



Islamic Nikah Guidance

Marriage is the quintessence of a happy life, foundations of a stable family and successful society. The management of the Ashton Central Mosque (ACM) warmly welcomes and congratulates prospective couples who wish to marry in accordance with the Islamic Law.

The appointed trilingual English/Urdu/Arabic speaking Imam, Ghulam Moyhuddin performs the Nikah ceremonies, alternatively the Urdu speaking Imam, Muhammad Zahid Sharif is also available. The format of the Nikah includes a reminder to both partners of their duties and responsibilities to each other and Allah ﷻ, followed by a short speech on the sanctity and essence of marriage, the Nikah ceremony itself, and concludes with a collective Du'a. The Nikah certificate is then given to the bride and groom and a master copy is retained for internal Mosque records. For any additions in the service please consult the Imam.

Nikah Requirements: The bride and groom must both be sane, mature Muslims, marrying on their own accord without any coercion or duress. If any force is established before the ceremony, then the Nikah will not be performed, and if any force is established after the ceremony, then the Nikah can be annulled. The Nikah may also take place between a Muslim man marrying a Christian woman, or Muslim man marrying a Jewish woman. However, it is necessary for the Jewish or Christian woman to believe in the oneness of Allah ﷻ as well follow their respective legislation (Book) and Prophet, otherwise the Nikah will not be valid or recognised.

Please Note: The Islamic Nikah is not recognised as a valid marriage under English law in the U.K, for further information please see the **Important Notes** at the end of the document.

The following provides a brief overview of the Nikah booking process:

1. Booking Form: This is provided on the website and in the Mosque atrium/office. The Nikah will not be booked until the completed form is returned and fee paid. We recommend that bookings are made at least two weeks prior to the planned date. To make a booking, either:

- a. Complete the Nikah Booking form and hand it in to the Imam or Trustee of the Mosque.
- b. Alternatively you may email the completed form to imam_gm@yahoo.co.uk

Please Note: The details provided in the booking form will appear exactly on the Nikah Certificate, therefore exercise caution when filling in to avoid any mistakes.

2. Tameside Residency: Either the bride, groom or parents must be residents of Tameside in order for the Nikah to be booked and conducted. For exceptions to this please contact the Trustees in person at the Mosque.

3. Islamic Prohibition: The bride, groom, or parents must ensure that the couple are Islamically permitted to marry one another. For further information please refer to the Qur'an, Chapter 4 verse 23.

4. Booking Fee: A receipt will be provided for the compulsory payment and sent in the post. In order for the Nikah to be booked, the fees must be paid beforehand alongside the completed booking form.

5. Pre-Marriage Consultation: Whilst not compulsory, we encourage that both individuals meet with the appointed Imam at a mutually agreed time prior to the ceremony. The purpose of this meeting is for a general discussion with the Imam, which will include the Islamic obligations pertinent to marriage and cover the couple's personal circumstances and answer any questions. All such discussions will be carried out in complete confidentiality with the Imam.

6. Post-Marriage Counselling Session: After a month of the marriage, we recommend a counselling session to air and clarify any issues before they potentially become problematic.

Please Note: Both sessions are provided free of charge.

7. Documents: Please see the documents listed in the booking form. If these are not shown for verification, then the Nikah will not be booked. We advise these are brought to the first meeting, or otherwise on the agreed date of the Nikah ceremony.

8. Venue: The Nikah can be typically accommodated in a private room within the Mosque, should you require a larger room or hall then the community centre can be hired. For community centre costs please contact the Trustees. All persons attending the ceremony in the Masjid are required to observe the Islamic traditions of dressing and behaviour. The management and Imam reserve the right to refuse admission to anyone who does not comply with this request.

Please Note: Subject to availability, the Imam can also perform Nikah ceremonies at an alternative venue. However, the booking must avoid the congregational prayers and class times. For further information, please liaise with the Imam directly to avoid disappointment.

9. Important Note:

The Ashton Central Mosque is not registered to solemnise marriages in accordance with English law. A Nikah which is performed in the U.K. is not considered a valid marriage under English law, and as such provides no enforceable legal marital rights. This is important to note particularly in instances of marriage breakdown or death. For this reason, we encourage all community members to ensure a civil marriage is conducted immediately before or after the Nikah ceremony to preserve the enforceable rights of both parties.

The Ashton Central Mosque will **NOT** conduct a Nikah which breaches the general requirements of marriage in English law: Under English Law you can get married if you are:

- 16 or over (you will need permission from your parents or guardians if you're under 16)
- Free to marry (single, divorced or widowed)
- Not closely related (i.e. siblings)

The Marriage Gift (Mahr) in Islam

The Mahr is a gift given to the women for the purpose of marriage. The Mahr is a requirement of marriage based on the Qur'anic verse 4:4, ***"and give to the women their mahr."*** The Qur'an orders that the Mahr be given to the women since in pre-Islamic Arabia the money was usually taken by the guardian (Wali). There are also many Prophetic hadiths that confirm the importance of the Mahr.

The amount of the Mahr should not be symbolic or measly, but rather discussed by the two parties and reflect the women's social status, expectations, and needs. The Mahr should be paid before the consummation of the marriage unless there is a legal agreement that defers the amount.

In terms of divorce (Talaq), the full Mahr is required to be paid to the women. However, if a women initiates the divorce (Khula), then the women is obliged to return the Mahr to the man. Additionally, if a man divorces his wife before the consummation of the marriage then he is still required to pay half the Mahr based on verse 2:237. As the verse explains, the women may forgive the half that he is mandated or the man may pay full amount in order to mend relations.

In the case that a man passes away before paying his Mahr, the amount should be subtracted from his wealth before his inheritance is distributed since the Mahr is considered a debt.

The management at the Ashton Central Mosque and Imams wish all parties the best in their sincere intentions to unite together. May Allah ﷻ place peace, love and mercy in their relationships. Aameen