breach, this is cause for immediate and permanent dismissal.

ABUSE POLICY

19.1 Behaviour

The School has high expectations of behavior for all. We supports mutual respect and dignity for those we serve and for those who serve. Inappropriate conduct or abusive behavior towards students, staff, volunteers, parents, or Board members, as well as the rest of the community will not be tolerated inside or outside school. Any and all inappropriate conduct or abusive behavior is considered a major offence and will be dealt with directly. All disciplinary measures are at the Board's sole discretion. It is everyone's responsibility to maintain a positive and safe environment. **Respect earns Respect**.

In the event of abuse or neglect by a student, the parent will take full responsibility for their child (ren)'s education if the School expels the child from the school. This policy deals with the following issues: emotional abuse, assault and battery, financial abuse, neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, bullying, cyber bullying and substance abuse.

19.2 Definitions of Abuse

The School will take swift action in dealing with anyone against whom allegations of abuse are levied **inside or out of the school**. The above terms are defined as follows:

- 19.2.1 **Emotional Abuse -** Refers to intentional, consistent and repetitive verbal assault (yelling, swearing, ridiculing), lack of attention (being ignored) or placing in isolation or confinement consistently.
- 19.2.2 **Financial Abuse -** Refers to the theft of money or personal property, the deceitful manipulation of finances, and/or the misuse of someone's assets or funds;
- 19.2.3 **Neglect -** Refers to the withholding of basic care (food, water, medical attention, toileting and emotional support);

- 19.2.4 **Physical Abuse -** Refers to physical assault, (slapping hitting, kicking and punching), use of excessive and unnecessary force or the rough handling of another individual;
- 19.2.5 **Sexual Abuse -** Refers to any sexual contact (inappropriate touching, intercourse, exploitation) committed and/or forced on another individual;
- 19.2.6 **Sexual Harassment -** Refers to unwanted and offensive sexual advancement or sexually derogatory or discriminatory remarks made to another person;
- 19.2.7 **Bullying -** is targeted negative behavior that is sustained over a period of time;
- 19.2.8 **Cyber Bullying** using information and communication technology to convey a message that threatens or perpetuates fear and intimidation, or threatens bodily harm/ death; and
- 19.2.9 **Substance Abuse** The School is a smoke-free environment and smoking is not permitted on any area of the property. The consumption of alcohol or the use of drugs prescription or legal without the express authority of the school is prohibited and will result in immediate dismissal.

Any member of the school who witnesses or suspects an incident of abuse must immediately report the suspicion to the Principal. Should the complaint be brought against the Principal, it should be taken to the School Board.

Any incident of suspected or actual abuse will be documented and reported.

Any member of the school who fails to report an incident or suspicion of abuse or neglect is subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Education.

An allegation or charge of abuse or neglect will result in immediate suspension of the student, parent or volunteer.

It is required by law that all school personnel will cooperate fully with authorities charged with investigating the allegations. The school has the right to immediately expel any student that has any involvement, or criminal charges, or civil charges, whatsoever, with any level of the police services in any place worldwide.

SECTION 20

FOOD POLICY

Children are to bring their lunch and snack from home. Please make sure their lunch is adequate and nutritious. Consider packaging lunch in a thermos and/or a reusable sandwich container.

Parents are encouraged to avoid delivering food to the school for their children's lunches. Please also ensure that all snacks and lunches are "nut free" as there may be other students/staff with severe allergies.

20.1 Lunch

Students eat lunch with their classmates and homeroom teacher in their classrooms. Microwaves are not available due to safety reasons.

Water fountains are available at the school. It is recommended that each child has a reusable personal water bottle labeled with their name in permanent marker.

20.2 Hot Lunches

Teachers and the Parent Advisory Committee organize hot lunches. Notices and Order Forms are sent out in advance to inform parents of the days and anticipated menu.

