



Al Risalah Secondary School

Prospectus

*“Excellence in education, values
and community links”*

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Part of the Al Risalah Trust Family



Al Risalah Secondary School



Assalaamu alaykum warahmatullahi wa barakatuh

“My Lord, increase me in knowledge.”

Welcome to Al Risalah Secondary School,

From the time Al Risalah School first opened its doors, it has been committed to one fundamental aim: providing a first class education for all of our pupils. An education grounded in the tradition of academic rigour. We focus on developing our pupils the skills and confidence to face the challenge and enjoy the opportunities of life in the 21st century. While at the same time inculcating in them the character and religion to live as a true Muslim in today’s wider society. We want our pupils to leave Al Risalah both academically and spiritually strong, becoming ambassadors of Islam and valuable members of British society.

Academic standards are high and our results speak for themselves. We foster a commitment to lifelong learning and a commitment to achieving one's personal best. Our learners matter to us. They are all individuals, known well by the staff who teach them. Here they will be challenged, not pressurised, into achieving their individual best.

What makes Al Risalah School so special? It is truly special due to equal importance given to both our faith and education. We pride ourselves on the breadth of culture and background our pupils represent. Al Risalah School pupils are proud of their school and we are proud of them.

Our prospectus can only offer a glimpse into the life of the school, please also check our school website (www.alrisalahschool.co.uk). We have Open Days for prospective parents and pupils, however informal visits can always be arranged. We are only a phone call away.

Pupils, staff and I look forward to meeting you and your son or daughter and welcoming you to our school.

Suhayl Lee

Mr. Suhayl Lee

Headteacher

Contents

Mission Statement	4
Aims	5
Introduction	6
Brief History of Al Risalah	6
School Management	7
Inclusion	8
Curriculum	9 - 10
Facilities	11
School Uniform	12
SMSC	13 - 14
Policies	15
Admissions	15
Complaints' Procedure	16

Mission Statement

In the Name of Allah the Most Kind the Most Merciful

Praise belongs to Allah, Lord of the worlds, the All-Merciful and may His blessings and peace be upon our beloved Prophet (*peace and blessings be upon him*) and the other Messengers of God.



'Al Risalah has set a clear foundation for me both academically and Islamically with its welcoming teachers and pupils, Al Risalah has truly been my second home.' Former Year 11 student

Mission Statement

With sincerity and for the pleasure of Allah, in collaboration with the parent community, our aim is to establish and promote Islamic Schools that provides a broad and balanced education, instills Islamic values, promotes community cohesion and awareness of responsibility towards Allah, His Rasool (*peace and blessings be upon him*) and humanity.

Praise belongs to Allah, the Lord of all the worlds, the All-Merciful, the Very merciful. The Master of the Day of Judgement. You alone do we worship, and from you alone do we seek help. Take us on the straight path- the path of those on whom you have bestowed your grace, not of those who have incurred your wrath, nor of those who have gone astray. Aameen Al Qura'an - Surah Fatiha (Chapter 1)



Aims

- ✓ Al Risalah Education Trust is an Islamic organisation. Thus, we promote the values of the Qur'aan and Sunnah in our policies and procedures.
- ✓ Al Risalah secondary school is part of the Al Risalah Trust whose schools are an Islamic community in the fullest sense.
- ✓ Al Risalah promotes the universal values of honesty, fairness, justice and equality, and the values of Islam of taqwa, sabr, sunnah, and the love of Allah and our beloved Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him).
- ✓ Al Risalah aims to prepare its pupils for their lives as adults in view of equipping pupils to carry the Islamic beliefs, practices and values with confidence as set out in the Qur'aan and Sunnah. Alongside this core ethos, Al Risalah aims to equally equip students with life skills in order to be role model citizens, ambassadors for Islam as well as good Muslims.
- ✓ We work towards promoting community cohesion that helps and allows children to integrate with the local, national and global society at large.
- ✓ Al Risalah aims to achieve high education standards, encourage the pursuit of excellence, reward outstanding effort, and provide the means for all students to realize their full potential within a caring and safe environment.

'Al Risalah provides an excellent environment for children to develop and excel academically, morally and spiritually' Governor

Introduction

Parents have a very important responsibility in the upbringing of their children. Each child is a special gift from our Lord and an amanah. Amongst the many responsibilities of a parent one of the most important one is to ensure that their child is provided with sound religious training as well as quality education.

In Islam the pursuit of knowledge and education is compulsory for both males and females.

Al Risalah School is a community-based organisation which seeks to advance the education of all children irrespective of race, religion, creed or cultural heritage. It is an organisation deeply committed to our faith and which is open to innovative and effective solutions to the mounting challenges of our multicultural and multi-faith British society.

