



THE KHOJA SHIA ITHNA ASHERI MUSLIM COMMUNITY OF BIRMINGHAM

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Registered CIO No: 1170675

12th September 2018

Respected Head Teacher,

Greetings of Peace be upon you.

We are writing to request that you authorise the absence of children participating in the events at our Mosque commemorating the day of 'Ashura'.

Ref: Child _____ Class _____

Every year on the 10th day of Muharram (the first Islamic month), Shia Muslims take part in a religious commemoration known as 'Ashura.' This is held in memory of Imam Husayn (peace be upon him), the grandson of the Noble Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his progeny). On this day Shia Muslims meet to remember the tragic and merciless killing of Imam Husayn, along with many of his family members and close companions, that took place in Karbala, Iraq in the year 61 Hijrah (680 C.E).

Imam Husayn was a man who embarked on a mission to promote justice and freedom in a period of political turbulence, oppression and injustice; and despite the massacre that took place on that fateful day, his message continues to live on.

Thus, we commemorate the day of his martyrdom by refraining from worldly affairs (work, business and study) and taking part in special prayer and reflection throughout the day. As part of the remembrance, sermons are held to remind the congregation to uphold the values of Islam and Imam Husayn such as justice, sincerity, truth, charity and kindness to neighbours.

In respect for this day of Ashura, and to allow our children to participate in the events at our Mosque, may we kindly request you to provide our child(ren) with an Authorised Absence under Code R: Religious Observance, as specified in the Department for Education's Advice on School Attendance (published October 2014).

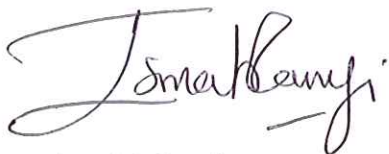
This is by virtue of The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006, s6 (2)(b)(ii),
"In the case of a pupil who is not a boarder, his absence shall be treated as authorised for the purposes of this regulation if—
(ii) on a day exclusively set apart for religious observance by the religious body to which his parent belongs;"

We have met with Birmingham City Council's Education Welfare team, and confirmed that the day of Ashura should indeed be viewed as an authorised absence as indicated in the regulations cited above. SACRE have also recognised the day of Ashura as a religious observance day.

For your records, the Ashura Day will be on **Thursday 20th September 2018**. For more information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Your assistance in this matter is highly appreciated.

Kind Regards,



Ismat A. Ramji

Secretary General

Parent/Guardian Name : _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature : _____