

## Halal School Meals Update Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010



Assalamu 'Alaikum

Dear Parents

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and faith, Ameen.

On behalf of the Halal Sub Group of the Lancashire Council of Mosques (LCM), I am taking this opportunity of providing you with the latest update regarding Halal school meals.

Regarding school meals, the schools of Lancashire fall into two categories:

### **1. Under contract with Lancashire County Council (LCC)**

Lancashire County Council (LCC) provides catering services to 560 schools of Lancashire. Currently, 47 of these schools are contracted to obtain their meat & poultry supplies from a HMC (Halal Monitoring Committee) certified supplier. HMC is currently the only organisation that fulfils the LCM Halal criterion.

As these 47 LCC schools have not as yet directly approached the HMC for accreditation, LCM does not take the responsibility of giving the assurance that all their products are Halal. However, LCC has requested LCM to inform parents that these 47 schools are legally bound to purchase only HMC products. This is the current arrangement and LCM will be notified if any changes take place. LCC also confirm that there are robust systems in place in these schools to ensure there is no cross contamination. LCM acknowledges the efforts of LCC and will continue to work together to take this to the next level of HMC accreditation.

### **2. Self managed schools**

There are a number of schools in Lancashire that self-manage their catering. This includes managing the sourcing of Halal meat and poultry supplies. LCM has been informed that although a number of these self managed schools purchase from a HMC certified supplier, they also have the right to buy from other suppliers who may not be following the LCM Halal criterion. From these self managed schools, one has recently applied for HMC accreditation. Once again, LCM does not take the responsibility of giving the assurance that all the products at self managed schools are Halal.

Parents are requested to check with the schools regarding the status of the school as regards Halal meals. If it is a LCC school, the parents should request the school to be accredited by HMC so that the LCM can give the assurance that the schools are supplying genuine Halal products according to the LCM criterion. If it is a self managed school, parents first need to ascertain where the products are coming from and then request the school to apply for HMC accreditation. Finally, so far there is only one school Tauheedul Islam Girls High School and 6<sup>th</sup> Form College, a self managed school which has been certified by HMC.

If you would like further clarifications, please contact Moulana Hanif (07792 465864) or Moulana Yusuf (07828 599321).

Request for duas.

Wassalamu 'Alaikum

Salim Mulla (Chair of the LCM Halal Sub-Group)