



**SOUTHAMPTON ISLAMIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Prospectus 2017/18**

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*With the name of Allah, the Most Merciful, the Most Kind*

## WELCOME

Fitrah Southampton Islamic Primary School (SIPS) aims to provide a holistic learning experience for every child to a consistently high standard.

We are a faith-based, independent day school for boys and girls aged 5 to 11-years-old, Primary Year 1 to Year 6.

The school is designated as a school with religious character by the Department for Education under the Religious Character of Schools (Designation Procedure) (Independent Schools) (England) Regulations 2003(c).

We welcome applications from all children irrespective of race or religion. The school follows principles of mainstream Sunni Islam and is firmly non-political.

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*"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world.  
Today I am wise, so I am changing myself." Rumi*

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We consider it important to lay the best possible foundations for our pupils so that good behaviour, exceptional manners and high moral standards are cultivated to inspire children to:

- have high aspirations;
- fulfil their potential; and
- make a positive impact on society.

More information on our ethos, vision, mission and educational aims can be found on our website [www.fitrahschool.com](http://www.fitrahschool.com). A short film of the school can also be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV5DpaY2Fh8>

Thank you for taking an interest in our school – we look forward to you joining us on this journey to nurture excellence in every child that we have the privilege of educating further.

## The school, the curriculum and the team

The school has a single main entrance and is set in a multi-purpose building set over three floors with an IT suite and library. The school has a non-smoking policy that applies to both the school buildings and grounds.

Visitors entering the building will be requested to sign the visitors' book and wear a visitor badge, which is to be displayed prominently at all times. In cases when parents cannot pick their child, the School requests all parents, carers and guardians to complete a form giving details of who they give permission to for collecting their child.

Given the densely populated areas of St Marys and Newtown, parking is restricted so we encourage parents to walk or use public transport. In cases where parents have no option but to drive, then we insist that they park in a sensible place and walk their child safely to the main entrance. If driving to school, adults are requested not to park close to the building. Parents or other adults who routinely park inconsiderately (e.g. in front of neighbours' driveways, on *keep clear* markings or street corners) run a safety hazard as well as the risk of losing their child's place at school. The school management will issue a warning and notify the police and other authorities to take further action if inconsiderate and/or dangerous parking continues.

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*Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today. Malcolm X*

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The school currently has access to the nearby Ropewalk Community Garden for break and lunch times, with secure storage facilities housing play equipment and games for pupils to use. For PE, Fitrah SIPS use the hall at the school building as well as venues including:

- The Quays Swimming and Diving Complex (for swimming)
- Newtown Youth Centre (for football and multi-games)
- The Outdoor Sports Centre (for Athletics and Sports Day)

Fitrah SIPS has its own mini-bus that is used regularly for school trips and for transporting pupils to/from PE lessons taking place outside of the St Marys/Newtown area. Its distinctive yellow colour and cheerful driver make this a popular attraction among pupils and passers-by!

Fitrah SIPS is currently structured in a mixed-year, mixed-ability set-up to reinforce peer learning and mastery of subjects being taught. Our class structure is:

- Infants – Years 1 and 2
- Lower juniors – Years 3 and 4
- Upper juniors – Years 5 and 6

All pupils enter school initially in September, although if places allow and if there is minimal disruption to the class, we do accept new pupils' by the start of the second term in January. Pupil progress through the school and transition between key stages is monitored carefully by staff and opportunities are provided to make such transition as smooth as possible. Our friendly staff and emphasis on pastoral care

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*You are the sum total of everything you've ever seen,  
heard, eaten, smelled, been told, forgot - it's all there.  
Everything influences each of us, and because of that I try  
to make sure that my experiences are positive.*

Maya Angelou

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makes it easier for pupils to settle into class be prepared for transition across academic years as well as entering into secondary school. We encourage parents looking to send their child to our school to attend scheduled open days and, where appropriate, to arrange for a private viewing at a time/date that is convenient to them. If their child is able to come that has great merit in them being able to see for themselves what takes place. Fitrah SIPS adopts the National Curriculum and contemporary assessment methods as found in mainstream schools.

**Key features of our curriculum include:**

- English, Maths, Science, PE, Qur'an (with Tajweed) and Arabic as core subjects;
- Cross-curricular/topic work to enrich pupils' learning experience. A unique feature of our topic work is the infusion with Islamic references and contemporary views to ensure all pupils receive a grounded interpretation of knowledge;
- Islamic studies; and
- Citizenship education, interwoven with PSHE, SEAL and Religious Education.

