

Art & Design Policy

It is hoped that the guidelines set out in this policy will assist teachers when teaching art /design and any other subject at tawhid.

When a person observes the world in which they live and reflects at its natural beauty. He can only come to one conclusion, that all that he perceives points to an inevitable reality, that there is a supreme being at the heart of creation i.e. Allah Subhanahu Ta'ala and this is not the result of chance. This underlining theme is to be at the forefront of all that we do in teaching art and design.

The aim of teaching art is to enable the pupil to appreciate the beauty of Allah's creation. Instilling in him the truth of Allah's attribute of Al-Khaliq (The creator).

Art is not reserved to anyone subject and must not be taught for the sake of art. It should be used positively to confirm to ethical standards and strengthen morality. Therefore the guidelines established by Tawhid School Development Committee,

have been thought through carefully in order to find all what is permissible. The basic rule applied all through this document is that we follow strictly what the Prophet Mohammad (Peace be upon him) has taught us regarding drawing, in the light of the Quran and Sunnah. To avoid confusing the children we would appreciate if teachers do not adopt a lenient attitude towards this matter.

Here we have a great opportunity. To present an alternative to the prevalent and dominant waves of Western Art and values that has enveloped our attitudes to this subject. What we hope to rekindle is that glorious period of history where Islamic art was at the forefront, leading the way and setting the standards. The effects of which were seen throughout the world. Especially in European culture during the renaissance, or, more commonly known as the period of enlightenment.

As members of this society in which we reside, again an opportunity knocks where once again we can play a significant and important role in enriching our societies values.

May Allah Ta' ala (Most High) guide us all to worship him, as is his due and enable us to fulfil our responsibilities and duties as teachers and educationists in preparing the Muslim Ummah (Community) of today and tomorrow. Aameen.

GUIDELINES ON THE SUBJECT OF ART/DESIGN

In relation to illustrations and project the following rules should apply.

1) Drawing of human beings and animals to be avoided.

Remarks:

Pictures, photographs or posters of figures where no other alternative exist may be used ONLY for strict educational purpose. They must not be the object of Ta'dheem (glorification). They should not be displayed after their educational objective has been achieved.

The following points should be borne in mind;

a) The object drawn should not be Haraam (unlawful) to see in the first place (e.g. a woman's Awrah i.e. everything except for the hands and face, a man's Awrah i.e.

from the naval to below the knees, etc.)

b) Art is not for art's sake; practicality and educational usefulness must be the main objective.

c) Any work that includes illustration of animate/figure work (which has passed its purpose of importance) not to be taken home by students.

d) 3-D models of figures is prohibited (some exceptions, where no other alternative available to lesson relating to biology).

- 2) Emphasis should be given to patterns, shapes, colour, structures, symbols and textures.
- 3) Emphasis and encouragement towards the written word i.e. Calligraphy.
- 4) While illustrating stories, inanimate, concrete items in the story may be used in a variety of ways and forms (i.e. abstract, impressionist, geometrical).
- 5) Modern techniques and resources such as photography (nature and other landscapes), kinetics, neon and computer technology may be used at various levels.
- 6) Skills in painting and drawing still life to be encouraged and developed.

A FEW AHAADITH PROHIBITING AND CONDEMNING PICTURES OF ANIMATE OBJECTS

Ibn Abbas (May Allah be pleased with him) narrates on the authority of Maimunah (May Allah be pleased with her) verily, Rasoolullah (peace be upon him) arose one morning in a state of distress and said: verily Jibra'eel (peace be upon him) Promised to meet me last night, but he never met me. I take oath by Allah that he never broke a promise with me. Rasoolullah (peace be upon him) then realised that there was puppy dog under the bed. He (peace be upon him) ordered the dog to be removed and it was expelled and water was flushed on the place where the dog was. During the afternoon Jibra'eel (peace be upon him) met Rasoolullah (peace be upon him), and the Messenger of Allah then said. Verily, you promised to meet me last night. Jibra'eel (peace be upon him) replied `yes, but we do not enter wherein there is a dog or a picture.' Muslim.

Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) narrates:

`Verily she purchased a cushion, which had pictures on it. When Rasoolullah (peace be upon him) saw it he stood in the entrance and did not enter. I discerned displeasure on his face and said. O Messenger of Allah! I repent towards Allah and his Messenger. What sin have I committed? Rasoolullah (peace be upon him) said. What is this cushion?

Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her) said: I have purchased it for you to sit and lean against. Rasoolullah (peace be upon him) said. Verily the people of these pictures will be punished on the Day of judgement. It will be said to them: give life to that which you have created. And Rasoolullah (peace be upon him) said, verily, the angels do not enter a home wherein there are pictures. Bukhari and Muslim

Tawhid Boys School

**21 Cazenove Road
Stamford Hill
London
N16 6PA**

Tel: 020 8806 2999
E-mail: info@tawhid.org.uk
Web: www.tawhid.org.uk

Tawhid Boys School is a Project of Tawhid Educational Trust.
DFES No: 2046407. Charity Registration No: 1085204.