

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–2027
ISLAMIC ACADEMY OF RIVERSIDE



Islamic Academy of Riverside

Parent & Student Handbook

Academic Year 2026–2027

Growing in Faith • Learning with Excellence • Serving with Character

A WASC-Accredited Islamic School

Serving Preschool (31 months) through Grade 8

“My Lord, increase me in knowledge.” — Qur’an 20:114

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Welcome to the IAR Family

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh,

We are pleased to welcome you to the Islamic Academy of Riverside (IAR).

On behalf of our Board of Directors, administration, faculty, and staff, thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and Islamic development.

Since **1987**, IAR has partnered with Muslim families to provide an educational experience grounded in the Qur'an and Sunnah, strengthened by academic excellence, and guided by strong character and service.

We view education as an **Amanah**—a trust we carry with care, clarity, and accountability.

This handbook is your family guide to the school year.

It outlines key programs, procedures, and expectations so that home and school can work together consistently and respectfully.

Handbook note — Policies may be updated as needed to support student safety, learning, and compliance with applicable requirements. Families will be notified of significant changes through official school communication channels.

Wassalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuh.

School Administration



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1. School Identity & Mission

Our Story

Founded in **1987**, the Islamic Academy of Riverside serves Muslim families with a high-quality education rooted in Islamic values. Located adjacent to the Islamic Center of Riverside, IAR educates students from Preschool through Grade 8 in a nurturing environment that integrates strong academics with Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies.

Mission

The Islamic Academy of Riverside provides a high-quality, faith-based education that nurtures academic excellence, Islamic character, leadership, and lifelong learning—preparing students to be responsible citizens and compassionate servants of Allah (SWT).

Vision

To graduate confident American Muslim students who are spiritually grounded, academically prepared, morally responsible, and equipped to contribute positively to their families, communities, and society.

Core Values

Faith (Iman) — Strengthening our relationship with Allah (SWT) through worship, knowledge, and righteous action.

Excellence (Ihsan) — Pursuing high standards in academics, character, and service.

Integrity (Amanah) — Practicing honesty, responsibility, and trustworthiness.

Respect (Adab) — Treating others with kindness, dignity, and compassion.

Service (Khidmah) — Contributing positively to our school and community.

Leadership — Developing ethical leaders who model Islamic character.

Key expectation — Students and families are expected to uphold IAR's Islamic values and contribute to a respectful, safe, and purposeful learning environment.

2. Accreditation & Governance

WASC Accreditation

The Islamic Academy of Riverside is accredited by the **Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)**. Accreditation reflects our commitment to continuous improvement, accountability, and student learning outcomes.

Our instructional program aligns with California academic standards while integrating Qur'an, Arabic Language, and Islamic Studies to provide a comprehensive Islamic education.

Governance

IAR is governed by a **Board of Directors** responsible for preserving the school's mission, establishing policy, ensuring financial sustainability, and providing strategic oversight.

The Board delegates day-to-day management to the **Administrator**, who oversees educational programs, personnel, student services, and operations.

School Administration & Faculty

The administrative team collaborates with faculty and staff to support student learning and school operations. A current faculty and staff directory is published annually and is available through the school office and Brightwheel.

3. Admissions, Enrollment & Financial Commitments

Admissions & Enrollment

IAR welcomes students whose families support the school's mission and Islamic values. Admission decisions may consider the following factors:

Readiness — Age and developmental readiness for the grade level.

Records — Prior school records (as applicable).

Assessment — Academic screening when appropriate.

Placement — Classroom availability and the school's ability to meet the student's educational needs.

New students may be admitted on a probationary basis during an initial enrollment period. Continued enrollment is based on academic progress, behavior, attendance, and a constructive home-school partnership.

Grade Placement

Grade placement is determined by age, academic readiness, prior records, developmental maturity, and professional judgment. Requests for acceleration or retention are considered only after a comprehensive review.

Tuition & Fees

As an independent nonprofit school, IAR receives no government funding for its educational program.

Tuition and charitable support sustain instruction, staffing, campus operations, and student services.

Tuition is billed through **Brightwheel** according to the selected payment plan.

Families are responsible for maintaining an active account and paying according to the agreed schedule.

Enrollment-related fees (including registration, materials, and technology) are set annually and communicated during the enrollment period.

Unless stated otherwise in writing, these fees are non-refundable.

Financial Assistance

Limited assistance may be available through Zakat, Sadaqah, scholarships, and charitable donations. Awards are based on demonstrated need, require an application with documentation, and depend on available funding. Assistance is reviewed annually and does not guarantee future awards.

