



# Harrow Primary School

Harrow's first Independent Islamic School





# Welcome to Harrow Primary School

## Harrow's first Islamic Independent School

At Harrow Primary School our aim is to create a school of excellence where students develop their skills to become independent, lifelong learners, thinkers and leaders; a school which will meet the needs of young children from across West London.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the first Muslim, independent school in Harrow. We are a small, Islamic faith school teaching the National Curriculum within the context of an Islamic ethos. Our goal at Harrow Primary is to create a school which fosters in our students a love of learning, strong morals and character and, a genuine respect for others, prepared in every way - intellectually, morally and socially - for the world that awaits them. To this end, our school ethos which welcomes students of all backgrounds and beliefs is not that of a small school, rather a large family where children are happy, caring and considerate.

I welcome you to visit our school and meet our team and our students!

**Alimuiddin Shaikh**  
Headteacher



Harrow Primary School opened in September 2012 as a co-educational school for boys and girls between the ages of 5-11, with the aim of serving the wider community.

All of our teachers are qualified, experienced teaching staff and are dedicated to ensuring all pupils have high academic and moral standards, respecting all beliefs and cultures.

An important part of our school, is you, the parent... as you will see by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus! We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and further increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

I would urge you to visit our wonderful and unique school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff who are generous with their time and whom will listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. I know that you will be impressed by the quality of education and care we can offer your child.

Upon reading our prospectus should you wish to make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask me a question about any aspect of the school, please contact me via the school office.

# School day



## School Vision

At Harrow Primary School our vision is to create a school of excellence where students develop their skills to become independent, lifelong learners, thinkers and leaders.

We strive to ensure everyone feels valued and respected and our ethos brings together our children, community, staff and parents to provide a safe and nurturing environment for all.

Our aspiration is to make every day a rewarding, creative and unique experience; inspired by our inclusive and welcoming Islamic faith everyone is encouraged to grow intellectually, morally and spiritually.

## School Hours

The school has a rich extra-curricular programme of activities which runs every day.

School Day	8:50am – 3:30pm
After School Clubs, daily	3:40pm – 4:40pm.

## Uniform

A simple uniform is helpful in establishing good standards of appearance in school, and by wearing it children quickly feel part of the community. School uniform lists can be obtained by contacting the school office and are available via the website.

Uniforms are available from our uniform suppliers: Angels Uniforms in Rayners Lane.

## School Meals and Snacks

Children bring in a healthy packed lunch, and mid-morning snacks are provided for children in nursery, both of which are in line with our Healthy Eating policy.

## Behaviour

Good behaviour is encouraged and maintained through good interpersonal relationships, which are based on a knowledge and understanding of individual children and their needs. The emphasis is on positive encouragement, stimulation and a sense of purpose and positive reinforcement through reference to Islamic principles, morals and etiquettes.





### Children say

Abdul-Rahman: "I love the playground!"

Hashim had **high hopes** of Harrow Primary School, and these have been both met and **exceeded**

**Mr and Mrs Hashim Mahroof live in Harrow with their three children. Sumaiya is six, Ismail, four, and Abdul-Rahman is seven and has just finished Year 2 at Harrow Primary School.**

### The three things which make a school

There are three main criteria that Hashim Mahroof looks for in his childrens' schooling – a good standard of behaviour and discipline amongst the pupils, an excellent academic record, and a safe and happy environment. He is in no doubt at all that these issues are more than adequately addressed at Harrow Primary School.

"We had heard very good things about the school from family and a friend but we decided to wait a few months before moving Abdul-Rahman there, as it had only recently opened; we wanted to satisfy ourselves that it would live up to its early promise. Having visited Harrow Primary and meeting the Head Teacher, we were impressed by the obvious mutual respect between staff and pupils, the polite behaviour we particularly noticed, and the general welcoming atmosphere. Since we decided to move our son there we have been very happy indeed with what we have found."

### Complete contrast

Within a very short time, Hashim noticed not only a remarkable difference in the quality of Abdul-Rahman's work but also that he seemed more relaxed and happy. "Coming from a school with thirty or more children in each class, the contrast at Harrow Primary

is vast," he says. "Now he is in a class with a maximum of twelve students and so the quality time each teacher can spend with the individual child is much greater; this is probably the reason why the results are, frankly, quite astonishing."

