



The London Central Mosque Trust & Islamic Cultural Centre

17 April 2024

Statement Regarding Michaela Secondary School

The London Central Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre disagree with the judgement in the recent court case of **Michaela Secondary school**.

The United Kingdom is known for its protection of religious freedom. The government's own definition of British values, includes, "respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs."

Prayer is one of the most important pillars of Islam. Preventing Muslim's praying is a violation of their religious & human rights.

The high court verdict is very disappointing for all who care about preserving the tolerance and diversity of our multicultural nation.

The London Central Mosque was not involved in, and was not asked to be involved in this court case in anyway whatsoever.

Context

A parent of one of the pupils at Michaela school approached The London Central Mosque explaining that the head teacher was not allowing the children to pray, this was creating tension between the school and the community.

The Mosque decided to help liaise with the school to find a solution to how the kids could successfully perform their prayers on time.

- ❖ A meeting was held on [12.06.2023] to try and solve the concerns of the parents at Michaela Secondary school.
- ❖ The head-teacher said that she would never allow kids to pray at her school.
- ❖ London Central Mosque explained to the head teacher that Muslims need to pray in the allotted time of each prayer and there would have to be a solution to allow the kids to pray.

- ❖ In so far as the praying later is concerned, the London Central Mosque explained that, in the summer, the time between Dhur (noon prayer) and Asr (afternoon prayer) is further apart so the earlier prayer (in this case the dhur one) can be done later, whereby the noon prayer would be delayed to its final prescribed time and the afternoon prayer advanced and performed at the beginning of its time. This is an accepted practice called *Al jamm al suri*. We made it clear that in the winter it would NOT be possible to pray later as times are much shorter.

- ❖ The head-teacher said that the kids could not pray during their break time, she said no room and no playground was available and that the building was not originally designed to be a school. Consequently, the corridors are narrow and there are no open spaces.

- ❖ The head-teacher said she would give permission for the kids to pray at the Civic Centre across the road.

- ❖ The London Central Mosque welcomed this as an overall solution that the kids would be able to successfully pray.

The London Central Mosque stands for zero tolerance for discriminatory policies and the right to preserve everyone's religious freedoms.

[END]