Delinquent Accounts

Families experiencing financial difficulty should contact the school office promptly to discuss available options. Failure to meet financial obligations may impact re-enrollment and participation in certain activities, consistent with school policy and applicable requirements.

4. Academic Program & Expectations

"Are those who know equal to those who do not know?" — Qur'an 39:9

Academic excellence is central to IAR's mission. Instruction integrates high expectations with Islamic identity development through Qur'an, Arabic, and Islamic Studies.

Curriculum Overview

English Language Arts

Mathematics

Science

History–Social Science

Physical Education & Health

Technology & Digital Literacy

Art (as offered by grade level)

Qur'an, Arabic Language, and Islamic Studies

Teachers use a range of instructional strategies to support diverse learners while strengthening critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.

Programs by Grade Band

Preschool (31 months+) — Developmentally appropriate learning through guided instruction and purposeful play, supporting cognitive, language, physical, social-emotional, and spiritual growth.

Grades 1–8 — A structured program that prepares students for continued academic success while strengthening Islamic identity, responsibility, and leadership.

Homework & Study Habits

Homework reinforces learning and builds responsibility, organization, and independent study skills. Expectations vary by grade level and subject. Families are encouraged to maintain a consistent routine and quiet study space while supporting student independence.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete work honestly. Cheating, plagiarism, falsification, unauthorized collaboration, or unauthorized use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) or technology is prohibited and may result in academic and disciplinary consequences.

Grading & Progress Communication

Student progress is shared through report cards, progress reports, conferences, and Brightwheel. Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor progress and communicate promptly with teachers when questions arise.

5. Student Life & School Procedures

Student life at IAR supports responsibility, respect, and community through daily routines, positive relationships, service, and leadership opportunities.

School Hours

The official school schedule is published annually and shared before the start of the school year. Students should arrive only during designated arrival times unless participating in a supervised activity. Prompt pickup at dismissal is required.

Attendance

Consistent attendance is essential for learning and character development. Families should notify the school office as soon as possible when a student will be absent. Repeated absences or excessive tardiness may require an attendance conference.

Tardiness

Students arriving after the start of the day must report to the school office before entering class. Chronic tardiness disrupts instruction and may affect academic progress.

Early Dismissal

Students may leave campus early only with school office approval and will be released only to parents/guardians or individuals listed on the emergency contact form. Identification may be required.

Arrival & Dismissal Safety

Traffic flow — Follow established traffic patterns and staff directions.

Loading zones — Do not leave vehicles unattended.

Efficiency — Help students enter/exit vehicles promptly.

Preschool families should escort children to the designated check-in area unless otherwise directed.

Technology & Devices

School technology supports instruction, research, and creativity. Students must use technology responsibly, protect passwords, respect copyright, and report unsafe content. Cell phones, smart watches, earbuds, and personal electronics must remain off and stored during the instructional day unless specifically authorized.

Uniforms & Personal Property

Uniforms promote modesty, belonging, and a focused learning environment. Uniform guidelines are published annually. Please label personal items; the school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged property.

6. Health, Safety & Campus Security

"Whoever saves one life—it is as if he has saved all of mankind." — Qur'an 5:32

Student safety and well-being are priorities at IAR. Families and the school share responsibility for maintaining a healthy and secure learning environment.

Student Health Information

Parents/guardians must inform the school of medical conditions, allergies, medications, and health concerns that may affect student safety or participation. Emergency contact information must be kept current throughout the year.

Illness

Students who are ill or show symptoms of a contagious illness should remain home until they can participate fully without risking others' health.

If a student becomes ill at school, a parent/guardian or emergency contact will be notified and prompt pickup is required.

Medication

Prescription and non-prescription medications may be administered only in accordance with school policy and applicable California requirements. Authorization forms must be completed in advance. Emergency medications (e.g., inhalers, epinephrine) are managed according to the student's health care plan.

Emergency Preparedness

IAR maintains emergency procedures for fire, earthquake, lockdown, evacuation, and shelter-in-place.

Students and staff participate in drills during the year.

Detailed procedures are maintained in the **Islamic Academy of Riverside Fire & Life Safety Manual** and related emergency plans.

Visitors & Campus Access

All visitors must report to the school office upon arrival, sign in, and receive authorization before entering campus. Appointments are recommended for meetings with teachers and administrators.

Mandatory Child Abuse Reporting

All school employees are mandated reporters under California law and must report suspected child abuse or neglect in accordance with applicable requirements. IAR is committed to the safety and well-being of every child entrusted to its care.

