

01 Background



Madrasahs are an after school religious education arrangement for Muslim children. The majority of school age Muslim children attend a madrasah two hours every day, Monday to Friday. Certain classes also run on a Saturday. Which means that the children attend for around 10 hours per week. Generally, madrasahs function between 4pm and 8pm.

Why it matters 02



The madrasah sector in Preston alone looks after/educates 3000 children daily, which means that they have knowledge about a great many children. They are potentially a huge resource in safeguarding those children as well as supporting Muslim families in helpful ways. The madrasahs also have a significant influence on families and children, and can be very helpful in mediating conflicts and difficulties and preventing escalation.

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Questions

Do we routinely ask if Muslim children attend madrasah?
Do I know my local madrasahs?
Have I been in touch with the local madrasah?

How do you ascertain that a caller is definitely from a madrasah?

Have you involved the madrasah if you are working with a Muslim child/family?

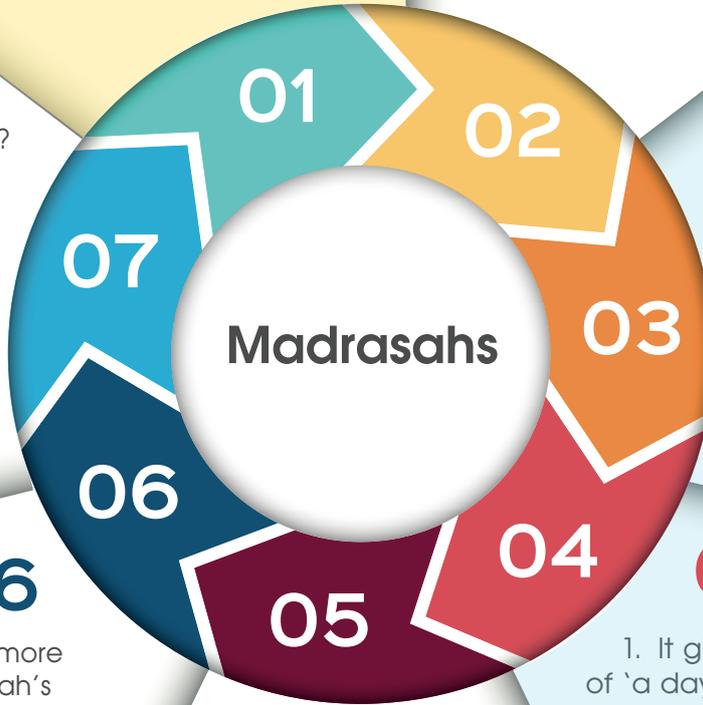


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If you are interested and want more information about how madrasah's operate, or want their input into your staff training, feel free to contact your local madrasah.

One of the other ways you might want to involve madrasah staff is to get them involved in CAF/TAF meetings, where they might offer creative help to children and families.

If madrasahs are concerned about the welfare of a child, they may contact other services for information, assistance or to make a referral. As ever, you should check the authenticity of any caller prior to sharing information.



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Information

If you are working with a Muslim child, it is important to ascertain if this child attends a madrasah. There are several reasons for this:

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1. It gives you a better sense of 'a day in the life of' the child
2. It gives you better sense of the family and their connection with their local community
3. It gives you the opportunity to support the child's welfare by using the resources provided by the madrasah
4. It allows you to triangulate information, e.g. if a child behaves the same in school and the madrasah

What to do

If you have ascertained that a child attends a particular madrasah and you have some concerns about the child's welfare, you can phone the key contact at the local madrasah and ask for information, as well as support. They are obviously there every afternoon, so later in the day may be a better time to phone.

The expertise regarding the local Islamic events, culture and custom and practice held in the madrasah is available for you to tap into, and they are generally delighted to help.



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