

## **Cosmic Education**

At Alamiyah, our main aim is to build an understanding of the world and humanity which is based on unity compassion, cooperation, love & peace. A natural way of establishing these principles is through building gratitude into everything that we do. The Montessori approach is based upon these principles which are embedded within all of the routines, policies and procedures at the school and integrated within the curriculum. Maria Montessori's concept of an education for peace, became known as cosmic education an approach which is harmonious with the Islamic understanding of the purpose of man and the universe. At Alamiyah we approach SMSC, spirituality, religion, culture, politics, ethics, social studies and personal, social and emotional development using the principles of Maria Montessori which are perfectly in line with an understanding of Faith brought by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the form of Islam. These principles are outlined below in the Cosmic Education curriculum which although embedded within the school and curriculum are also explored through the Great Lessons, circle times, daily reminders and a weekly session where some of the themes can be explored in detail.

## An Education for Peace

Maria Montessori states 'What good is knowledge if not combined with consideration for others. Peace is not studied as an independent subject, but with the study of examples from the past, and the experience of serving and helping others. Peace is the natural outcome of a method of education where children experience work with their hands and long periods of individual concentration and contemplation. In this way they are able to process and recover from all the input of our modern world. They learn that peace is not just the absence of war, but the way we treat each other in our daily lives, the way we communicate, and the way we solve problems. Peace begins inside us, at home, at school.'— Maria Montessori

It is in this spirit that the Alamiyah SMSC curriculum is delivered through a Montessori Cosmic Education.



## Cosmic Education Long Term Curriculum Plan

Area	Topic	Recommended
		Age/Stage
Man	Balance, beauty, equilibrium, justice at a micro level within man, family	9-11
(Focal Point	and society.	Year 5-6
of Gratitude)	Understanding and taking care of the self	
	<ul> <li>Getting to know yourself, outer being (body), inner (heart), inner</li> </ul>	
	of the inner (soul)	
	<ul> <li>Self (nafs) categories of self, lower and higher selves</li> </ul>	
	Respect and care of all aspects of the self and understanding the	
	interdependence of all parts of the self	
	Uniqueness and value of self	
	Cleanliness and grooming	
	Maturity and growing up	
	<ul> <li>Understanding changes during puberty for boys and girls</li> </ul>	
	Iman - Tenets of Faith - Tauhid (Inner)	
	10 prerequisites of learning Tauhid	
	Ways in which the mind reasons	
	Types of Evidence	
	Epistemology	
	20 attributes to affirm about God and their opposites to negate	
	Attributes of the Prophet to affirm and their opposites to negate	
	Actions and Accountability	
	Free Will and Destiny,	
	Individual and Collective Responsibility	
	Right and Wrong- Permissible and Impermissible	
	Forgiveness and Sin	



Islam - Ibaadah - Fiqh (Outer)

- 10 prerequisites of learning Figh
- How to perform ritual purification and associated rules Taharah
- How to perform the Prayer and associated rules Salah
- Rulings pertaining to fasting Sawm
- Rulings when giving alms Zakah
- Rulings for the pilgrimage Hajj

Ihsan - God Consciousness - Spiritual Life (Inner of the Inner)

- Hadith of Jibrael (AS)
- Story of Musa (AS) and Khidr (Surah Kahf)
- Hadith, Seerah and stories of the prophets, sahaba and pious inheritors of prophecy and wisdom

Understanding others (building relationships, appreciation of others):

- Family Life, Family trees and lineage
- The Miracle of life<sup>1</sup> and raising children
- Examples of the Prophet (Pbuh) and famous role models within pupils heritage and traditions.
- Connection with People and with God equally important as reflections of one another (Hablum minAllah-Hablum minan Nass)
- Respect and Values
- Voicing opinions and views
- Democracy: Debating and Decision Making
- Holding meetings: Agenda, Chair, Minute Taking and Discussion
- Ethics: Balancing Mercy and Justice
- Humanity created equal in the sight of God. Human potential is present at all times as a seed within everyone, Equality and Love for all regardless of identity, life choices or any differences (protected characteristics)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Sex Education



	Understanding Community (building community and society)	
	One universe-all of humanity one family	
	Cultural/social awareness	
	Citizenship - Government and Parliamentary Debate	
	UN: Bill of Human Rights	
	Charity Organisations, NGOs	
	Role models – Prophets, Inspirational Historical Figures from	
	around the world, Sages and Scholars	
Sustenance	Fundamental needs on a global level and a means of spreading	9-11 yrs
(Means of	compassion, love, peace and gratitude:	Year 5-6
Gratitude)	Security: World Peace	rear 5-0
Gratituacy	Shelter: Increase in Urban Populations worldwide, Need for	
	affordable Housing	
	<ul> <li>Food: Economics - Mass Farming, Food Production and Waste</li> </ul>	
	Clothing and adornment: Economics - ethical and fair trade	
	Transport: Intercontinental travel, passports, borders	
	Defence: Issues to explore, war, weapons, disarmament and peace	
	movements, individual liberty, what is terrorism, justice courts,	
	defence, prosecution	
	Communication: Human Connections, WWW, email, social media	
	<ul> <li>Love and Belonging: Community groups, charity work</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Social: Study of societies, culture, arts, music in various countries</li> </ul>	
	Spiritual – Study of World Religions and Philosophies	
	The fulfilment of the 'fundamental needs' brings about gratitude	
Life	Balance, beauty, equilibrium, justice at a macro level on our planet and	9-11 yrs
(Condition of	the universe. Interconnectedness of Life	Year 5-6
Gratitude)		
	Sacredness of life, maintaining life, Preservation of life through preserving	
	the ecosystem and balance of nature	



Gratitude	Exploring the concept of gratitude as the basis of stable, peaceful and just	9-11 yrs
(Aim)	societies through practicing the 5 Pillars on the foundation of Iman and	Year 5-6
	through being in a mindful and conscious state which is Ihsan:	
	<ul> <li>pure intention from seed of belief - Shahadah (remembrance of the source of all creation is appreciation)</li> <li>worshipping creator individually and in congregation - Salah (to express thankfulness for our existence and that of all creation)</li> <li>giving % of wealth in charity - Zakah (expressing thankfulness by giving a fixed % of one's own wealth)</li> <li>Recognising the source of our sustenance - Sawm (understanding neediness through abstinence-show appreciation)</li> <li>worshipping creator as a global community - Hajj (to express thankfulness together rich and poor in equal brotherhood and sisterhood of humanity)</li> <li>happily taking only our necessities and not being wasteful - Shukr (building contentment/satisfaction through gratitude/frugality)</li> <li>altruistic service - Khidma (to serve with Love for the Love of God)</li> <li>charity work, making others happy - Sadaqah (to help others is a form of gratitude since it is an act of giving)</li> </ul>	



## The concepts of gratitude:

- Contentment what you have is enough
- Frugality taking what is needed without being wasteful
- Satisfaction being happy with what you have
- Gratefulness being thankful

To be delivered through modelling behaviour, through, stories, circle times, grace and courtesy to include:

- How to look after self
- How to be with others
- How to look after environment

The above elements will be explored in more depth during Upper primary through circle times, discussion circles, moral stories.