7. Student Character, Conduct & Discipline

"The best among you are those with the best character." — Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
(Sahih al-Bukhari)

IAR is committed to developing students of strong Islamic character (Akhlaq): integrity, self-discipline, compassion, and leadership. Every school setting is an opportunity to practice Adab.

Islamic Character (Adab)

Students are expected to:

Honor Allah (SWT) through words and actions
Show respect to teachers, staff, classmates, and visitors
Use respectful language and resolve conflicts peacefully
Demonstrate honesty and responsibility
Care for school property and the environment
These expectations apply at school, at school-sponsored activities, and whenever students represent IAR.

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)

As a WASC-accredited school, IAR aims to graduate students who are: **Faithful Muslims, Lifelong Learners, Responsible Citizens, Effective Communicators, and Self-Directed Individuals.**

Schoolwide STAR Characteristics

Students are encouraged and recognized for being: **Safe, Trustworthy, Accountable, and Respectful.**

Bullying, Harassment & Intimidation

Bullying, harassment, intimidation, hazing, retaliation, discrimination, threats, and cyberbullying are not tolerated. Students should report concerns immediately to a teacher or administrator. Reports are investigated promptly and addressed appropriately based on the circumstances.

Discipline Approach

Discipline is intended to be educational, fair, consistent, restorative when appropriate, and developmentally appropriate. Responses consider age, severity, frequency, intent, history, and safety. Interventions may include conferences, reflection, parent/guardian communication, restorative meetings, loss of privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion when necessary for safety and school order.

8. Parent Partnership & Communication

"Each of you is a shepherd, and each of you is responsible for his flock." — Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (Sahih al-Bukhari & Muslim)

Parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children. A strong partnership—built on respect, trust, and timely communication—supports students academically, spiritually, and socially.

How IAR Communicates

Brightwheel (primary platform)
Email and newsletters
School website and official announcements

Parent meetings and conferences

Families are responsible for maintaining current contact information and reviewing messages regularly.

Communication Protocol

Start with the classroom teacher for classroom-related matters.

If unresolved, schedule a meeting with the Administrator.

If further review is needed, the matter may be referred to the Board of Directors in accordance with Board policy.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities

Support the school's mission and Islamic values

Ensure attendance and punctuality

Reinforce respectful behavior and Adab

Monitor academic progress and homework routines

Communicate respectfully and promptly about concerns

9. General School Policies & Family Resources

Student Privacy & Records

Student records are maintained in accordance with applicable requirements and school procedures. Access is limited to authorized individuals and records are released only as permitted or with appropriate authorization. Families should promptly notify the school of custody changes, updated emergency contacts, or other changes affecting records.

Photography & Media

The school may photograph or record students participating in school activities and events for publications, newsletters, yearbooks, social media, promotional materials, and the school website. Families who do not wish their child to appear in publications should notify the school in writing at the beginning of the school year.

School Closures & Emergency Communication

In the event of severe weather or emergencies impacting operations, families will be notified through Brightwheel, email, and other official channels. Keep contact information current to ensure timely updates.

Lost & Found

Found items should be turned in to the school office. Unclaimed items will be held for a reasonable period and then donated or disposed of. Labeling personal belongings is strongly encouraged.

Notice Regarding Policies

This handbook provides general guidance and does not create a contract between the school and any student or parent/guardian. IAR retains discretion in interpreting and applying policies consistent with its mission, governance, and applicable requirements.

10. Parent & Student Handbook Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we have received access to the Islamic Academy of Riverside Parent & Student Handbook for the 2026–2027 school year and understand it contains important information regarding the school’s mission, educational philosophy, policies, procedures, and expectations.

By signing below, we agree to become familiar with the contents of this handbook and to work cooperatively with the administration, faculty, and staff throughout the school year. We understand policies may be revised when necessary.

Student Information	Signature
Student Name: 	Parent/Guardian Signature:
Grade: 	Date:
Parent/Guardian Name: 	Student Signature (Grades 4–8):

A Final Word

"My Lord, increase me in knowledge." — Qur'an 20:114

Thank you for choosing the Islamic Academy of Riverside. We are honored to partner with you in nurturing students who are grounded in faith, committed to excellence, and dedicated to serving others with compassion and integrity.

We ask Allah (SWT) to bless our students and families with beneficial knowledge, righteous character, steadfast faith, and success in this life and the Hereafter.

Jazakum Allahu Khayran for being part of the IAR family.