

'Ilm2Amal' School Curriculum

Benefitting Society by Connecting Classroom Learning with Faith-Based Campaigns



A Gap in the Syllabus

Encouraging British Muslims to practice their faith in ways which will benefit wider society is an objective which is not only scripturally desirable, but which will also assist social and religious cohesion. This is increasingly perceived by many as a key priority.

At 1st Ethical, we believe the necessary change required starts at the grass roots with Muslim schools, teachers and pupils alike. Strengthening the school curriculum with our expertise and innovative range of faith-based campaigns, are just two key complementary ways in which 1st Ethical seeks to contribute to this over-arching objective.

Our education specialists have been working extensively with teachers, qualified Scholars and trainers to come up with a solution-led approach.

Curriculum

From a curriculum perspective, there exists a need for Muslims to re-appraise their understanding of Islam beyond creedal matters ('aqā'id) and ritual worship (ibādah) and refocus upon the central concept that each and every thought and action of a Muslim has the potential to reach closer or draw away from Allah.

Muslims who have been schooled in this manner will need to appreciate a further two thirds of classical Islamic texts, both which are Mu'āmalāt (mutual and financial transactions) and Mu'āsharāt (social dealings) related. This would allow Muslims, from a scriptural perspective, to appreciate the significance of: civil transactions, ethics, halāl earning & consumption and social responsibility. In addition to this, Muslims would also better understand and appreciate not only the rights of Allah but also the rights of others. With this more comprehensive and thorough approach, Muslims can then skilfully relate to wider society.

Many Muslim schools may be outperforming other educational institutes as illustrated by a recent Ofsted report. However, as far as financial literacy and social competency are concerned, there clearly is a gap in what is being fed to the next generation of Muslims.

For over 5 years our field experts have made observations and spent time in classrooms carrying out first hand analysis to help deliver the curriculum at our pilot schools. It is only with these long term observations has it been possible to identify the gaps that exist in both and classroom learning and the wider society. This has also led to us recognise further gaps between ideals & reality and the widening partition between knowledge ('ilm) & action ('amal). With these gaps identified 1st Ethical has successfully created the **Ilm2Amal** curriculum – a refreshing take on what can be mundane subject matters to not only learn but teach too.

Our curriculum is different to its predecessors as it teaches pupils about money matters (Mu'āmalāt) and social responsibilities (Mu'āsharāt) and crucially puts in calls for action, creating accountability and responsibility for one's own deeds.

Faith-based Campaigns

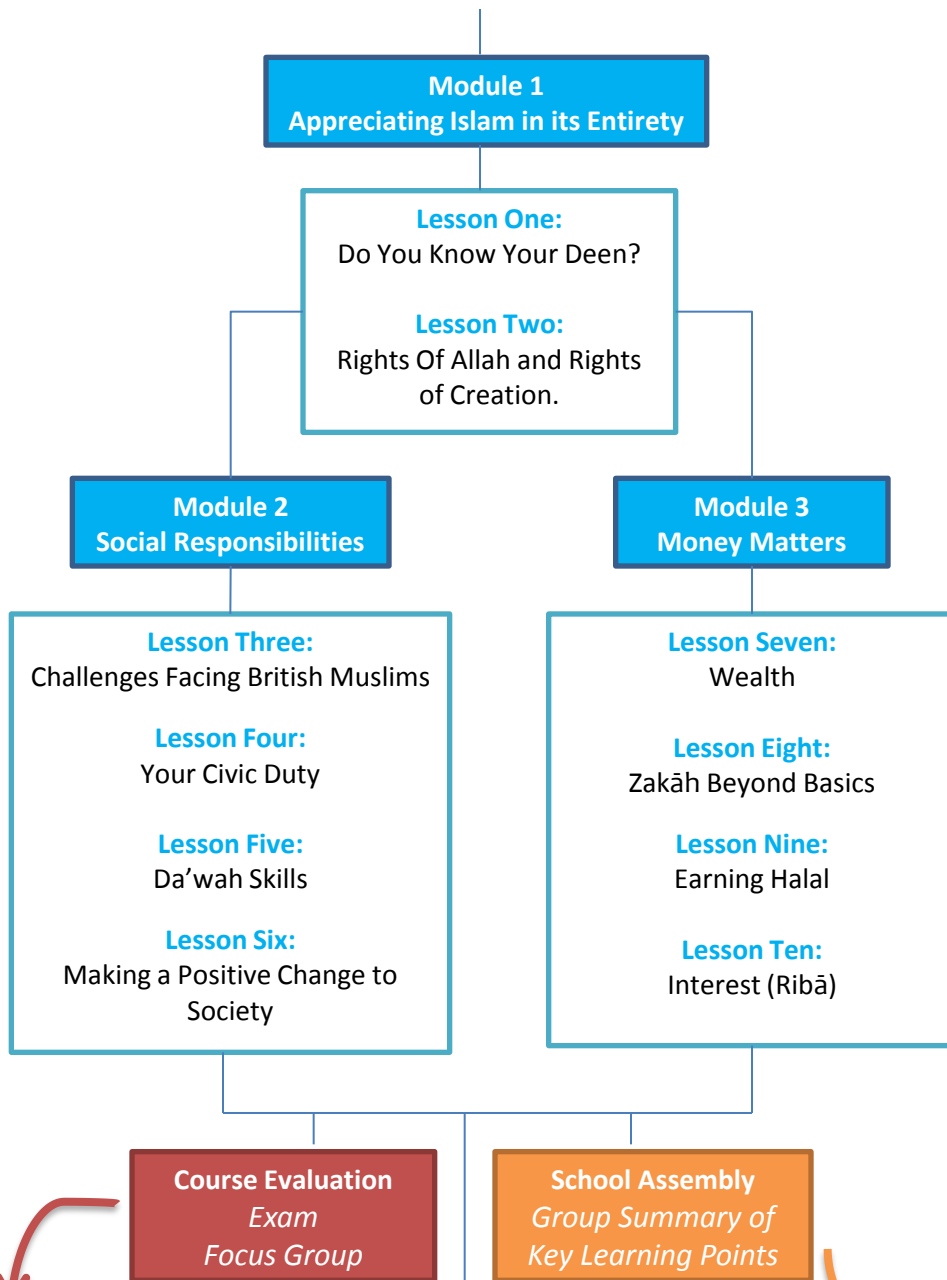
From a campaign perspective, 1st Ethical have developed a number of practical, easy to implement toolkits, which provide for specific, tangible and measurable ways in which Muslim students can personally implement and practice the knowledge within the curriculum.

We therefore view the campaigns, as not only a natural and important progression from the curriculum, but crucially, as a key way to 'lock-in and consolidate' the desired outcomes from the curriculum.

This unique syllabus is action-based learning. By combining both the curriculum ('ilm) and campaigns ('amal), we believe Muslim schools can significantly enhance a pupil's ability to confidently and authentically practice their faith in ways which is compatible with the challenge of contributing and participating in contemporary British society.

KS3 Curriculum Map

The course outline may be tailored around the needs of each individual school.
Each lesson is approximately one hour long.



At the end of the 10 session syllabus, pupils will be put through a course evaluation and an unit exam (session 11). A group presentation by participating pupils will be delivered at a school assembly which will make up the 12th and final session.

All pupils are highly encouraged to participate in order to recap on all key learning outcomes from this syllabus, as well as, raising awareness with non-participating pupils.

Positive Action
Civic Engagement Projects
Personal Development Plan

Finally, 1st Ethical Charitable Trust will encourage pupils to put their learning points into action by providing them with volunteering opportunities to deliver community initiatives.

At the turn of 2012, we find ourselves living in difficult times. In just a few years we have witnessed:

The Need

- A global economic downturn where the impact of the Credit Crunch has been hard-hitting to communities all over
- A country with political uncertainty and record levels of unemployment while homeless shelters are experiencing shortages for food supplies and social degradation amongst ethnic youth as seen through the London riots
- British Muslims facing many challenges during this difficult climate. Regular media headlines show British Muslims committing fraud and corruption as well seeing a record number of Muslim in British prisons

- Disturbing statistics from the last census, suggesting that Muslims live in segregated 'ghettos' and are four times as likely to be uneducated compared to the rest of Britons
- Increasing levels of Islamophobia through media, the rise of the right-wing and shifting attitude of mainstream society are wider challenges that British Muslims cannot ignore.

In these difficult times, one has to ask the question; who will be the biggest loser of all? For the British Muslim community it's a question of make or break, given that over two thirds (71%) of British Muslims are aged just under 35...

1st Ethical Charitable Trust is working hard to change this bleak picture into a colourful one, Inshā'Allāh.



Our daily effort and energy is spent on empowering British Muslims to not only rise above these difficult times but to proactively shape a fresh and confident generation of leading British Muslim ambassadors – nurtured by traditional Islamic values yet in tune with social and cultural norms to go on to strengthen society. By doing so, society will value Muslims as assets and not a fifth column.

Pilot Run

1st Ethical Charitable Trust carried out a pilot run of the KS3 syllabus in 2010-2011 at four Muslims schools in the North West. KS2 & KS4 curriculums will be introduced in mid 2012, Inshā'Allāh.

The first pilot delivery was successfully delivered to Year 9 & 10. We worked closely with teachers and practitioners along the way to overlap this curriculum with QCA guidelines.

In the medium term, we seek to develop a curriculum version of this for Madrasahs and also seek accreditation to enhance the wider benefits of running this course and delivering immense value to those schools and fortunate pupils who seize the opportunity.



Manchester Islamic Girls High School



KD Grammar School



Ghausia Girls High School



Bolton Muslim Girls' School

Work With Us !

Our strap line 'empowering through partnership' is centred upon working closely with Muslim schools.

We have strong links with many Muslims schools, and grass root organisations across Britain.

This valuable network enables our campaigns to effectively reach thousands of talented students annually. Accordingly, we can orchestrate an impact at a macro level to change the position of Muslims in Britain. We therefore encourage other like minded Muslim schools to join our collective effort and strengthen our established network – why reinvent the wheel when we can collaborate and achieve more?

Contact us today to see how we can tailor this curriculum for your school.



If you are interested in the IIm2Amal curriculum & campaigns, please contact Waqaus Ali on waqaus@1stethical.com | 01204 557 918