20.3 Unhealthy Food

Lunch is the fuel for your children's afternoon. Healthy lunches do not include items such as chocolate in any form, gum, candy, soft drinks, potato chips or other snacks with excessive salt or sugar. If you feel the need to send a treat, try items such a piece of fresh fruit, a muffin, and raisins, cut up vegetables, a small pudding, or Fruit-To-Go.

SECTION 21

FIELD TRIPS / OFF-SITE EXCURSIONS

21.1 Rationale

Off-site excursions and field trips allow students to:

- ♣ Be presented with "real world" experiences not available in the regular classroom,
- ♣ Reinforce, support, extends and enhances the concepts they have learned in their classes,
- ♣ Relate their classroom activities to everyday life,
- Understand that learning has application,
- ♣ Have the opportunity to learn from others, who have expertise in a particular field,
- ♣ Participate in hands-on experiential learning,
- ♣ Better familiarize themselves with the resources available in the community, and
- Find out & explore more about potential careers and employment opportunities.

21.2 Guidelines for Fieldtrips and Off-site Excursions

- ♣ Students are required to wear full dress uniform unless otherwise stated;
- ♣ Parent consent forms will be sent home at least three to five days prior to the excursion/field trip; and
- ♣ All consent forms must be signed and returned to the teacher by the date stipulated on the notice. Handwritten consent notes may be accepted depending on the type of field trip/excursion being undertaken.

- Only a parent's or legal guardian's signature is acceptable on the consent form;
- ♣ The cost of transportation, as well as other incidental expenditures that might be necessary, must be paid in advance of the trip; and
- ♣ Volunteers are requested to adhere to the school's Islamic dress code on all excursions and fieldtrips.

ASSEMBLIES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Assemblies will be held on a regular basis. The purpose of assemblies is to enhance school spirit within the school community. Assemblies will also be used to inform the student body of current events within the school environment and to celebrate successes. As such, students and parents are expected to behave in a manner befitting a Muslim gathering.

SECTION 23

MEDICAL CONCERNS AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

We do not have a staff school nurse on the premises. Any medical problems or medication requirements should be recorded on the medical section of the application update form each year. Parents are also required to inform the classroom teacher of any health concerns. The school office will keep this information on file. Parents are encouraged to keep the school informed as to changes in the medical condition of the student, as well as to any other changes in family or personal circumstances which impact the student.

23.1 Minor Medical Concerns

The school is modestly equipped with a basic first aid kit. Several staff members have First Aid training. Small cuts and scrapes can be dealt with at school. If in doubt, staff will err on the side of caution and attempt to call parents or else seek medical attention. Students who feel unwell during the day must report their illness to a teacher who

may send them to the office or may decide to send them home after contacting the parent. Make sure the office has your emergency medical information current and updated contact information form for the child's file.

23.2 Major Medical Concerns

If the medical issue is one that cannot be handled by the school, the parents will be contacted immediately so they can pick up their child from the school. In the event of a more serious injury, when parents are unavailable to transport their child to a hospital, an ambulance will be called to the school. The responsibility of the School is to ensure that the child enters the care of a qualified doctor or a hospital, and the remaining duty is to continue efforts to contact the parents if such has not been done before.

23.3 Medications

Parents must make sure that the school has full and up-to-date medical information about each child. This information will help teachers and office personnel to provide the best assistance to a child in case of emergency.

School personnel can only dispense prescribed medicine in its original packaging. All medicine must be handed to the office and dispense by the office staff only. We cannot dispense over the counter medication to a child under any circumstance. A sick child is best left at home under family care.

During an illness, parents of any recovering children are welcome to come into school at the designated times to administer medicine prescribed by a doctor for their own child.

SECTION 24

DRILLS

24.1 Safety and Security Policies

The School has a new manual containing all of our security and emergency management policies. It is available in the school office, if you wish to read it in its

entirety. Evacuation procedures are clearly explained, in the case of any on-site incident that requires taking the children off campus for their safety.

24.2 Fire Drills/Earthquake/ Drills

As required by law, students will be notified and trained in fire and earthquake drills protocol, including where to meet in the case of an emergency.

