

The **ASPIRE** Trust

In the name of God, most gracious, most merciful

The ASPIRE trust is a charitable organisation based in the Jamia Masjid Ahl-e-Hadith Mosque on 97 Hopwood Lane, Halifax, West Yorkshire. We formed in April 2011 and were formally registered with the Charities Commission in July 2012. The charity is officially registered via our solicitors Hurrairah Harris in Halifax. The Charities Registration number is 1148337. We are governed by a board of 9 trustees and have regular committee meetings. The ASPIRE trust is responsible for the day to day running of all the spiritual, financial and administrative affairs of the mosque. This includes all activities run on the premises.

ASPIRE Trust Objectives:

The ASPIRE trust has a wide remit which includes;

- Day to day running of the Jamia Masjid Ahl-e-Hadith Mosque facilities, including daily congregational prayers, Jummah (Friday prayers) with sermons, religious ceremonies, pastoral support for the congregation, and other community support activities
- Education via the ASPIRE after school club for young children, as well as regular programs for older children and adults such as language classes.
- Women's classes and events including health awareness, cooking and sewing classes
- Spiritual development via the Dawah group, for both men and women.

We aim to improve the health and social inequalities in the local area by working with other local groups such as Calderdale Council, the Communities Foundation and The Al-Ajar Foundation.

In particular we aim to use our resources in a manner sensitive to the cultural and religious needs of this group.

The Population:

We are based in the Park Ward area of Halifax. This is a region with a high Muslim population mainly from a Pakistani ethnic background. More specifically there is a large group of first, second and third generation immigrants from the Kashmir region of Pakistan. The dominant languages are Punjabi, Urdu and Arabic as well as English

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The Calderdale Council website provides information about the health and social inequalities in this area. This includes some of the highest rates of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other diseases in the area and the country.

The levels of poverty, as assessed using surrogate markers such as the uptake of free school meals, is very high.

Poor educational attainment is a recognised problem for schools in the area.

Facilities:

We are based in, and run, the Jamia Masjid Ahl-e-Hadith Mosque on Hopwood Lane in Halifax. This is one of the largest Mosques in Halifax.

We have 2 buildings capable of hosting in excess of 1000 people. There is a large prayer/conference hall with a capacity of 500 - 700. Furthermore there are 2 smaller conference halls with a further 500 person capacity.

On site we also have four classrooms as well as some extra small study rooms, a fully functional gym (for both men and women), recreational facilities for children, a library, 3 small kitchens, full toilet facilities and on site car parking. In addition to that we have two apartments fully fitted for residential use, on the 3rd floor of building No. 2.

We are fully wired for sound with a quality PA system capable of providing linked speech throughout the 2 buildings and halls if needed or we can use each hall independently.

Our classrooms are fitted with smart boards. In addition to that we have wireless internet throughout both buildings via 9 access points.

Trust Background:

The ASPIRE Trust was formulated by a number of individuals wanting to commit themselves to charitable work on a part-time basis which would go hand-in-hand with their faith. The trust board itself consists of individuals, including Doctors, Solicitors, Accountants, Teachers, IT professionals and members from various other backgrounds, who are all committed to the trust on a purely voluntary basis. All trustee board members have full time day jobs. None of the trustees are paid in any shape or form.

We provide support and assistance for the elderly community both in terms of social events as well as academic and health support. The ASPIRE Trust professional members (doctors, lawyers and accountants) also provide free clinics within the community in order to assist with any issues that individuals may have. Details are also provided to them in case they wish to speak on a one-to-one private basis. All the services provided are free of charge and costs are covered through donations.

With regards to the specific Background information as per the request,

• Which faith/religion you belong to

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The religion represented is Islam. The denomination is Sunni Muslim, we belong to the Ahle-e-Hadith subgroup.