The school is part of a worldwide Muslim Schools' movement based on the belief that the ultimate solution for mankind lies within the teaching of the Holy Qur'aan (with which Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'aala has blessed us in His infinite wisdom) and the example (Sunnah) of His final Messenger, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings *be upon him*).

Brief History of Al Risalah

With the grace of Allah, local Muslims who were concerned about their children's education in both the state and private schools founded the Balham Preparatory School. The School opened its doors in September 1993, providing a Nursery, Reception class, Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. It started with only eight children and three teachers.

To date the school has expanded with a separate Nursery and over 200 students on roll at our Secondary School. In addition the Trust has 2 primary schools both in the local South West London community. The Secondary School plays a vital role in the community today.

First and foremost it provides an Islamic, segregated environment in which boys and girls can study separately in comfort and safety, creating peace of mind for both parents and children. Al Risalah aims to overcome the barriers and issues young Muslims face in today's day and age.



School Management

The Governing Body

A Board of Governors (Shura) oversees the running of the School through the Board of Management.

The Shura is the policy-making body of the School with responsibility for administration and development, and it plays a very important role in the smooth running of the school. Listed below are the members.

Y. Bobat (Chairman)
H.Karim (Deputy Chairman)

Other Members

A. Niazi, F. Valimahomed, N. Bawany, A. Jussab, Director of Education, Head Teacher

Administration

The Senior Management Team is:

NAME	POSITION
Maksud Gangat	Director of Education (Al Risalah Education Trust)
Suhayl Lee	Head Teacher

Director of Education

The Director of Education is Sheikh Maksud Gangat, whose task it is to oversee the smooth running of all the different schools which fall under the Al Risalah Education Trust, namely Al Risalah Nursery, Gatton Primary, Orchard Primary School and Al Risalah Secondary. Sheikh Maksud also plays a vital role in maintaining a link between all the schools and supporting in preserving the ethos of the Trust.

'I am very pleased and satisfied with the staff and school.' Parent

Contact details during term time:

Al Risalah School,
145 Upper Tooting Road,
London, SW17 7TJ
Tel: 020 87676057
Fax: 020 87677604

admin@alrisalahschool.co.uk

Contact details during holiday time:

07968389490: Sheikh Maksud
020 8682 5570: Gatton School

'The environment is friendly and Islamic. The students are lovely and they inspire me to further my education and to be a good Muslim.' Year 11 Student

'I have learnt a variety of skills in Al Risalah, ranging from Math's & English to becoming fluent in reading the Quran to learning how to speak Arabic.' Year 9 Student

Inclusion

Form Tutors

Each student is allocated a form class. Form tutors are responsible for the day-to-day welfare of students including carrying out student inductions, registering their attendance and offering information, guidance and support.



Student Welfare

Al Risalah School aims to ensure the safety of its students. Our staff are trained in safeguarding children and we also have designated Child Protection Officers who oversee the child protection policy and implementation.

Parent / School Partnership

Al Risalah School is very keen to work closely with parents and the community. to improve and develop the school's and its students' success.

The school currently has a PTFA; Parents Teachers and Friends Association which meet on a regular basis. We strongly believe that it is important for parents to be on board with the school's development and take an active role in their child's education and schooling.

Al Risalah School also promotes strong communication between the school and parents. The school uses the Al Risalah website and also issues a regular newsletter with important updates and information. We also use an online system which parents can use to view their child's progress, attendance and other important information.

We have recently introduced a parent texting service which enables us to easily update parents on day to day issues.

Parents are also more than welcome to contact the school and any member of staff via email or the school office.

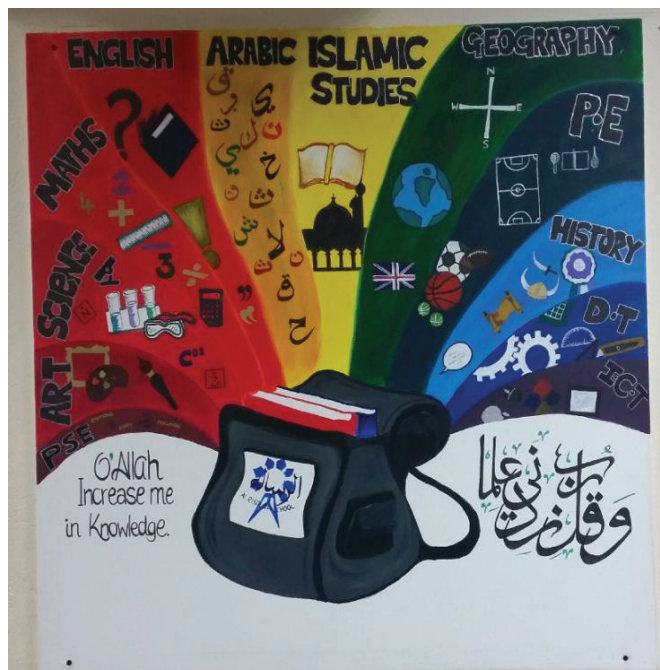
Parents' Handbook

Once a child has been offered a place, parents are provided with a handbook which gives detailed information about the school. Pupils are also provided with a Homework Diary which helps in maintaining regular communication between parents and the school staff.

