



Hairstyles / Haircut & Clothing Policy

Introduction

Modesty is part of our Iman¹ (faith, belief), it is a trait that every believer must adopt in every aspect of life, from our clothing, manners, morals, character, speech, gaze... the list is endless. Modesty is something that has slowly diminished in the communities we live in and the pressure and influence of what is described as a “modern culture” has led to a rise in immorality, shamelessness, nudity, lack of chastity and lots more. These ill traits are regarded as “empowerment”, when they are nothing but vice that erodes a person’s Iman, character and morals.

For our children, the education of modesty begins from our homes². The habits we expose them to, the principles we highlight and promote will have a lifelong impact on the spiritual wellbeing of our offspring. This policy specifically looks at two important aspects:

1. Hairstyles
2. Clothing

Inculcating good habits

As parents, it is our responsibility that we instil good habits, manners and morals from as early as possible. These habits (Allah willing) will one day become an integral part of our child’s life, and with the correct intention will be a source of reward (Thawaab) for us³.

Many a time we see young children imitating the walk / character of those in the film / music (and even sports) industry, this is nothing but a first step towards behaviour that results in:

- Arrogance (where there is little or no concern for manners, morals and respect).
- Selfishness.
- Arrogance.
- Enormous egos.
- Lack of gratitude.

It is these vices that blind our children from intelligence and common sense.

¹ الحياء شعبة من الإيمان (متفق عليه)

² ما نحل والد ولده من نحل أفضل من أرب حسن (ترمذي)

³ الدال على الخير كفاعله (ترمذي)

Where parents fail to address issues of modesty and good behaviour (allowing excessive indulgence), or worse, they fail to appreciate their relevance and importance, the result is:

- Arrogant and haughty behaviour⁴.
- Strong sense of entitlement.
- Requiring excessive admiration / praise for anything and everything.
- Verbally abusive (to almost everyone).
- Constantly acting like a spoilt child feeling entitled to everything.
- Rejection of rules and boundaries.

The aim of your Madrasah is to work in partnership with parents, with the aim of helping our children.

Haircut / Hairstyle

1. Having a “modest hairstyle” without the associated razzmatazz of extreme haircuts keeps you within the boundaries of humbleness, humility and decency.
2. Over the last few years we have experienced children adopting hairstyles which are not only contradictory to the Sunnah, they are often of a nature that reflects a “gang/punk” culture.
3. It is often parents who initially promote this hairstyle, sometimes out of a lack of awareness or following prevalent cultures and norms. Our aim from this policy is to raise awareness and promote a hairstyle that is modest and according to Sunnah.
4. Shaving part of the hair and keeping part of it (either in the middle, or on the sides or vice versa – known in Arabic as Qaza’) has been explicitly forbidden in the Ahadith (narrated by both Bukhari and Muslim⁵). This is not the hairstyle of noble, virtuous and Allah-fearing individuals.

It was the habit of our prophet ﷺ to have the hair all one length.

5. The famous phrase “you are what you eat” highlights to us that the food one eats *has a bearing on one's state of mind and health*. Similarly, the way one dresses, their facial features, including hairstyle also reflects⁶ upon one's character, morality and principles. Hairstyles of the above nature are associated with those in the music, film and sports industries, and often used by gangs as “badges of membership”.
6. Recently, we have been made aware of some of the “strict codes of conduct” adopted by various high schools which our pupils attend, this includes strict policies on hair, uniform, and even skirt length (for girls).

⁴ Sadly, we are seeing more and more of this type of behaviour, where some children simply refuse and rebel against principles and boundaries.

⁵ عَنْ ابْنِ عُيَيْنَةَ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمَا أَنَّ رَسُولَ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ (كَهَى عَنْ الْقَزَعِ) . قِيلَ لِنَافِعٍ: مَا الْقَزَعُ؟ قَالَ: "أَنْ يَجْلُقَ بَعْضُ رَأْسِ الصَّبِيِّ وَيَتْرَكَ بَعْضَهُ" (متفق عليه)

⁶ من تشبه بقوم فهو منهم (أبو داؤد)

As a Madrasah, to date we have been extremely tolerant over the various haircuts of children, mostly advising and motivating both pupils and parents. However, as hairstyles are getting worse and worse, and as children tend to imitate their peers to fit in, the problem has significantly magnified. We now need to adopt a more formal policy, just like schools.

Our policy - Hairstyles

1. From 3rd September 2018 pupils must have a hairstyle that is in accordance to the Sunnah.
2. Hairstyles that fall under the description of Qaza' will no longer be permitted (the hair must be equal on all sides of your child's head)⁷.
3. As part of our policy on haircuts / hairstyles, we will give 7 days to rectify the haircut.
4. We want parents to appreciate the reason for this policy. This will not only enhance cooperation, it will also motivate you towards adopting the prophetic (Sunnah) method.
5. Parents and children often make the lame excuse of "the barber just did it". No barber does anything without the explicit consent of the customer. Thus, please avoid such excuses and help your child in adopting a hairstyle in accordance with prophetic teachings.
6. We are giving ample notice of this policy, allowing parents to rectify hairstyles that are not in accordance with the Sunnah.

Clothing policy

The clothing we wear also has a huge impact. Modesty must be the guiding principle when we dress. Our policy is as follows:

Boys: Our uniform is a white Jabbah (full length), hat (topi).

Girls: A black Jabbah / Abaya, with a black head covering (Burqa'). Scarves are not permitted, neither is a "flashy" Jabbah (embroidery, coloured etc). The headgear must reach to the shoulders for girls aged 7 and under, and up to the waist for girls aged 8+.

We expect parents to assume full responsibility for their child's Madrasah clothing, including having at least two sets, so there are no issues of "it being in the wash". On another note:

- We expect all our pupils to come in a neat and tidy attire.
- Nails must be cut on a regular basis⁸.

⁷ Some examples are: v-cuts, step cuts, Mohicans, wedges, fades, short back and sides, tram lines.

⁸ The number of pupils who have long, and scruffy nails is on the rise. This is extremely unhygienic, especially as we also eat using our fingers.

- On hot days or after sports activities in school, a quick shower is essential.

The following⁹ is an excellent “benchmark” for clothes that are not considered modest:

1. If you have trouble getting into it or out of it, **it is probably not modest.**
2. If you have to be careful when you sit down or bend over, **it is probably not modest.**
3. If people look at any part of your body before looking at your face, **it is probably not modest.**
4. If you can see your most private body parts or an outline of those parts under the fabric, **it is probably not modest.**

Modesty & Spiritual Wellbeing

1. Please appreciate this policy. It is there for the betterment and wellbeing of our children. Just as we want them to stay away from physical dangers, it is also our duty to help them with their spiritual wellbeing¹⁰. The latter is not just instrumental in achieving emotional and mental wellbeing and happiness, it also gives a purpose and sense of this temporary life.
2. Sometimes the path towards immorality, irresponsibility, adolescence, and a total disregard for parental (and even divine) authority stems from what we might perceive as “little things of minor significance”. However, this slowly snowballs into what becomes never-ending issues, often catching us all by surprise.
3. The overall culture prevalent in today’s parenting is a desire for one’s child to do well in school / university etc. The benchmark for attainment is purely academic, resulting in a lack of spirituality, Tarbiyah and Taqwa. The same if not greater importance must be attached to the spiritual wellbeing of our children, as it affects their Akhirah.
4. Imitating and idolising celebrities associated with film, music and sports is the hallmark of today’s children, sometimes introduced by their own idolising parents. These celebrities more than often are associated with drinking, gambling, drugs, nudity, sleaze and associated glamour (including materialistic wealth). Sadly, children are too young and naïve to comprehend the dangers of this (often thinking such behaviour is “cool”), and as parents it is our duty to help them navigate this maze.

We pray for guidance, sincerity and steadfastness in our Iman and Deen. Ameen.

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⁹ Taken from <https://michaelhyatt.com/whatever-happened-to-modesty>

¹⁰ قوا أنفسكم وأهليكم نارا (سورة التحريم)