To deliver such a high-class, holistic education requires a dedicated team behind it. At Fitrah SIPS we are blessed to have a diverse pool of staff committed to the wellbeing of every pupil. The core team comprises of:

- Ali Rahmoune = School Manager
- Aspia Sumi = Infant teacher / Curriculum coordinator
- Emman Zidan-Zyada = Head of teaching and learning
- Nouha Saber = Lower Juniors teacher
- Raiedah Al-Khani = Quran and Arabic teacher
- Naglaa Bahgaat = Quran and Arabic teacher
- Lubna Riaz = Teaching Assistant
- Paiman Qadir = Teaching Assistant
- Shehzadi Jan = Administrator
- Saido Abdi = Cleaner

A typical school week will have, in addition to curriculum-based lessons, the following features spread over each class timetable and delivered by our amazing team:

## FITRAH SOUTHAMPTON ISLAMIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



The school is also supported by a committed team of volunteers and hosts placements from City College that are looking to pursue a career in education or childcare. Further details on our staff and their qualifications can be obtained on request from the school office at [info@fitrahsips.com](mailto:info@fitrahsips.com). As for the Governing Body, they include:

- Chair of Governing Body: Sabir Amir
- Secretary to the Governing Body: Ahmed Zyada
- Treasurer to the Governing Body: Nazrul Chaudhery

Wider members of the school's governing body take responsibility for different aspects of the school's operations, such as safeguarding, school improvement, curriculum, wellbeing and site management. If you want to write to the Chair of Governors, Mr Sabir Amin, you may do so by calling him 07711 989187 or in writing at the following address: Fitrah SIPS, 55 Northumberland Road, Southampton, SO14 0EJ

## Communication

A close partnership is sought between the school and parents/carers, which demonstrates a commitment to work collectively for the education and wellbeing of all children.

A key vehicle in this process is the Home-School Agreement document, which is issued to every pupil and their parent/carer at the start of the academic year and every new pupil that joins during the academic year. This is supported by reports being issued at the end of each term and an opportunity to discuss academic progress and the wellbeing between the class teacher and parents/carers through scheduled meetings.

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*Perfection is not attainable, but if we  
chase perfection we can catch excellence*  
Vince Lombardi

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For example, parental engagement is through review and target setting meetings held during the autumn and spring terms to help keep them informed about the curriculum, their child's progress and next steps. These meetings include sharing ideas for reinforcing learning at home and discussion about the wellbeing of the child. Parents are also regularly kept informed about school events, such as Parents' Evenings, as well as issues and notices through:

- Letters
- School SMS service
- Emails
- School Facebook
- School website

If parents have any concern or issue that they wish to raise with their child's class teacher worries about their child, the class teacher should be approached initially, preferably at the end of the school day. Aside from the scheduled parents evening, we seek to engage parents on a wider range of school matters – we want parents to work closely in the school's development and in supporting learning activities e.g. guided reading, art sessions, trips etc. If you are interested in helping please contact the school office in the first instance.

All school policies are available online from the school website [www.fitrahschool.com](http://www.fitrahschool.com) and in hard copy from the school office, which includes policies on behaviour; bullying prevention; child protection and health & safety.

## School performance

Since the school first entered pupils for end of Key Stage 2 examinations in 2012, 100% of pupils registered for SATs have achieved the national pass rate. In relation to attendance, figures over the last three years show an average of 95% annual attendance across all three classes, which shows the dedication and enthusiasm of both pupils and their parents/carers.

## School calendar

Fitrah SIPS typically aligns its academic year to that of schools across Southampton to ensure consistency in scheduling of terms and holidays as well as to maximize learning opportunities, achievements and outcomes for its pupils.

There will be occasions where Fitrah SIPS needs to accommodate days for religious observance and staff training (or INSET), which is communicated in advance to parents/carers and published as a notice on the school website and Facebook page.

For 2017/18, the schedule is as follows:

	Term dates
Autumn 1	6 September to 20 October
Autumn 2	30 October to 21 December
Spring 1	8 January to 9 February
Spring 2	19 February to 29 March
Summer 1	17 April to 25 May
Summer 2	4 June to 20 July

In addition to the public holidays, the school will also be closed on 14 and 15 June 2018 for observance of the Islamic festival of Eid ul Fitr.

## Leave during term time

The school takes a compassionate approach to leave taken during term time. But this is in exceptional circumstances only that relates to the terminal illness or death of a close relative to a pupil at the school. In all cases, parents/carers will have to complete a holiday request form whereupon the school will review attendance records, pupil progress and behaviour and issue a learning plan – where appropriate – to ensure that learning of pupils having to take leave during term time is not adversely affected. The school can only authorise a limited number of days for authorised absence and will issue fines for leave that is not authorised.

We request parents/carers to review our attendance policy to ensure they are familiar with the school's guidelines.

## Healthy living

Fitrah SIPS emphasizes to all pupils the importance of good nourishment of the body and soul to live a fulfilling and productive life.

We make sure pupils are given an opportunity to develop healthy lifestyles as part of their personal development and encourage physical/mental activities at break and lunch times as well as part of PE lessons. As healthy living is directly linked with cleanliness, we request parents/carers ensure their child arrives at school in clean, well presented school uniform; with their nails clipped and kept clean; in well-kept/tidy hair for boys and without jewellery and strictly no make-up for girls.



All this is reflected our PSHE curriculum and spiritual development activities, which provide a clear focus for all pupils to work towards and permeate through to all our policies including on lunch.