Curriculum

Our teachers are dedicated to the ethos of Al Risalah and are committed to helping our learners develop both spiritually, academically and morally. The Islamic ethos of the School is protected by a panel of suitably experienced and qualified Ulama who are available for teaching and nurturing the pupils' Islamic development.

The Al Risalah curriculum reflects the values of multi-cultural/faith of British society and integrates the National Curriculum alongside Islamic Studies to provide a broad education. More specifically, the subjects covered are as follows:



National Curriculum (Key Stage 3)		Islamic Studies (Key Stage 3)	
Arabic	History	Qur'aan	Tawheed
Art	Mathematics	Hifz	Du'aas and Etiquette
English	Physical Education	Different faiths	Different Cultures & Festivals
Geography	PSHE	Islamic Studies	Akhlaaq (Morals)
Computing	Science	Hadeeth	Fiqh
		Recitation	Islamic History

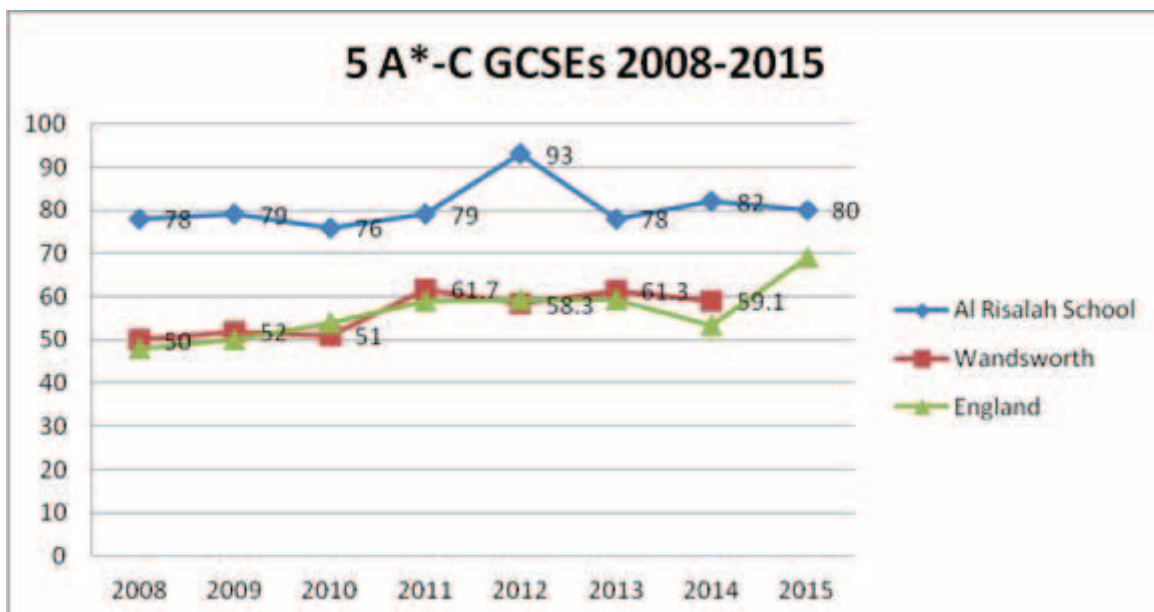
'Al Risalah for me has been more like a family with its both welcoming and loving atmosphere. It has definitely set me in good stead for my future.' Former Year 11 Student

GCSE's are offered in the following subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Core Science
- Additional Science
- Further Additional Science (*conditional*)
- History
- Arabic
- ICT
- Religious Studies
- Islamic Studies (*Awarding body Al Risalah School*)



Al Risalah School GCSE Results in comparison to local and national results



Facilities

The whole curriculum is enhanced by our facilities. The school has invested in delivering the best environment for our pupils. These include:

- Interactive smartboards in all classrooms
- New library area
- New computers and school network system
- Science technician and refurbishment of Science laboratory
- Enhancement of PE Department
- Changing room
- Shower facilities
- Online merit reward system with 'school shop' to purchase items.
- Dedicated rooms for Prefects and Hall Monitors
- Student Council Forum



School Uniform

Girls	Boys
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain White Headscarf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain White Topee (may be purchased at school)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Abayah. (Material purchased at school) • Dark blue or Black trousers (no jeans) • <u>Plain</u> Black cardigan with school badge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dark Grey or Black trousers • White shirt • School tie (purchased at school) • <u>Plain Black</u> V-neck sweatshirt (optional) • Black blazer with school badge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain Grey, Navy Blue or Black Socks • Plain black school shoes, no high heels, plimsoles or trainers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plain Grey, Navy Blue or Black Socks • Plain black school shoes, no plimsoles or trainers.

The girls' uniform material can be purchased at the school with the pattern of how it should be sewn, and the boys' uniform can be purchased from any supplier.

General appearance is important as well as the correct uniform and parents have a responsibility to ensure that their children arrive at school neat and tidy.

The Prophet Muhammad (*peace be upon him*) said the seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim. (Tirmidhi)



'My experience at the School has been extremely positive and I am confident that our students are getting a broad, balanced and enriched curriculum. The students are a pleasure to teach and there is a great learning culture.'
Staff Member

Spiritual, Moral, Social, Cultural (SMSC)

Al Risalah School aims to provide an education that focuses on developing pupils in all aspects of their lives, both as adherents to the Islamic faith and citizens of multicultural Britain. Al Risalah School firmly believes that both of these perspectives sit in harmony with each other, and are not in conflict with each other. We also recognise that the personal development of pupils, spiritually, morally, socially and culturally plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve and develops their skills so as to be able to make an active contribution to both the community and world at large.



The school is a close-knit community where pupils will find acceptance for themselves as unique individuals. Pupils will, within this small environment, gain cultural awareness, respect and tolerance of those of other faiths and backgrounds.

Pupils are encouraged to explore and develop their own values, spiritual awareness, along with high standards of personal behaviour, all under the broad framework of Islamic teachings, British and wider universal values.



Al Risalah School places a strong emphasis on building positive, caring attitudes towards others, an understanding of their social and cultural traditions and an appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures.

The school community will be a place where pupils will learn to differentiate between right and wrong in as far as how their actions affect other people or society at large.

In order to develop pupils' SMSC we believe that it is extremely important to have close links with the local and global communities. We play an important role in promoting shared values and encouraging our pupils to actively engage with other people in the community to understand what common ground there is.

Enrichment

Al Risalah has established great links with the local community. We work closely with businesses, charities and organisations to offer our students a range of programmes both in and after school. These range from interfaith workshops, sports clubs, charity events and workshops. Al Risalah is also part of a schools linking programme which allows our pupils to meet and learn about students from different cultural and faith backgrounds.



Policies

All of the main school policies, including our full admissions policy, are available for parents to view on request at the School Office or School website (www.alrisalahschool.co.uk)

Besides the curriculum policies, the school has detailed policies in the following areas:

- Anti-Bullying
- Behaviour
- Complaints Policy
- Safeguarding/Child Protection
- First Aid
- School Trips
- Health & Safety
- Teaching & Learning

Should any parent wish to obtain any policy, please contact the school office or they can be downloaded from the school website.

Admissions

Parents wishing to enroll their children should apply before the closing date of January 31st before the September that they wish to join, and follow the admission procedure, which is:

An Application Form must be filled in and presented with a photocopy of your child's birth certificate, a photocopy of a recent utility bill, and a photocopy of the applicant's latest school report.

The applicant will be invited to sit an entrance examination. There is an initial fee of £50 to sit the entrance examination, which is non-refundable.

Al Risalah will contact your child's previous school to obtain an up-to-date report.

Applicants will be invited for an interview with the Head Teacher dependant on their test and report.

Successful applicants will be offered a place at Al Risalah School.

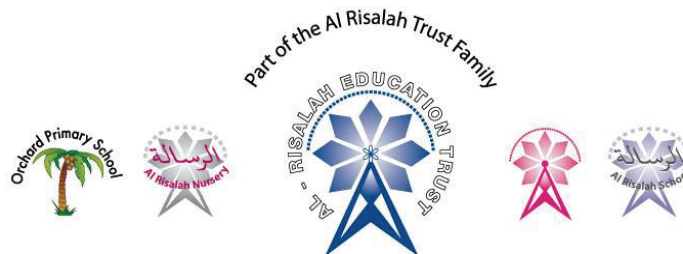
The School entrance examinations will be held at the end of January or early February. The results of the entrance examination will be given in early April. Any applications at any other time are subject to the availability of places.

Please note that the admission is subject to availability of a place, results of the entrance test, timely payment of fees, the past school record , and an interview.

Applications made at other times of the year will follow a similar procedure. In such cases, the school will inform families of applicants when an entrance examination can be arranged, which may not be immediately.

Complaints' Procedure

If you wish to obtain a copy of the complaints' procedure, please contact the school office. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place may be made in writing to the Director of Education via the school office.



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