24.3 School Lockdown Drills

There will be two major school lockdown drills during the year.

SECTION 25

ACTS OF VANDALISM AND/OR PULLING OF THE FIRE ALARM

In the event a student is identified as having committed an act of vandalism or is identified as having pulled the fire alarm for no reason, then:

- 1. The student will receive:
 - i. First infraction: a Level 1 Suspension under 5 days;
 - ii. Second infraction: a Level 2 Suspension over 5 days;
- 2. For every infraction, a written report will be prepared and placed on the student's file.
- 3. The amount of the bill to repair or replace the item or items that are vandalized, or if the fire department sends a bill for attending a false alarm, the amount will have to be paid in full immediately by the parent of the student. In the event payment is not immediately made in full, then the outstanding amount will be added to the student's or a sibling's tuition fee, which could result in the student not being admitted into the school next academic year.

COMPUTER LABS AND ROOMS

Both students and parents must sign an agreement to abide by the school's Technology policies; this will be included in the Appendix or available from the office.

- ♣ Students may only utilize the devices under the supervision of a teacher.
- ♣ Games are not allowed during school time; devices are for instruction (and research for educational purposes.
- ♣ The School policies regarding software usage, importing outside software, computer room decorum and copyright must be adhered to.
- Students are permitted to access the internet in supervised situations only. There is zero tolerance for accessing inappropriate sites.

SECTION 27

LOST AND FOUND

Students are responsible for all of their belongings including all uniform items, school supplies, and personal items that they may have in their possession. All possessions should be clearly labeled with the student's name. Students will be notified of the location of the lost and found area. The teachers take no responsibility for items the child loses. All unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each school term.

SECTION 28

SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS

The School provide workbooks to the students. All textbooks are the school property. Lost or damaged books belonging to school are to be paid for by the student, at their replacement cost. The school office will issue invoices for lost or damaged books.

VISITORS

All visitors are required to report to the school office in order to sign in. Visitors to the school should make an appointment through the office with the appropriate person.

SECTION 30

PARKING

All staff, parents, and volunteers are to park their vehicles in the parking lot on the side of the school. Please do not park in front of the school or drive your vehicle on the school ground.

SECTION 31

TOLERANCE

A positive school climate promotes student learning and development. A school community where everyone feels safe, respected and engaged prepares children for life in a diverse multicultural and democratic society.

The fostering of attitudes and prejudicial behaviors such as bullying, abuse, profanity, hate, bias, racial intolerance, name-calling or psychological battering is not tolerated. Our school has a "No bullying" policy which we strictly adhere to at all times. Any student or teacher engaging in this type of behavior will be subject to discipline by the administration. Our staff consistently attempts to model tolerant, respectful behavior and sensitive cross-cultural communication.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Celebrating success is an important part of the school culture. The school will recognize achievement and effort of students throughout the year in classes and at school assemblies.

SECTION 33

USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

It is the strict policy that all things (equipment, instructional materials, etc.) within and outside of the building belong to the school. Under no circumstances are parents or visitors allowed to borrow, remove, have, or take home to use any of the items belonging to the school. Amongst other things, this would include all equipment in the classrooms, custodial rooms, and all computers or peripherals throughout the school.

SECTION 34

PERSONAL INFORMATION PRIVACY POLICY FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

The School's Commitment to you

Safeguarding personal information of parents and students is a fundamental concern of the School. The School is committed to meeting or exceeding the privacy standards established by British Columbia's personal information Protection Act (PIPA) and any other applicable legislation.

The Personal Information Privacy Policy describes the policies and practice of the school regarding the collection, use and disclosure of personal information ensuring appropriate and secure handling. The Policy regarding Personal Information is located on the school website.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers bring with them a range of skills and experience that enhance the learning opportunities of children at the school. We welcome and encourage volunteers from the local community.