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Ibn Abbas reported: The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said, "There are two blessings which many people waste: health and free time."

Source: Ṣaḥīḥ al-Bukhārī 6049

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All parents/carers are to give their child only healthy foods, drinks and snacks for their packed-lunch and breaks.

We advise you to avoid giving drinks in cartons. Drinks in plastic bottles are preferred as these may be resealed. Water is preferred. Please note that the school cannot heat any child's food or drink. As children tend to eat and drink during their break, we advise you to ensure they have a sufficient amount of fluids and foods for each day. The school strongly recommends that children bring fresh or dried fruits and a diluted fruit juice with their packed lunches.

The following foods and fluids are not allowed:

- ✗ Chocolates
- ✗ Fizzy drinks, including sparkling water
- ✗ Energy drinks
- ✗ Crisps
- ✗ Sweets, including chewing/bubble gum
- ✗ Fried food
- ✗ Cold rice/curries/pizza
- ✗ Meat and Poultry (cold meat slices are allowed)

There are occasions where teachers will reward pupils with chocolates, cakes, pizza and fruit juice at authorised school events, so please make sure your allergy forms are up to date. We expect every pupil to have had breakfast before arriving at school.

## School Uniform

Fitrah SIPS works in partnership with Skoolkit [www.skoolkit.co.uk](http://www.skoolkit.co.uk) to provide high quality school uniform items for its pupils. Skoolkit supply the following compulsory items:

- Girls: pinafore
- Boys: jumper, white short sleeve polo shirt, navy sweatshirt
- PE bag

A full list of uniform items for boys and girls and guidance where this can be purchased is available from the school office.

## School Fees

The school fees for 2017/18 are £2400 per child.

There is a 10% discount for the second child from the same family and 15% discount for the third child from the same family. The payment schedule is as follows per pupil:

- One-off payment of £2400
- Two payments of 2 x £1200
- Quarterly payments of 4 x £600
- Direct debit monthly payment 12 X £200 (September till August)
- Cash monthly payment 10 X £240 (September till June)

## Trips

Fitrah SIPS has a rich history for school trips that combine experiential learning as well as heaps of fun! We also arrange for activities such as breakfast meetings, participation in city-wide film and sports festivals and visits to Waterstones for World Book Day.

Our trip schedule typically includes:

- Local museums and aquariums such as Tudor House, Sea City, British Museum, Winchester Science Centre and Museum, Butser Ancient Farm, Beaulieu and Sea Life Centre;
- Educative natural settings such as Moors Valley Country Park, Longdown Dairy Farm, Lepe Country Park, Manor Farm, Gleneagles Equestrian Centre, West Wittering, Birdworld, Hillier Gardens; and
- Recreational end of year treats to places such as Paultons Park and Legoland.

## Admissions

Information on admissions can be made by contacting the school office where an admissions pack will be given. Alternatively you can download information from the school website at:

<http://www.fitrahschool.com/1/admissions>.

The School will admit children with Special Educational Needs but on a case by case basis after meeting with the parents/carers and assessing the learning and development needs of the child. Similarly with children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) we will strive to cater for their needs also. In both cases the wellbeing of the child is paramount.

Any other questions that you may have can be answered by visiting our website

<http://www.fitrahschool.com/6/faqs>

## Annex A – Safeguarding statement

Fitrah Sips Ltd. considers every child to be an amanah – trust, from parents and from Allah. We believe that we are under obligation to work sincerely towards fulfilling our aims and promises.

Our Child Protection Policy seeks to support the development of all pupils at Fitrah Sips Ltd. School in ways that will foster security, confidence and independence. It should be regarded as vital to the well-being of the individual and important in promoting the pastoral goals of the school. It provides a model for open and effective communication between children, teachers, parents and other adults working with children. The safety and welfare of the child is paramount and must over-ride all other considerations.

Our children have the right to safety and protection, regardless of age, gender, race, culture or disability in our school and the school's policy and procedures will be applied fairly and consistently to all children and staff working in the school.

In our school we respect our children and strive to care for their individual needs. The atmosphere within our school is one that encourages all children to do their best. We provide opportunities that enable our children to make decisions for themselves.

Our teaching of personal, social and health education and citizenship, as part of the National Curriculum, helps to develop appropriate attitudes in our children and makes them aware of the impact of their decisions on others. We also teach them how to recognise different risks in different situations, and how to behave responsibly, with emotional intelligence and wisdom, in response to them.

This policy is made available to all parents on the school website and in hard copy on request from the school office. This is made clear in the school's Prospectus given to all prospective parents and the school's Parents' Handbook given to parents of children enrolled at the school. This policy has been developed in accordance with the local authority's (Southampton) model Safeguarding Children policy for schools. It is thus also in accordance with the principles established by the Children Act 1989 and 2004; and in line with the following:

- "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2013
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2014 (Appendix 1)
- Southampton MASH Multi - Agency Safeguarding Hub Guide for Professionals
- "Use of reasonable force: Advice for head teachers, staff and governing bodies" 2013
- Channel: Vulnerability assessment framework October 2012