

BEHAVIOUR & DISCIPLINE POLICY

Good behaviour and discipline are an essential part of academic life at Azhar Academy. The school expects all its students to act not just in accordance to school rules but also in keeping with our Islamic ethos. To this end, each student is given a set of ten class rules and a good 'akhlaq charter' (see below), which are explained to them by their form tutors and/or Islamic coordinators. Pupils are then asked to confirm their agreement to these rules in writing. Both sets of guidelines are also displayed in each classroom in order to help maintain a positive learning environment and develop student responsibility.

CLASSROOM RULES

1. Arrive on time with the necessary books and equipment. Prepare to start work straight away. Always apologise for arriving late for a lesson.
2. Everyone in the classroom should address each other courteously and with respect. Good manners and a high standard of behaviour are required at all times.
3. Teachers alone direct what goes on in the classroom. You should sit, work and behave as the teacher tells you. Never interrupt, be rude to or disobey a teacher.
4. Concentrate hard on your own work and allow others to learn. Do not disrupt others or allow yourself to be distracted. Always raise a hand if you have a question or a contribution to make to the lesson.
5. Complete all class work and homework to the best of your ability. Catch up on any work missed as soon as possible.
6. Dress according to the school uniform code at all times, except when permission is given to the contrary. Do not come to school wearing make-up, jewellery or immodest clothing.
7. Safeguard your tongue from lies, backbiting, slander, gossip and foul language. Do not discuss non-subject related matters during lessons, as it is a distraction.
8. Stay seated at all times unless you are asked to move by the teacher. Do not rock on the chairs or sit on tables as this can cause damage.
9. Eat only at break and lunchtimes, never in class.
10. Keep all books, equipment and property free from graffiti, damage and waste.

Good Akhlaq within the Classroom

Commitment to learning:

- *"To seek knowledge is compulsory on every Muslim."* [Sunan ibn Majah]
- *"Who takes the path hoping for knowledge, Allah makes easy for him the path to Paradise. Verily, the angels lower their wings for the seeker of knowledge out of pleasure of what he is doing. Verily all in the heavens and earth seek forgiveness for the knowledgeable, even the fish in the water. The excellence of the knowledgeable over the servant is like the excellence of the moon on the night of the full moon over all the planets. Verily, the learned are the heirs of the Prophets, the Prophets do not leave dinar or dirham, but they are inherited in knowledge, and he who takes it takes a great bounty."* [Abu Dawood, Ibn Maajah and Ibn Habbaan.]

Good Manners:

- *"Nothing is weightier on the Scale of Deeds than one's good manners."* [Sahih Al-Bukhari]
- *"The Prophet of Allah, upon him be peace, was never obscene or coarse. Rather, he used to tell us that the best among us were those with the best manners."* [Sahih Al-Bukhari]

Respectfulness towards others, especially one's teacher;

- *"He is not of us who does not respect our elderly, show mercy to our youth, and know the rights of those who teach us."* [At-Tirmidhi]
- *"Are those equal, those who know and those who do not know?"* [Al-Zumar, 39: 9]

Safeguarding one's tongue:

- *"He who truly believes in Allah and the Last Day should speak good or keep silent."* [Sahih Muslim]
- *"A true Muslim is he who keeps others safe from his tongue and hands."* [Sahih Al-Bukhari]

Avoidance of grudges and hatred:

- *"It is not lawful to a Muslim not to speak to his brother for more than three days."* [Sahih Muslim]
- *"And do not let the hatred of others make you swerve to wrong and depart from justice. Be just. That is nearer to piety."* [Al-Ma'idah, 5:8]

Humility and self-improvement:

- *"O you who believe! Let not a group scoff at another group, it may be that the latter is better than the former..."* [Al-Hujuraat, 49:11]
- *"Verily, Allah has revealed to me that you should adopt humility. So that no one may wrong another and no one may be disdainful and haughty towards another."* [Sahih Muslim]
- *"Nay, verily, a believer may not twice be bitten from the same hole."* [Sahih Muslim]

Modesty:

- *'Every religion has its characteristic, and the characteristic of Islam is modesty.'* [Muwatta Al-Malik]
- *"Modesty brings nothing but good."* [Sahih Muslim & Bukhari]
- *"Modesty is one portion of belief."* [Sahih Muslim & Bukhari]

Patience and avoidance of anger:

- *"The strong is not the one who overcomes the people by his strength, but the strong is the one who controls himself while in anger"* [Sahih Al-Bukhari]
- *"Kind words and forgiving of faults are better than Sadaqah [charity] followed by injury..."*

[Al-Baqarah, 2: 263]

Honesty:

- "... be with those who are true [in word and deeds]." [Al-Tawbah, 9:119]
- "Verily, truthfulness guides to righteousness and righteousness guides to Paradise..." [Muslim & Bukhari]

Enjoining good and forbidding what is evil:

- "The believers, men and women, are protectors of each other: they enjoin what is right and forbid what is evil." [Al-Tawbah, 9:71]
- "Whoever amongst you sees an evil should change it with his hand. If he is unable to do that then with his tongue. If he is unable to do that, then with his heart, and that is the weakest level of Iman." [Muslim]

Being mindful of one's time and remembering Allah [SWT]:

- "By time! Surely the human being is at loss. Except for those who have faith and do righteous deeds and exhort one another to truth and exhort one another to patience." [Al-Asr].
- "Surely in the remembrance of Allah do hearts find rest." [Ar-Ra'd, 13:28].

MANAGING INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR

The school has a structured and well-defined disciplinary procedure for incidences in which pupils breach school rules/guidelines. Pupils displaying inappropriate behaviour are initially given either a verbal explanation or warning by their subject teacher. This is followed by a written referral to their Form Tutor and Islamic co-coordinator, who also discuss their behaviour with them. Following three referrals a pupil is given a detention. If there is no subsequent change in their behaviour or attitude, they are subject to a disciplinary review with the Deputy Head once the pupil has reached three detentions. Pupils are then placed on report for one to two weeks during which time their conduct in school is closely monitored by members of staff. The school normally contacts their parents at this stage who are invited in to discuss their daughter's conduct.

Any subsequent or ongoing misbehaviour will result in further monitoring of the pupil in the form of another report and then a suspension from the Academy. Such a step is not usually taken without prior consultation with the pupil's parents, as the school firmly believes in working with both pupils and their parents in order to promote positive and inclusive outcomes for all its students.

In instances where pupils continue to or seriously breach either the school rules or Islamic ethos, this procedure may be overridden on the discretion of the Headteacher and a pupil may be suspended or on rare occasions, even expelled in keeping with guidelines from the DfES.

REWARDING GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Positive behaviour and achievement (academic and non-academic) in the school is continuously reinforced by teacher comment, recognition in form time, assembly and the school newsletter, displaying work, letter to parents, certificates as well as a merit system (as detailed earlier). The school also has a Prefect system as well as a Head Girl who is appointed yearly. These students are encouraged to act as role models for their peers and also given certain privileges as well as responsibilities.