Our volunteers can include:

- Members of the Board of Education
- 2. Parents of pupils
- 3. Former students on work experience
- 4. University students referred to us
- 5. Local residents
- 6. Friends of the school

The types of activities in which volunteers can be engaged include:

- 1. Listening to children read
- 2. Working with small groups of children
- 3. Working alongside individual children and supporting individual needs
- 4. Undertaking art & craft activities with children
- 5. Working with children on the computers
- 7. Accompanying school field trips

BECOMING A VOLUNTEER

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer, either for a single event such as a school visit or on a more regular basis, e.g. listening to children read, must approach the Principal directly. For field trips, volunteer must approach the class teacher.

Prospective volunteers should present a completed Volunteer information Sheet to the Principal with their contact details and information regarding their desired volunteer work. Before starting to help in school, volunteers must also submit a completed Volunteer Agreement and a Criminal Record check (Vulnerable Sector Screening). The Volunteer Agreement sets out the school's expectations of volunteers and asks volunteers to confirm they have received a copy of this policy. Criminal record checks

(Vulnerable Sector Screening) are required to ensure the safety of the children who attend the school for long term volunteers.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Volunteers in school are bound by a code of confidentiality. Any concerns that volunteers have about the children they work with or come into contact with should be voiced with the class teacher or other staff and NOT with the parents of the child or persons outside the school. Comments regarding children's behavior or learning can be highly sensitive, and if taken out of context, can cause distress to the parents of a child if they hear about such issues through a third party rather than directly from the school. Volunteers who are concerned about anything another adult in the school does or says should raise the matter with the Principal.

SUPERVISION

All volunteers work under the supervision of the class teacher or a specifically assigned non-teaching staff member. Teachers retain responsibility for children at all times, including the children's behavior and the activity they are undertaking. Volunteers should have clear guidance from the teacher as to how an activity is carried out and what outcome to expect from an activity. Volunteers are encouraged to seek further advice and guidance from the teacher in the event of any query or problem regarding children's understanding of a task or behavior.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The school has a number of policies concerning health and safety. Individual policies are made available on request to volunteers working in the school. Class teachers ensure that volunteers are clear about emergency procedures (e.g. fire alarm evacuation) and about any safety aspects associated with a particular task. Volunteers need to exercise due care and attention and report any obvious hazards or concerns to the class teacher or Principal.

CHILD PROTECTION

The welfare of our children is paramount. To ensure the safety of our children, we adopt the following procedures:

- 1. All volunteers are given a copy of the Volunteer Policy and asked to sign a Volunteer Agreement.
- 2. To ensure the safety of our pupils at all times, all of our volunteers are to be cleared by an official and up to date (<6 months old) Criminal record check (Vulnerable Sector Screening). An application form for Vulnerable Sector Screening can be obtained through the school office. Volunteers are responsible for submitting their form and its corresponding fee to the BC Ministry of Justice for screening. Once screening is complete the volunteer will submit their up to date certificate to the school with their signed Volunteer Agreement.
- 3. Volunteers engaged in an individual activity (e.g. helping supervise a group of children as part of a class field trip) who are under constant supervision of school staff, must read and sign our Off-Site Visits Volunteer Agreement.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

- 1. Any complaints made by a volunteer will be referred to the Principal for investigation.
- 2. Any complaints made about a volunteer will be referred to the Principal. The Principal reserves the right to take the following action:
 - a. To speak with a volunteer about a breach of the Volunteer Agreement and seek reassurance that this will not happen again.
 - b. Offer an alternative placement for a volunteer, e.g. helping with another activity or in another class.
 - c. Inform the volunteer that the school no longer wishes to use them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Parent-Student Policy Handbook.

We hope you have found it informative and helpful.

Please read and sign the contract attached.

PARENTS & STUDENTS HANDBOOK

CONTRACT

I acknowledge that I have fully read the handbook and understand and will abide by the duties and responsibilities that are outlined withing the school handbook.

Parent's Name:	
Parent's Signature:	
Date:	
Student's Name:	Grade: