



Nurturing future generations of asatizah and religious leaders for our community.

# Madrasah Education

 OURMADRASAH

التعليم في المدارس  
الإسلامية بسنغافورة



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# Understanding our full-time madrasah system

Important information for interested parents

## Background on the madrasah system

Singapore's six full-time madrasahs play an important role in producing religious scholars and religious teachers for the Muslim community. To achieve this, the Muslim community believes that it is essential for the education to begin at a young age, during the compulsory school-age years.

In Singapore, children of school-age years must attend a national primary school and parents may face legal consequences if their child does not regularly attend a national primary school, unless the child qualifies for an exemption from Compulsory Education.

### What is Compulsory Education?

Under the Compulsory Education Act 2000 (CE Act 2000), Compulsory Education (CE) is defined as education in national primary schools for Singapore citizens residing in Singapore.

Your child must attend a national primary school regularly if they are:

- Of compulsory school age (above 6 years old and under 15 years old)
- A Singapore citizen
- Born after 1 January 1996
- Living in Singapore

### What are national primary schools?

- Government or government-aided primary schools
- Government-funded special education schools offering primary level education

## Madrasahs are 'designated schools' under CE Act 2000

Under the CE Act 2000, full-time madrasahs are categorised as "designated schools". This means that parents who enrol their children in any of the four madrasahs offering primary level education are legally exempted from CE Act 2000.

## Madrasah curriculum

The curricula in the full-time madrasahs cover both secular and religious subjects. At the primary level, madrasahs are required to meet minimum PSLE performance benchmarks set by the Ministry of Education (MOE). Overall, madrasah curricula are designed to fulfil their main goal of producing religious scholars and religious teachers for the Muslim community. Because of this, madrasah students have longer curriculum hours as compared to national schools. Here is a comparison of the subject offerings between national schools and madrasahs:

	National Schools	Madrasahs
List of Examination Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English Language</li><li>• Mother Tongue (e.g. Malay Language)</li><li>• Mathematics</li><li>• Science</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English Language</li><li>• Malay Language</li><li>• Mathematics</li><li>• Science</li><li>• Arabic Language</li><li>• Al-Quran</li><li>• Several other Islamic Studies subjects such as Fiqh, Hadith, Tauhid, Akhlaq, etc.</li></ul>

Due to the additional subjects that a madrasah student will need to learn, parents should be in a position to provide active support and guidance for your child's growth and development. For example, parents conversant in Arabic should speak it at home to increase your child's exposure to the language.

### Summary

The main role of the full-time madrasahs is to provide the local Muslim community with asatizah and religious leaders. Enrolment into a full-time madrasah today is recommended for parents and their children who fall into one or more of the following categories:

- a. Parents who aspire for their child to be an asatizah in the future;
- b. Children who are ready to cope with the demands of a heavier curriculum workload, including being effectively trilingual (English-Malay-Arabic languages);
- c. Parents who are ready to support their child's madrasah in their curriculum and school activities.

## Supporting our full-time madrasahs

Our madrasahs in Singapore were built by Muslim philanthropists, and they are privately funded. Madrasahs are registered with MOE as private schools. Because of this, parents are required to pay significantly higher fees as compared to national schools in order to support the daily operations of the madrasahs.

The monthly madrasah fees are currently heavily subsidised by the generosity of the community<sup>1</sup>. The current monthly tuition fees for each madrasah student at primary level ranges between \$120 to \$180 for Singapore citizens.

Since donations and contributions from the community are not a guaranteed form of stable income annually, parents may be called on to pay higher fees as and when they need to be revised. However, financial assistance schemes are available for children from financially disadvantaged backgrounds<sup>2</sup> who perform well in the madrasahs.

Monthly tuition fees according to citizenship type	Madrasahs <sup>3</sup>	Comparing to other MOE-accredited private educational institutions	
		San Yu Adventist School <sup>4</sup>	Global Indian International School <sup>5</sup>
SG Citizens	\$160	\$670	\$1,659

We hope that with this information, parents considering madrasah education for your child will be better prepared to understand the context and environment they aspire to be a part of.

<sup>1</sup> MUIS working with the community subsidises the madrasahs as they play a key role in producing religious scholars and teachers.

<sup>2</sup> This includes those who come from families which qualify for zakat assistance.

