



## **Al-Khair Primary & Secondary School**

Information for teachers considering applying for a staff vacancy

Al-Khair Primary & Secondary school was founded by Imam Qasim Rashid Ahmad in the month of July 2003. A man of extraordinary determination and ambition, after receiving his basic scholarly training in India, he travelled to the UK in order to complete his higher studies at Dar-UI-Uloom Dewsbury. After graduating from the Dar-UI-Uloom, Imam Qasim spent several years working as the Muslim chaplain for a number of prisons in England. In 1995 he succeeded his father in becoming the second spiritual leader of Croydon's largest masjid, where he served for a total of eight years. Part of a growing number of proactive Islamic clergy, he engaged in much charitable and community based work in and around the Croydon area, while seeking to build and strengthen relations between Muslims and other faith groups.

While serving as the Imam of Croydon Mosque, Imam Qasim recognised the need for the Muslim community to develop and produce Muslim professionals/academics, who would be better equipped to engage with the wider community than the current first generation of Muslims. It was with this foresight that he decided to set up the first Islamic independent school in Croydon, Al-Khair. The school site on Cherry Orchard Road also serves as an educational and cultural centre for the activities of Imam Qasim's umbrella organisation, Al-Khair Foundation.

The School owes its present national prominence and reputation for excellence to some remarkable individuals who acted in the capacity of Headteacher in Al-Khair's infancy. Tribute is paid to Aisha Chaudhry who supervised the school through its first successful OfSTED inspection, and then Dr Muzamil Syed who was instrumental in leading the school through its second inspection, which consequently qualified the school for registered status. The present Headmaster, Mr Usman Qureshi, was appointed in 2005.

Present-day Al-Khair School is a family school catering for both sexes and all age groups from 4-11 primary school and an only boys 11-16 secondary school. There are currently a little over 125 pupils. The school places a strong emphasis on creating an atmosphere where the pupils do not just learn, but live Islam in its truest spiritual sense. The school also works hard at ensuring that the academic standard remains as high as possible by equipping all pupils with the necessary tools they need to succeed all the way to higher education. The school's small class sizes ensure that pupils receive a great deal of individual attention, which helps to track and effect a strong education for all.

Al-Khair School is very accessible from most locations being only a ten-minute walk from East Croydon station. The tram passing through East Croydon holds an added advantage for those people commuting from the borough of Wandsworth.

A prospectus and accompanying documentation are available from the School.