



AS-SUNNAH
QUR'AAN
S C H O O L

HIFTH

IMPORTANT GUIDELINES

General advice for reading and memorising the Qur'aan

There is no doubt that memorising the Qur'aan and reciting it is from the most noble and virtuous deeds a Muslim can perform. So let's take this opportunity to remind ourselves of a few ahadeeth narrated from the noble Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him).

Reward for reciting the Qur'aan

The prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: **"Whoever reads a letter from the Book of Allah will receive a hasanah (good deed) from it (i.e. his recitation), and the hasanah is multiplied by ten. I do not say that Alif-Laam-Meem is (considered as) a letter, rather Alif is a letter, Laam is a letter, and Meem is a letter."** At-Tirmidhi, Ad-Darimi.

The right intention

Actions are by their intentions. Allah's Messenger (peace be upon him) said: "Actions are but by their intentions and every man will have only that which he intended. (Bukhari and Muslim)

Understand the meanings of the Qur'aan

Allah mentions in Surah Saad:

(This is) a Book (the Qur'ân) which We have sent down to you, full of blessings that they may ponder over its Verses, and that men of understanding may remember. (Saad, 29)

Act upon it

It was narrated that Buraydah said: **"The Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: 'Whoever reads the Qur'aan, learns it and acts in accordance with it, on the Day of Resurrection his parents will be given a crown to wear whose light will be like the light of the sun, and his parents will be given garments which far surpass everything to be found in this world. They will say, "Why have we been given this to wear?" It will be said, "Because your child learnt the Qur'aan.'"**

Narrated by al-Haakim (1/756); he said it is saheeh according to the conditions of Muslim. Shaykh Al-Albaani said It is hasan because of corroborating evidence, as it says in Saheeh al-Targheeb.

Teach others

It is related from 'Uthman that the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, **"The best of you is the one who learns the Qur'aan and teaches it."** (Bukhari)

Tips on how to memorise the Qur'aan

Rely upon Allaah

The best advice that you can be given with regards to reaching your goals, is that you should rely upon Allah and seek His aid and help alone. Since every good is in His hands, and nothing happens without His permission.

And whosoever fears Allâh and keeps his duty to Him, He will make his matter easy for him. (At-Talaaq, 4)

Have the right mindset

Most people fail to memorize the Qur'aan because they simply did not mentally prepare for the journey ahead. So the first thing you need to firmly establish in your mind is that you may face difficulties in trying to memorize the Qur'aan, especially early on. However the good news is that normally the difficulties are only experienced at the start. Once you get into the habit of it, then it will become very easy. So when you find yourself in a situation where things are not exactly going the way you had expected then remember ,if you hold on and have patience, then you will meet your expectations shortly afterwards. This does not only relate to memorizing the Qur'aan, rather all righteous deeds become easier if you have patience.

Practice makes perfect

It is related from Ibn 'Umar that the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, "**The metaphor of someone who knows the Qur'aan is that of a hobbled camel. If he attends to it, it stays with him. If he lets it go, it wanders away.**" (Bukhari, 4743)

The Hadith speaks for itself, input = output. What you give is what you get when memorizing the Qur'aan. Many Muslims wish to become Hufaadh (memorisers), but only a few of them reach their goal. For those of you that love to read the Qur'aan then this is an encouragement, carry on with it. You will reach your desired destination and the strength of your memorization will get stronger and stronger.

Do not memorise mistakes

We all know how difficult it is to memorize a new ayah, and how much time and effort it takes, likewise trying to correct a mistake that has crept into your recitation is just as difficult. It requires the same amount of effort that you have exerted when memorizing it in the first place. Therefore it is very important to get it right the first time. And it is for this very same reason that Albaseerah Qur'aan School wants to ensure that students have a good level of tajweed, accuracy and fluency before they move onto Hifh. So when you are reading the Qur'aan, read it with focus and concentration.

Listen to the recitation of the Qur'aan

It is very important to listen to the correct recitation of the Qur'aan before you start memorizing, and also whilst you are memorizing. This is because it ensures that you become aware of any mistakes in your pronunciation, and in this way you can avoid memorizing mistakes.

Listening to the recitation of the Qur'aan in general also immensely strengthens your memorization. This is because it imprints the sound and melody of the recitation in your brain, so that when you make a mistake, you automatically realize that something is wrong, simply because it does not sound right.

Always stay one step ahead

When we acquire some new information, our brains need time to process it. Therefore the Qur'aan that you memorize today will take a couple of days to sink in. This means that you need to memorize your targets, a couple of days before they are actually due.

Important Principles

Here at As-Sunnah Qur'aan School, we have a few principles on which our Qur'aan Hifh is built. These are general guidelines for students:

Consistency

This principle is derived from the following Hadith. 'A'isha said that the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: **"The deeds most loved by Allah (are those) done regularly, even if they are small"**. (Bukhari, Muslim).

Therefore the amount of Qur'aan the student memorizes every week is not the issue. Rather what we focus on is that he meets his targets every week. We have carefully assessed every student and set him moderate weekly targets. Targets the student can meet on a weekly basis, without difficulties. In return our expectations are that every student reaches his target every week. A strong teacher, student and parent relationship is fundamental.