<sup>3</sup> Based on average tuition fees across all madrasahs only.

<sup>4</sup> Fees are estimates based on available information on course fees. Source: <https://syas.edu.sg/pages/school-fees>

<sup>5</sup> Fees are estimates based on available information on tuition fees.

Source: <https://singapore.globalindianschool.org/admissions/fees>

# An education centred on ad-deen: Preparing for socio-religious careers in a knowledge-based economy

## Our six full-time madrasahs



**Madrasah  
Irsyad Zuhri Al-Islamiah**  
Co-Ed  
Primary



**Madrasah  
Wak Tanjong Al-Islamiah**  
Co-Ed  
Primary to Pre-U



**Madrasah  
Al-Ma'arif Al-Islamiah**  
All-Girls  
Primary to Pre-U



**Madrasah  
Alsagoff Al-Arabiah**  
All-Girls  
Primary to Pre-U



**Madrasah  
Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah**  
Co-Ed  
Secondary



**Madrasah  
Aljunied Al-Islamiah**  
Co-Ed  
Secondary to Pre-U

Each of the six madrasahs has its own unique history, identity, vision and focus. However, they all share a common philosophy: An education rooted in the Islamic tradition and values (Ad-deen) with a forward-looking and progressive modern outlook in preparation for the knowledge-based economy of today. While our full-time madrasahs remain centred on Ad-deen, they continue to adapt and evolve with the changes in the national education landscape that prepare our children to thrive in a fast-moving economy. Evidently, our madrasahs today have also progressed in the delivery of Singapore's national curriculum in the academic subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue from primary to the pre-university level. The Islamic studies curriculum has also evolved with the times, taking into consideration the context of Singapore's socio-cultural realities.

Each madrasah offers something different for parents and your children. There are two main options for parents deciding the most suitable madrasah education pathway for your child: The Joint Madrasah System and a through-train curriculum programme.

