



STATEMENT OF FAITH

Malek Fahd Islamic School's vision is to be the leading school for Islamic education in Australia.

The School's mission is to empower every learner to achieve their full potential through an Islamic education.

We view education as a sacred responsibility which has implications for the standards we aspire towards and hold ourselves to.

We strive to foster an environment that nurtures God-consciousness (*taqwa*). Guided by the motto "Knowledge is light," we begin with a focus on ourselves, by encouraging self-reflection and the development of self-efficacy.

MFIS is driven by knowledge that benefits one's spiritual, moral, and intellectual growth. Beneficial knowledge as defined in the Islamic tradition is that which brings one closer to God. Our curriculum, learning resources, and lesson content are all guided by ensuring what we teach and how we teach is reflective of knowledge that benefits learners holistically.

At MFIS the dignity of our Muslim learners is to be honoured and preserved as the highest of priorities. We hold firm to asset-based views of learners – applying the principle of *husna-dhan* (holding a positive view and high opinion of learners and their families) as the basis of relationships, and engagement.

At MFIS our philosophy is that the holistic education of learners in a faith-enriching environment will enable them to develop God-consciousness, a refined moral character and excellence in action.

MFIS values engaging with other worldviews, orientations of thought, and lifestyles that inform the world around us, however, we do so guided by an Islamic worldview.

Malek Fahd Islamic School recognises the importance of all staff upholding the Islamic ethos of the school in their capacities as staff at the school.

Scholarly Consensus

1. Our Islamic school aligns itself on matters of sexuality and gender with the religious consensus (*ijma'*) that are established in the Quran, the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and Sunni scholarly tradition spanning fourteen centuries.
2. In Islam, the only accepted forum for sexual relations is between a husband and wife, and the only form of legitimate marriage is between a man and a woman. Islam sees gender as binary - man and woman. God "... created [*humans*] from a male and a female and made [*them*] into peoples and tribes so that you may come to know one another." (Quran, al-Hujurat: 14)
3. Islam rejects premarital and extramarital sexual acts and other sexual orientations as evidenced in the Quran, Sunnah (teachings of the Prophet), and Scholarly Consensus. "*Do not go near fornication. It is truly an immoral deed and a terrible way [to behave].*" (Quran, al-Isra': 32)



4. Malek Fahd Islamic School recognises that some groups have reinterpreted or revised religious doctrine to be inclusive of LGBTQ ideology and practice. Our Islamic School does not accept this revision and solely aligns itself with Sunni Scholarly Consensus.

Identity

1. In line with Sunni Scholarly Consensus, Malek Fahd Islamic School recognises that Islam distinguishes between feelings, actions, and identity, in that God holds individuals accountable for their words and actions (and not their involuntary thoughts and feelings). *“God has pardoned Muslims for what they think, as long as they do not speak of or act on it,”* - referring here to sinful conduct. (Bukhari, 2528)
2. In Islam, abstinence from unlawful sexual activity is mandated.
3. According to Sunni Scholarly Consensus that Malek Fahd Islamic School follows, Islam does not allow for the changing of a person’s sexual characteristics via surgical intervention or otherwise unless individuals are born with biological ambiguities or disorders of sexual development.
4. Islam differentiates between the public and private sphere, but also prohibits the public disclosure of sexual behaviour. Malek Fahd Islamic School concerns itself with the realm of staff conduct which can impact its students - in the classroom, elsewhere on campus, on the Internet, or in other settings. Malek Fahd Islamic School will not interfere with private lifestyle choices, so long as they do not interfere with the inherent requirement of a staff member to uphold the religious ethos and teachings of the school.

Approved: MFIS Board
Friday 8th March 2024