### Engaged with learning

Hashim is especially interested in the core subjects of maths, English and science and is pleased that these are given high priority. However, the regular extra-curricular activities and occasional school trips are also, he feels, a valuable addition to the children's school experience. "Abdul-Rahman has engaged in tennis and kick-boxing, as well as trips to all sorts of places – museums, a farm, even Legoland! Again, I like the balance between study and leisure; it keeps the children interested, keen to learn and engaged with the learning process."

### An ethos of inclusivity

Whilst Harrow Primary is an Islamic Faith School, Hashim appreciates their ethos of inclusivity and the welcome extended to families of other faiths. "When I spoke to the Head Teacher before Abdul-Rahman joined the school I wanted to clarify what the policy was. I was completely reassured that our own requirements would be respected and that is what has happened; Abdul-Rahman and his cousins settled in well and I give the school credit for this."

For Zara's son, Harrow Primary School is doing **what it does best** – educating, caring and **endorsing** her broad **faith principles**

**Zara Taher and her husband Basil Mashkour have three children the youngest of whom, Mohamed, is five years old and has recently joined Harrow Primary School.**

### A question of choice

"I wanted to move him because I thought he would benefit from a smaller class which could offer a much greater level of individual attention," she explains. "Every child is different and although I would love to enrol my daughter there, too, it seemed to me that Mohamed would benefit particularly. My daughter was unwilling to leave her existing school friends and as she is receiving a good standard of education where she is, I agreed to leave her at her present school, but I would send her to Harrow Primary in a heartbeat if she changed her mind."

### The perfect setting

"The first week was difficult but I was so sure that it was right for him we persevered and within days he was happy and completely settled. It is perhaps too early to say whether his work is improving but I am quite sure that it cannot fail to do so; with one-on-one support from teachers who are both passionate about what they are doing and genuinely caring towards the children, and with a fresh approach to teaching which I admire, this is definitely the perfect setting for Mohamed."

### Ethical values

One thing which Zara particularly appreciates is the style of teaching which, she believes, reflects new innovations and a contemporary outlook. "As far as I am concerned, children are at school to learn and Harrow Primary offers a very effective approach whilst maintaining the ethical and open values which are important to me. I would consider only a faith school as our religion is a central part of our family life and I can feel confident that the ethos of Harrow Primary is absolutely in line with my own."

### Preparation for the future

There is only one other thing that Mohamed takes minor issue with – the fact that he would rather like it if there were a few more boys in his class! "At this stage, he would probably like a bit more male company but the boys in his year are friendly and they get on well. For me, I am aware that Harrow Primary is doing for my son what it does best – teaching, caring and preparing him for his future."





# Curriculum



## The curriculum is divided into three stages:

**Early Years Foundation Stage:** from ages 0-5

**Key Stage 1:** from ages 5-7

**Key Stage 2:** from ages 7-11

## Nursery/Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Expressive Arts and Design
- Understanding the World
- Physical Development
- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

## Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- History
- Geography
- Languages
- Computing
- Art and Design
- Design and Technology
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal and Social Health Education.

## Extra-Curricular

We have an engaging extra-curricular programme for all students, currently this extends to an exciting range of clubs or programmes. Clubs range from cooking, arts & crafts, sports, Quran, Extra Learning (Homework) through to Kickboxing and Table-Tennis.



# Heidar wanted his children to **achieve** both **academically** and **socially**, and found that Harrow Primary School was the answer

**Heidar Hosseini and his wife live in Perivale with their children Mohammad, eight and Zahra, seven.**

## Family values

As far as Heidar Hosseini is concerned, if anything is more important than a good quality academic education it is a firm grounding in social responsibility and behavioural standards. These are the values that his children are taught at home and ones which he and his wife wish to be endorsed by any school that Mohammad and Zahra attend.

Mohammad and Zahra initially attended a primary school within a few minutes walk of their house but it was not long before Heidar began to have doubts.

"My reservations were mainly to do with the fact that I wanted my children to be part of a community; one which upheld the principles we personally believe in. Any large school must naturally incorporate a wide socio-economic group and rightly so but our concern lay with the fact that we strongly believe in bringing up our children within a group of like-minded people. What I had heard about Harrow Primary School seemed to address this."

## A foundation for life

It was partly the small size of Harrow Primary which attracted Heidar, together with the ethos it embraced.

"To me, the Islamic aspect of the school was a lesser issue than the fact that it is a faith school," he says. "We wanted a school which embraced a religious faith as it is the values which most religions adhere to that are important to us. We have found that Harrow Primary actively encourages the acceptance, respect for others and excellent standards of behaviour that we want for our children. These are the things which will give them the very best foundations on which to build their lives."

## Confidence and security

Of course, there are many other aspects of education than this to take into account but Heidar has few concerns as far as Mohammad and Zahra are concerned. "I wish for my children to be educated and for them to be happy, and I have no complaints on either account. What particularly appeals to me is that if I have ever had any worries, the school will listen to me and take action, and that applies not just to the parents but to the children, too. Both Mohammad and Zahra feel able to talk to their teachers about anything, whether it is their work or something else and that helps to give them confidence and security. It also helps greatly in their ability to absorb what they are being taught."



## Children say

Mohammad: "I have so much enjoyed the school's trips."  
Zahra: "I like EVERYTHING about the school!"



# Enhanced Curriculum



## Technology

We aim to be a leading school in our use of technology to deliver a creative and modern curriculum.

### Digital art

We have a suite of Apple Mac laptops. Students are encouraged to explore, create and be inspired by the beauty in the world around them.

### School radio station!

Our school radio station is very popular among pupils. Every class is scheduled into the radio studio on a weekly basis, and we ensure cross-curricular coverage in the use of this medium including Arabic, humanities and English.

### iPads

Children are excited about learning on iPads. At our school, children have access to iPads for school use and library research which they can use:

- for classwork with a range of apps for learning in Science, English, Maths, History and Art
- ...and to help them complete and submit their homework.

## Extended Curriculum: Trips and Visits

To ensure our students have as wide a range of experiences as possible we extend the curriculum and make learning even more fun through many trips and excursions.. For example, students have visited, Legoland, Odds Farm, RAF Museum, The London Museum, the National Theatre to see War Horse and London Aquarium amongst many others.



RAF Visit



Fire Brigade Visit



Church Visit

## Communicating with Parents

Communicating with parents is vitally important to Harrow Primary School. For example, we have: Meet the Teacher evening, parent Curriculum evenings, Parent Meetings and other regular opportunities. We also keep parents informed via bi-annual progression reports, share school planning online, regular ParentMail letters, texting service and email and website updates

# Aejajali wanted to ensure his children's future success and believes that Harrow Primary School can do exactly that

**Aejajali Maknojiya and his wife live in Yeading with their two children. Their daughter, Reza, is eight years old and has recently started at Harrow Primary School.**

## No compromise on quality

It is at least a forty-minute drive to Harrow from their home, even longer during the rush hour, but for Mr and Mrs Maknojiya that is not something which concerns them. As Aejajali explains, they will make no compromises where their daughter's education and happiness is concerned. "Reza's last school had failed her badly, especially in maths and English, and as far as I am concerned those are the two most important subjects for a child to master. She had slipped a long way behind and I was very concerned about it so when I heard about Harrow Primary School from a friend I decided to investigate."

## Improvement beyond recognition

"In only eight months her marks have started to reflect her capabilities and she is doing very well indeed," he says. "Equally important is that she is very happy at Harrow Primary; it is not always easy for a child to move to a new school half way through the academic year but within a week she was coming home and telling us how much she liked it. Being a much smaller school than she had been used to, it was easy for her to get to know her classmates and teachers well and because of the high ratio of teachers to pupils, the individual attention given to every child is much greater."

## Shared beliefs

The hard work expected from students in no way spoils their enjoyment of school, believes Aejajali, and with extra-

curricular activities to take part in there is a lot of fun to be had, too: "Reza likes the sports clubs and she never seems to be bored as there is always something interesting to do alongside ordinary lessons. Also, even though we didn't choose Harrow Primary because it is an Islamic faith school, I am very glad that Reza is being taught by people who share our beliefs and she is a member of the Quran Club. To begin with, I was a little worried that such a small school might not be able to offer as many facilities as a larger one, but this has not proved to be the case, and in fact Harrow Primary continues to add to its resources."