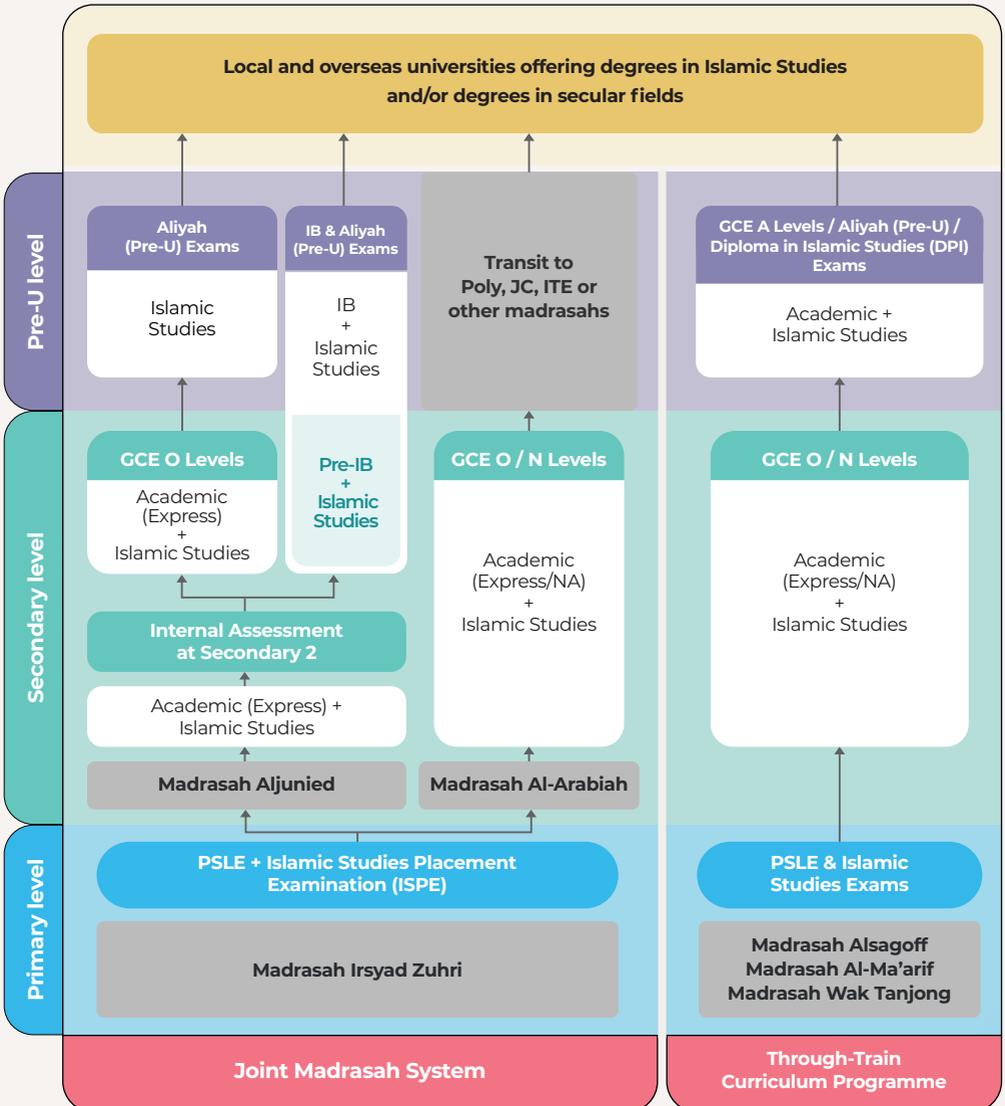
### The Joint Madrasah System

The Joint Madrasah System (JMS), which started in 2009, places Madrasah Irsyad Zuhri Al-Islamiah as the primary feeder school to two secondary schools: Madrasah Aljunied and Madrasah Al-Arabiah Al-Islamiah. Madrasah Aljunied Al-Islamiah will provide the pathway for the child who wishes to pursue further education in Islamic studies and eventually become asatizah or Islamic religious leaders. Madrasah Aljunied Al-Islamiah since 2019 has offered the International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) for selected students in addition to its existing Aliyah programme that meets the entry requirements for Islamic tertiary institutions such as Al-Azhar University and University of Jordan. Madrasah Al-Arabiah will provide the pathway for students who wish to pursue other academic fields in national post-secondary institutions such as junior colleges, polytechnics and ITEs.

## Through-train curriculum programme

Madrasah Alsagoff Al-Arabiah, Madrasah Al-Ma'arif Al-Islamiah and Madrasah Wak Tanjong Al-Islamiah offer through-train curriculum programmes from primary education up to pre-university level. Students of these madrasahs may sit for national-level examinations (PSLE, GCE O Levels, GCE A Levels) in addition to completing their Aliyah/Diploma programme to meet entry requirements into Islamic tertiary institutions.

The following diagram illustrates the pathways from primary, secondary up to pre-university level:



## **Foundational curriculum for the development of future asatizah and religious leaders**

Unlike MOE national schools, the six full-time madrasahs in Singapore do not have a shared religious education curriculum. As a private school, each madrasah adapts its own curriculum according to its own vision and mission. The madrasahs aim to equip your child with the relevant knowledge, skills, competencies and values to thrive in the 21st century. Each madrasah's curriculum incorporates a strong foundation of Islamic teachings, rooted in Al-Quran and Sunnah, which promotes learning, thinking, creativity, akhlaq and khidmah through integrated and learner-centred approaches.

The madrasahs' curricula generally cover three main aspects of education:

### **1. Subjects in both religious and academic disciplines**

The religious and academic subject areas include languages (English, Malay and Arabic), Islamic theology (Tauhid), Islamic jurisprudence (Fiqh), Islamic etiquettes (Akhlaq), Prophetic traditions (Hadith), Islamic history (Sirah) and Islamic scripture (Al-Quran), mathematics and sciences. These subjects are designed to provide your child with a strong foundation to enable their future pursuit of learning at the secondary and tertiary level.

Your child will be exposed to English, Malay and Arabic languages at the Standard level of teaching. English is the lingua franca used internationally, Malay is the lingua franca used regionally, and Arabic is the language of Al-Quran and Hadith of the Prophet p.b.u.h. The Arabic language is fundamental to the understanding of many of the Islamic concepts and terms, as much of Islamic knowledge and disciplines were developed and documented in Arabic. Hence, competency in Arabic is critical to madrasah education.

For the academic subjects, madrasahs only offer teaching at the Standard level at primary school. Students who require learning subjects at the Foundation level, which covers a subset of the curriculum at the Standard level, are encouraged to consider transferring to a national school where they can be better supported. This is also similar for those who require learning support due to learning disabilities or other special needs.

