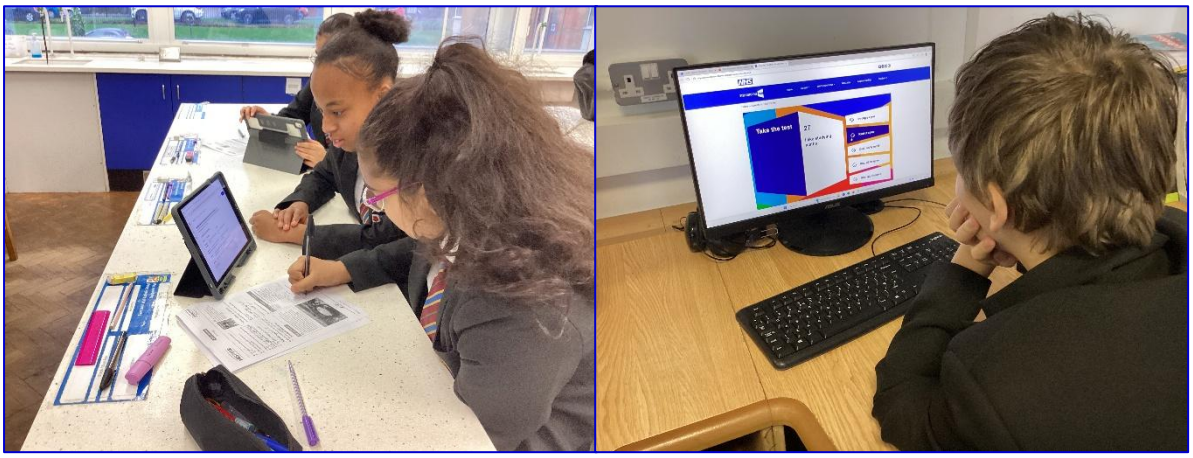
Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All

Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'



Ramadan Examinations & Assessment Policy

Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I trust your commands.
Psalm 119:66

JUNE 2023 Ofsted Good Provider

February 2024 Catholic Schools Inspectorate Report 'Good'

Saint John Wall Catholic School uses the policies from the JCQ with regard to religious festivals and periods of religious observance.

Policy Aims:

- To provide guidance to our Muslim pupils and parents/carers of religious observance during external examinations.
- To raise awareness of the health and safety implications of fasting during examinations.
- To ensure that our Muslim pupils are not unduly disadvantaged.

In order to do this, the centre will:

- Respect parents' religious decisions to allow their child to fast or not to fast.

- Not encourage pupils to break their fast unless it is for serious health and safety reasons.

- Ensure that pupils do not feel disadvantaged due to religious observances.

Ramadan is an act of worship of great spiritual, moral and social significance for Muslims. It is obligatory for all males and females to fast once they attain the age of puberty. The physical dimension of fasting involves completely abstaining from all forms of nourishment, food, liquids (including water) from dawn to sunset for the whole month. However, there is flexibility in Islamic Law to delay or be exempt from fasting if they believe the observer could experience harm by fasting.

Centre Considerations

According to the Islamic calendar, Ramadan will continue to fall within the external examination seasons for the next few years. Unless there are safeguarding concerns, ie., danger to health, the school will not dictate how pupils should observe the fast. Parents will be advised of the school's revision programme and external examination timetable; provide advice of how they can support their child during examination seasons, both internal and external examinations; ensure that appropriate staff are available for any support and provide further advice and guidance if needed.

Appendix A: Letter to parents/carers

As you enter into the season of Ramadan, we would like to draw your attention to external examinations during this period and how you can best support your child in this holy month.

The school is aware that Ramadan will start around insert date for a maximum of 30 days, with Eid-ul-Fitr falling on approximately insert date. It is therefore, incumbent on us to advise you of the forthcoming examination sessions that fall during this time. (Please see separate examination timetable).

We would like to work with you to ensure your child reaches their full potential in the examinations within the flexibility of Islamic Law. Should your child observe the fast we would suggest the following for examination preparation:

- On return from school your child has complete rest/sleep for a couple of hours.
- Revision is undertaken after rest/prayer sessions.

Should your child become ill or dehydrated during the examinations, we need to be informed of what you would like us to do. Please complete the reply slip below and return to Mrs Holder, Examinations Officer by insert date.

However, should the matter become a safeguarding concern, we will notify parents/carers immediately of any remedial action taken by the school.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

S Holder

Mr S Holder
Headteacher

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Permission slip for fasting

I _____, parent/carer of insert name of pupil ask that you allow

_____ to fast.

Please delete as appropriate:

In case of any health issues or emergency, I agree/disagree to the school giving water.

Other action I agree the school to take:

_____

_____

I can be contacted on this phone number in an emergency _____

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____/____

Ratified by Governors: 12/10/2026
Review Date: 12/10/2027
(This policy will remain in force beyond the review date if no updates are required)