## A nurturing environment

"There is no question that the teachers are there because they want to help the students succeed, and have their best interests at heart. It is obvious to me that they really care about what they are doing and they do it extremely well; Reza is happy at school, achieving academically and is nurtured in every way and if my daughter is happy, so am I."

## Worth every penny

Now that he has first hand experience of Harrow Primary School and what it has done for his daughter, Aejajali is determined to enrol his son there as well when he is due to start school. "The cost is something I am willing to bear because of what this school has offered my daughter," he says. "I am not prepared to risk my children's wellbeing and am confident that Harrow Primary is the school which can best ensure their future success."







## Islamic Worship and Festivals

We close school for the last duration of Ramadhan, and observe the Islamic festivals of Ashura, Eid al Adha and Eid al Fitr.

## Daily Worship

All Year Three students onwards pray the mid-day prayer (Salah) every day, in our main hall.

## Nasheed Assembly

We hold a weekly Nasheed Assembly for the whole school.

## Faith Week

We teach Religious Education in the curriculum, students learn not only about the Islamic faith but also



other religions and we hold an annual Faith Week when we invite or visit other faith speakers or settings. In 2013-2014 we invited a Rabbi to conduct a whole school assembly and all of our students visited a local Church, St Marys. Students also participated in a Quranic competition as part of the week.

Fatema and Saeed were **prepared** to take a **calculated risk** by sending their children to Harrow Primary School, and they have **never looked back**

**Fatema Riazi and her husband, Saeed, live in Kenton with their son Ali, seven and daughter Zahra, five. Both children currently attend Harrow Primary School.**

## Don't accept middle-of-the-road

Ali was one of the very first children to be enrolled at the new Harrow Primary School when it opened in 2012. He had previously attended another school but, says Fatema, she and her husband were concerned that he was not living up to his potential. "Ali is a bright boy but in a class size of thirty or more we felt he was being overlooked in favour of the very forward children and the less able, falling somewhere in the middle and thus given less individual support. I had no particular complaint about the school but every child is different, with different needs, and we felt that Ali would benefit from somewhere which could offer more one-to-one attention, in smaller classes."

## Flourishing

It was something of a leap of faith for Fatema and Saeed to decide to send Ali to an as yet unproven school, but they were sufficiently impressed with what they saw. "Our two main criteria were the size of the school and the fact that we wanted our children to benefit from a Muslim educational setting, and I am happy to say that everything has slotted very neatly into place," says Fatema. "There is nothing about the school for which we have had cause for regret, and much to be glad about. Academically, both Ali and Zahra have flourished, they are settled and happy, and if I had been apprehensive about anything to begin with, I am no longer."

## Close relationships

"Ali's teachers could not have been more attentive and they know every child inside and out. They know exactly what each pupil needs and they provide that, and I am convinced that this is a large part of the reason that both Ali and Zahra are such confident and well-adjusted children. Being able to form close relationships with both teachers and classmates alike because of the intimate, family atmosphere has made a big difference."

## An open-minded approach

"Like any other faith school, it promotes its principle belief in Islam but it also teaches the children about Christianity, Judaism and other major religions and I am happy with that. As far as I am concerned, the basic tenets of any religious faith are tolerance, kindness and acceptance, and these are all promoted at Harrow Primary."

## Community spirit

Because Fatema has such a strong belief in the school, she is currently Chair of the PTA and helps to arrange fundraising events such as the annual Summer Fair. "The PTA is a valuable addition to the school, not just for fundraising but to bring families together and create a community spirit. Getting parents involved at all levels helps to give the children a sense of belonging, and in this and many other ways and Harrow Primary encourages that ethos".



## Children say

Ali: "I love playing in the playground and doing activities in the class and I love my teacher and everything we do!"



# Extra-Curricular Activities

## Variety of Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs that children can join, some during lunchtime, mostly after school. Options include:

- Kickboxing
- Archery
- Science
- Cooking
- Arts & Crafts
- Table-Tennis
- Homework
- Sports.

## Sport

Sport plays an important part in a child’s upbringing and education. We have a partnership with nearby Harrow High School - a sports college - to use their facilities, including an indoor gym, outdoor football pitch, all-weather playground and multi-use hall. The school also runs activity based holiday programmes focusing on staying healthy and keeping fit through sport and team-work games.