At Secondary level, madrasahs are only able to offer the Express stream. Students who are eligible for Normal Academic stream can still be accepted to continue their learning at Secondary 1 on a case-by-case basis. Nonetheless, for the students who are accepted, madrasahs will cater to their individual needs and offer differentiated learning according to their ability levels. For students who need additional support, targeted intervention is provided through small group learning sessions to help them keep up with the standard pace of learning. Higher ability students may also be given opportunities to be challenged through participation in additional programmes that will help to maximise their potential.



## 2. Life skills

The learning experience in the madrasahs will support your child's development in their cognitive and practical skills essential for life and civic responsibility. This is achieved through daily interactions, projects and exposure through various learning modes provided by the madrasahs. Examples of such opportunities include linking students up with attachments and internships at organisations such as mosques, non-profits and companies, as well as programmes run by external bodies. Madrasahs also frequently send their most talented students to participate in local and international competitions and tournaments in areas such as Quranic tilawah and tahfiz, debates in Malay and Arabic, Science and Mathematics Olympiad. Your child will practise the use of their skills either individually or collaboratively as a team.



## 3. Character development and spiritual well-being

Character development and spiritual well-being are purposefully facilitated through the madrasahs' school culture and environment through the exemplary modelling of teachers and peers in their daily interactions, congregational worship activities and collective learning inside and outside the classrooms. Your child will be inculcated with values as taught by the Holy Prophet p.b.u.h. and internalise the meaning of Iman, Islam and Ihsan.

Madrasahs also take seriously the social and spiritual well-being of their students. Since 2018, Club HEAL has been appointed by MUIS to provide basic counselling support to our full-time madrasahs. At present, two full-time counsellors will visit the madrasahs at least once a week to provide counselling treatment and support. Club HEAL has facilitated referrals to specialised services such as REACH, they have collaborated with the madrasahs for the students' treatment plan as well as provided relevant information and training on mental health and well-being to students, teachers and parents. We hope that with such a support framework, more mental health issues can be prevented or addressed early.

## Shared madrasah primary education framework

At the primary level, MUIS works closely with the full-time madrasahs to develop a shared philosophy, desired outcomes of education and values as shown below:

### Shared Madrasah Primary Education - Philosophy, Desired Outcomes and Values

<b>Philosophy</b>	<p>A strong foundation of Islamic teachings, rooted in Al-Quran and Sunnah that promote learning, thinking, creativity, akhlaq and khidmah; through integrated and learner-centred approaches</p>			
<b>Desired Outcomes</b>	<p><b>Language, Literacy &amp; Arts</b> A confident communicator who has an awareness of the arts</p> <p><b>Cognitive &amp; Learning Attitude</b> A resilient, cooperative, curious and creative thinker who upholds the adab of learning</p> <p><b>Physical &amp; Mental Well-being</b> An active and healthy student who leads a well-balanced lifestyle</p>	<p><b>Moral-Spiritual</b> An honest practising Muslim who is able to distinguish right from wrong</p> <p><b>Citizenry &amp; Leadership</b> A responsible citizen who helps others, cares for the environment and leads by example</p> <p><b>Social-Emotional Learning</b> A considerate student who builds positive relationships and habits</p>		
<b>Values</b>	<p><b>God-conscious (Taqwa)</b> We are conscious of Allah by being grateful, upholding good and forbidding evil.</p>	<p><b>Caring (Ihsan)</b> We are caring and respectful to others and courageous in doing right actions.</p>	<p><b>Excellence (Itqan)</b> We strive for excellence by being resilient and creative in facing challenges.</p>	<p><b>Contributive (Khidmah)</b> We are contributive by acting responsibly and being helpful to others.</p>



## Financing your child's schooling

### Current monthly tuition fees

Madrasah	Level	Fees (2026)		
		SG Citizens	SG PRs	Foreigners
Irsyad Zuhri	Primary	\$160 <small>Note: Fees for SG Citizens will be increased to \$190 in 2027</small>	\$255	\$515
Wak Tanjong		\$130	-	-
Al-Ma'arif		\$170	-	-
Alsagoff	Lower Primary	\$170*	-	-
	Upper Primary	\$180*	-	-

\*including meals

Typically, the monthly tuition fees are subject to upwards revision on a regular basis.