Quality over quantity

If we have to choose between the student memorizing 2 lines without mistakes, or 10 lines with mistakes, we would prefer the 2 lines. This is because the two lines are useful to him, since he can recite it in his prayer, or teach it to others.

Mistakes are a result of 1 of 2 things, not having read with concentration or not having read it enough times. So if we give the student room for mistakes, he will rely on it, and consequently not avoid the above 2 factors which contribute to mistakes.

Retain what you attained

It is related from 'Abdullah that the Prophet, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, said, **"It is very bad that someone says, 'I forgot such-and-such ayat.' He has been made to forget. Learn the Qur'an by heart. It slips from the breasts of men quicker than camels slip away."** (Bukhari, 4744)

In the above hadith the noble Messenger (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) advises on revising the Qur'aan that we have memorized or else the blessing that Allah has bestowed upon us will be taken away.

Therefore we will regularly test the students on what they have previously memorised, and if he fails then we will not continue to fill a bucket that has a gaping hole at the bottom of it.

Summary guidelines for parents and families

1. Parents are reminded to take interest in the Qur'aan Hifth of their child.
2. Support and positive encouragement should be given at all times.
3. Hifth requires time and dedication. It is therefore very important that parents plan their daily activities around the hifth to minimize the child's routine from being disrupted.
4. Knowledge without action is like a tree without its fruits. Parents need to be examples for their children by leading by example. This includes parents themselves reading the Qur'aan, praying their prayers, being obedient to Allah etc. Children need role models in the home and will not take things seriously if they do not have role models. As parents, what is preached must be practiced by you first and foremost. Are you spending hours trying to convince your children to read the Qur'aan, pray their prayers and be kind and gentle? Spend a portion of that by acting upon that which you want your child to do and you will see the fruits Inshaa'Allah. This is one of the key pieces of advice that the scholars bring in bringing up good children. And this is the piece of advice that in most cases is the least implemented.
5. Eating healthy food is also advised for good memory and general health and well-being. Please visit www.healthymuslim.com for guidelines on how to eat well.
6. The family should be patient with the progress of their child and not belittle or discourage them. A confident child will excel more rapidly Inshaa'Allah.

Summary guidelines for students

1. The student must have the correct intention which is memorizing sincerely for the sake of Allah.
2. The student should make dua to Allah for success and seek the aid of Allah alone and be upon Tawheed and the correct Islamic Belief.
3. Stick to the Sunnah of Allah's Messenger (sallallahu alayhi wa salam) at all times and stay away from innovation (bidah).

4. To act upon that which Allah has commanded such as praying the five daily prayers, fasting, seeking knowledge etc. Success is not going to come with disobeying Allah or turning away from Allah.
5. Stick to the targets that the teacher has set out in the hifth program and try to get ahead to avoid falling behind. Sometimes things happen in life that may mean you cannot do hifth for 2 or 3 weeks. It is therefore always important to be ahead.
6. Remember that Allah has made memorizing the Qur'aan easy for the sincere Muslim.
7. Try to eat healthy food. Do not waste time with useless affairs like watching TV etc.
8. Try to memorise during the mornings as this is when the brain is most active and you are least tired. There is also blessing in the mornings.
9. Choose good companions who will encourage you and remind you about Allah. Stay away from bad companions who will take you away from using your time beneficially.
10. Respect your Qur'aan teacher and understand that he/she is there to help and encourage you.
11. Use the weekends wisely in revising what you have memorized as without revision, you will forget it. Revise when you are on the bus, in the car, before going to sleep etc

Guidelines on how to read and memorise daily targets

Read the ayaat first

1. Look at the target for the day by looking into your memorization planner. Make a firm intention to fulfill that target and work hard to achieve it.
2. Recite the ayaat a few times to get familiar with them and to develop fluency.
3. Read the ayaat slowly and aloud using all the Tajweed rules you have learnt. Do not try to speed read. Quality is better than quantity.

Now start to memorise the lines

- A. Read the first line aloud 10 times by looking at it.
- B. Now try to read the same line 10 times by looking away from the page. If you can do this, then carry on to the next line following these same two steps.
- C. Now try to recite both of these lines up to 10 times by looking away from the page.
- D. Move to the next line and repeat the above steps. Carry on repeating the steps A,B and C until you have learnt all of the target ayaat for that day.
- E. Once complete, read the entire target ayaat 10 times to solidify it without looking at the page.

CONTRACT BETWEEN PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL

We pray to Allah that you have found this document beneficial and it acts as a guide to helping memorise the Qur'aan. We finally iterate once again that a hifth program will never ever be successful if the parent is not encouraging the child at home and working side by side with the teacher. A child is at As-Sunnah Qur'aan School for 1:30 mins daily, 4 days a week and the rest of the time is spent at home. This clearly indicates that what happens in the home is the basis of success. As agreed in the contract, if we find that there is consistent inadequate support from the parents or the child is consistently failing to meet the targets, the child will be removed from Hifth and given general targets. We feel that if parents and children are not committed, it is of little benefit to give unrealistic expectations to parents or unrealistic targets to teachers. So we ask for your strong cooperation in this matter. To do Hifth is not a given, students need to work towards it and prove that they have the skills and attitude to get onto it.

Baarakallahu feekum

As-Sunnah Qur'aan School