### Healthy lifestyles

Every child participates in a physical activity on a weekly basis. As well as promoting physical fitness and healthy lifestyles, the children also learn to work within a team, appreciate the value of fair play and sportsmanship and also experience the challenge of sport in a competitive context.

# Admissions

## Visit the School

Parents who are interested in applying for a place at our school are invited to make an appointment to visit at any time throughout the academic year. We also hold regular Open Days throughout the year.

## Applying

The application process has three stages. All forms can be downloaded from our website and are available in our School Handbook also, available for download or via the School office.

### 1: Making the application

To apply for a place, contact the school office for an application form, or download from our website, or request via the school office. Complete the form and return it to Harrow Primary School.

### 2: Entrance examinations

Following receipt of your application, your child will be invited to visit the school for half a day, and sit our entrance examinations. The examinations are exclusive to our school, and test both the attainment and potential of prospective students. At the same time students are invited to spend a trial day at the school before the offer or uptake of a place is confirmed.

### 3: Offer of a place and enrolment

If your child is offered a place, the conditional offer will become unconditional once you have signed the contract with the school and paid the non-returnable admission administration fee. Although entrance is available year-round, we encourage admissions at the beginning of the year or term. Please note enrolment is only confirmed upon an official letter of enrolment from the Headteacher following submission of all relevant forms and follow-up checks and verifications

**Welcome to our school!**





Nursery Manager



Salam Nursery welcomes children aged 2-5 years, into a safe and stimulating new world of learning and play!

## Development

As children learn while they play, our qualified and caring staff have developed a planned approach to learning that focuses on three prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development.

## Nursery Hours

Nursery is open 8:45am - 15:30pm

We offer a school day session 9:00am – 3:30pm, and half day sessions which are 9:00am – 12:00pm, and 12:30pm – 3:30pm.

## Nursery Meals and Snacks

Healthy snacks are provided at break-times, for example cucumber and cheese, orange and peach, and carrots and sweetcorn. At lunchtime children bring in a packed lunch.

## Uniform

The uniform displays the nursery logo and consists of black jogging bottoms, a yellow t-shirt and green jumper.

## Admission

You can download a parent pack from [www.salamnursery.org.uk](http://www.salamnursery.org.uk), or call Salam Nursery on 0203 397 9559 and request a Parent Pack by post or e-mail. Read through the information and fill in the forms. Bring the forms along with your documents and fees into the nursery where your child's place will be confirmed and you will be issued with confirmation of a place for your child at the Nursery.

## Welcome to our nursery!



# Zainab wanted an Islamic Faith school which would uphold her standards of care and academic achievement, and that is why her daughter attends Salam Nursery at Harrow Primary School

Zainab Kudami and her husband, Mohammed, live in Harrow with their children Adel, eight and Amira, who is nearly four years old and has just finished Salam Nursery at Harrow Primary School.

## Parent's priorities

Every parent has their own reasons for choosing a particular school for their children, and for Zainab and Mohammed their priority was for Adel and Amira to attend a specifically Islamic setting. Initially, they had intended Amira to follow her brother to the school he currently attends after she had finished her year at the Salam Nursery, but they have been so happy with the provision that they have completely reassessed their opinion.

"Amira is very definite in her likes and dislikes and she absolutely loved going to Nursery," says Zainab. "If I am completely honest, I was a little concerned at first about the resources which could be available in a school which was so new, not purpose-built and so small; however, I have been extremely pleased and any fears I may have had have been put to rest."

## A careful balance

maternal but extremely professional at the same time. At one time I had wondered if I should send Amira to Nursery at all as I felt my daughter needed to be with her mother but seeing how she has been treated so well at Harrow Primary I now know I made the right decision. She has learned through play, academically as well as socially, and I couldn't have wished for more."

## Acceptance and inclusion

"I have lived, been educated and worked in countries around the world and I know how vital it is that children should be exposed to everything other faiths and cultures have to offer," she says. "I like that fact that Amira is being taught about Christmas and other faith celebrations – even things like Mother's Day amongst others are acknowledged. This is the real world that we live in, and learning about other cultures promotes tolerance and respect for others."



## Children say

Amira: "I like going to school because I like writing and playing outside. And I like drawing."



# How to find us



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