### Edusave Pupils Fund

Every Singapore citizen student at primary or secondary level will receive an annual contribution into their Edusave account. Each student receives an annual Edusave contribution of \$230 at primary level and \$290 at secondary level. The Edusave account can be used to pay for approved fees and enrichment programmes. The madrasah will seek parents' consent to deduct from your child's Edusave account to pay for enrichment programmes organised by the school. Once your child reaches 16 years old, their Edusave balance will be transferred to their Post-Secondary Education Account (PSEA). Your child can use their PSEA to pay for approved fees and charges in approved educational institutions.

### Other financial support

Madrasah students can also consider to apply for financial support provided by MUIS' Zakat financial support scheme, as well as other financial support schemes from individual madrasahs, Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) or Lembaga Basiswa Kenangan Maulid (LBKM).

## Next steps

### Participation in the Primary 1 Joint Madrasah Admission Exercise (JMAE)

The most pertinent question to ask yourself before you consider enrolling your child in the madrasah is whether you and your child are ready to be a part of this demanding but ultimately, fulfilling madrasah education experience. You will need to assess whether your child has the aptitude to take on the heavy dual curriculum load and if they have the aspiration and passion to possibly pursue a career in the religious field.

If you have decided that a full-time madrasah education suits you and your child, you will be required to apply during the Primary 1 Joint Madrasah Admission Exercise (JMAE). This is a joint effort between MUIS and the four full-time madrasahs offering primary-level education to conduct the admission exercise:



#### PI Application week

Parents to submit application forms to respective madrasah.



#### PI Madrasah entrance test day

All four madrasahs will begin the test on the same date and time.



#### PI Application results

Results are emailed out to parents of all applicants.



#### Appeal period

Parents of unsuccessful applicants may submit an appeal via the provided form link. Appeals are subject to availability of vacancies at Madrasah Al-Ma'arif and Madrasah Alsagoff.



#### Registration

All successful applicants are to register at the respective madrasahs.

## Choosing the right madrasah

Whichever madrasah your child is potentially enrolled into, you will need to be prepared to give extra support in view of the demanding learning experience. When deciding on the specific madrasah, you may consider the unique offerings of each madrasah as well as other factors like distance, school leadership and culture, fees, etc based on your child's learning needs. The following is relevant information on each madrasah offering primary education for your consideration.

Madrasah	Irsyad Zuhri	Wak Tanjong	Al-Ma'arif	Alsagoff
<b>Examination subjects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Arabic Language</li> <li>· Al-Quran</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· English Language</li> <li>· Mathematics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Malay Language</li> <li>· Science</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Tamil Language (Newly introduced to 2026 P1 cohort)</li> <li>· Tarbiyah English:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Qur'an, Tauhid, Fiqh, Sirah, Akhlaq, Formative &amp; Summative Assessment</li> </ul> </li> <li>· Tarbiyah Arabic:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fiqh (P4-P5), Tafsir (P5), Tauhid (P6), Hadith (P6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fiqh</li> <li>· Hadith</li> <li>· Sirah</li> <li>· Tauhid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Islamic Studies 1 (Arabic):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tauhid</li> <li>- Fiqh</li> </ul> </li> <li>· Islamic Studies 2 (English):               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sirah</li> <li>- Hadith</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Fiqh</li> <li>· Nahu &amp; Saraf</li> </ul> Modular: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Akhlaq</li> <li>· Hadith</li> <li>· Jawi</li> <li>· Sirah</li> <li>· Tauhid</li> </ul>
<b>Selected CCAs / Niche programmes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Basketball (P4-P6)</li> <li>· Soccer (P4-P6)</li> <li>· Floorball (Girls)</li> <li>· Floorball (Boys)</li> <li>· Badminton</li> <li>· Netball (P4-P6)</li> <li>· Silat</li> <li>· Archery</li> <li>· Outdoor Adventure Club (ODAC) (P4-P6)</li> <li>· Performing Arts Club</li> <li>· Science Club</li> <li>· Tarannum</li> <li>· Robotics (P4-P6)</li> <li>· Young Chef</li> <li>· Arabic and Islamic Performing Arts</li> <li>· Islamic Calligraphy and Contemporary Arts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Archery</li> <li>· Islamic Arts</li> <li>· Library Club</li> <li>· Netball</li> <li>· Robotics</li> <li>· Soccer</li> <li>· Visual Arts</li> <li>· ICT</li> <li>· CCE (Character &amp; Citizenship Education)</li> </ul>	Modular CCA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Art &amp; Gymnastics</li> <li>· Swimming</li> <li>· Silat</li> <li>· Netball</li> <li>· STEM</li> <li>· Intensive PSLE Programmes</li> </ul> Modular Enrichment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Reader's Theatre</li> <li>· Speech and Drama (Malay)</li> <li>· Arabic Story Telling</li> <li>· ICT</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Archery</li> <li>· Netball</li> <li>· Badminton</li> <li>· Cooking/Sewing</li> <li>· Debate Club</li> </ul>
<b>Eligibility</b>	Open to all with % cap for non-SG Citizens	Only SG Citizens	Only SG Citizens	Only SG Citizens
<b>Madrasah website</b> (for parents of prospective students to learn more about your madrasah)	irsyad.sg 	mwti.edu.sg 	almaarif.edu.sg 	alsagoff.edu.sg 

For more information on the upcoming JMAE, please visit:  
<https://go.gov.sg/uiisr1>



## Preparation for the Madrasah Entrance Test (MET)

Our full-time madrasahs are selective in their enrolment policies due to their niche curriculum programmes and smaller student intake. Due to these reasons, the Madrasah Entrance Test (MET) was introduced as part of the admission procedure. The respective madrasah will run the MET to assess how ready your child is to undertake a heavier curriculum load than those offered in the national schools. Your child will be tested in four key subjects: English, Malay, Arabic and Mathematics. Oral tests will also be conducted for English, Malay and Arabic. The written tests include what they may have learned in kindergarten, such as the introduction of letters, numbers and writing. The oral test includes reading and conversation. The Arabic oral test will assess your child's ability to read and memorise common du'as and Quranic surahs.

The MET is a crucial phase of the JMAE, and no alternative dates will be provided for your child if they are unable to sit for it. Unfortunately, this includes genuine reasons for missing the test, such as being sick on that day proven with a valid Medical Certificate or being late due to circumstances beyond your control. This is due to the limited timeline available for parents to apply for exemption from Compulsory Education Act for their child.

For those who have missed the MET, they will no longer be eligible to appeal for a place during the appeal window period. Do note that your child's scores from the MET will only be one of several means used by the madrasahs to select students for enrolment. Other means may include interviews with parents, observations of child behaviour during play, as well as responses to the survey in the online application form.

## Exemption from Compulsory Education Act

As part of your child's enrolment process into the full-time madrasahs, you will be required to submit their application for the exemption to MOE's Compulsory Education Unit through your madrasah. Your child is officially exempted upon receiving a certificate of exemption from MOE's Compulsory Education Unit.

## Student's pass for foreigners

For foreigners enrolling their children into the madrasahs, you will need to obtain the approval of your child's student pass from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA). For more information on the application procedure, please check with the admin office of the madrasah you applied to.





## A Long-term commitment - parents & madrasah as partners

The primary education years are an important part of your child's madrasah education. As a parent, you play a key role in your child's growth together with the madrasah. This requires a strong partnership of mutual trust and respect between you and the madrasah. Through this partnership, you will see how you can complement the education provided by the madrasahs to nurture your child holistically. This can be done through providing necessary guidance, support and reinforcement at home. You are also encouraged to regularly track your child's developments so that any support and intervention can be provided early throughout your child's educational journey. You should also play an active role in assisting the madrasahs and the teachers in their daily operations; this includes volunteering for madrasah activities and participating in fundraising activities for the madrasah.

A madrasah may be a new environment for you and your child so you should prepare yourself and your child mentally before transiting to the new environment. You can do this by sharing with your child about the madrasah and

what to expect, creating excitement about experiences of making new friends, learning new things and guiding them to approach for help in the madrasah.

Support your child in their madrasah learning journey by regularly communicating about their experiences, setting realistic goals for them to aim for and encouraging them if they are struggling to cope with their schoolwork. You could also provide your child with the space to learn independently and be responsible for their own things.

We hope the information provided in this booklet has given you a better understanding about the madrasah education in Singapore. Do reach out to us if you have any more queries at [info@muis.gov.sg](mailto:info@muis.gov.sg)



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