- **How you are connected to your parent organisation (where applicable) within your faith/religion;**

The Mosque is run by the ASPIRE trust. The ASPIRE trust does not have a parent organisation. The ASPIRE trust is responsible for the day to day running of all the spiritual, financial and administrative affairs of the mosque. This includes all activities run on the premises. All employees are employed by the ASPIRE trust. Any sub groups, created by delegation to distribute responsibility, report to the ASPIRE trust. The ASPIRE trust is the governing body in all matters.

- **The size of the adult congregation**

The subscribed membership is over 250 families. We register people by the adult head of the family which would also include adult children. We also have a large number of non-subscribed worshippers. Our estimated total is between 400 and 600 people. There is absolutely no requirement for subscription to worship at the mosque. We have an open doors policy.

There are five daily prayers for which the congregation varies from 30 to 80 people (for each prayer) during the working week. There is seasonal variation due to the prayer times changing in accordance with the length of the daylight hours and also prayers held during the working hours.

During the weekend, the numbers tend to increase. Typically this can vary from 40 to 120 people per prayer. If any courses are run, this number can increase up to 250 people per prayer.

The weekly attendance at the Friday prayer is between 400 to 600 people.

The bi-annual 'Eid' prayers typically stretch the resources of the mosque by attracting 800 to 1200 worshippers.

- **Scheduled days and hours of worship**

The Mosque is open every day, and is also generally open throughout the day (depending on schedules activities - detailed below). The hours of worship varies throughout the year. There is variation in the prayer times, which change in accordance with the length of the daylight hours and phases of the day.

We have five daily congregational prayers lasting about 15-30 minutes each, with considerable time given for any additional prayers any worshipper would like to make. So, currently at the time of writing this document, the scheduled times of congregational worship are:

5:00AM (Dawn)	2:00PM (Midday)	5:45PM (Mid Afternoon)	8:20PM (Sunset)	10:00PM (Nightfall)
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The times vary according to daylight hours and are linked to phases of the day, namely at Dawn, Midday, Mid Afternoon, Sunset and Nightfall. Typically the winter time hours for daily prayers are:

7:00AM	1:00PM	2:15PM	4:00PM	6:45PM
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With summer prayers time of

3:45AM

2:00PM

6:30PM

9:30PM

11:15PM

We have a number of activities thought out the day and in the evenings, which apart from regular daily congregational prayers. Please see our website for our current www.jmahdawah.org

Please note: Since the activities are manned by volunteers, only the area of the activity may be open Currently at the time of writing this document, the mosque would be open for the following activities (off site activities are not listed).

Monday

Ladies Islamic Studies	11am - 1pm
Women's Quran lessons	10am -12pm
Youth activities	6pm - 9 pm
Children classes	4.30pm -8.30pm

Tuesday

Women's Quran lessons	10am -12pm
Children classes	4.30pm -8.30pm

Wednesday

Women's Quran lessons	10.30 am - 11.45 am
Ladies Islamic Studies	11am - 1pm
Children classes	4.30pm -8.30pm
MMA Classes	

Thursday

Children classes	4.30pm -6.30pm
MMA Classes	6pm -9 pm
Youth Boxing and exercise activities	7pm -9 pm

Friday

Women Quran recitation	2.30pm -3.45pm
Children classes	4.30pm -8.30pm

Saturday

Al-ajar student classes	12am -1pm
Youth Boxing and exercise activities	7pm -9 pm

Sunday

Ladies Arabic Language	10am -1pm
Quran Lessons	6pm -8pm

• **Heirarchy**

The ASPIRE Trust

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The ASPIRE Trust does not report to any parent organisation. It has a constitution which defines the roles and responsibilities and we have regular meetings. We have a voting system in place, whereby the majority vote would carry the decision. A larger majority would be needed, as defined in our constitution, for other extraordinary matters. All trustees have an equal vote including the trustee acting as the head of the faith body.

The ASPIRE trust is responsible for the day to day running of all the spiritual, financial and administrative affairs of the mosque. This includes all activities run on the premises. All employees are employed directly by the ASPIRE trust. Any sub groups, created by delegation to distribute responsibility, report to the ASPIRE trust. The ASPIRE trust is the governing body in all matters.

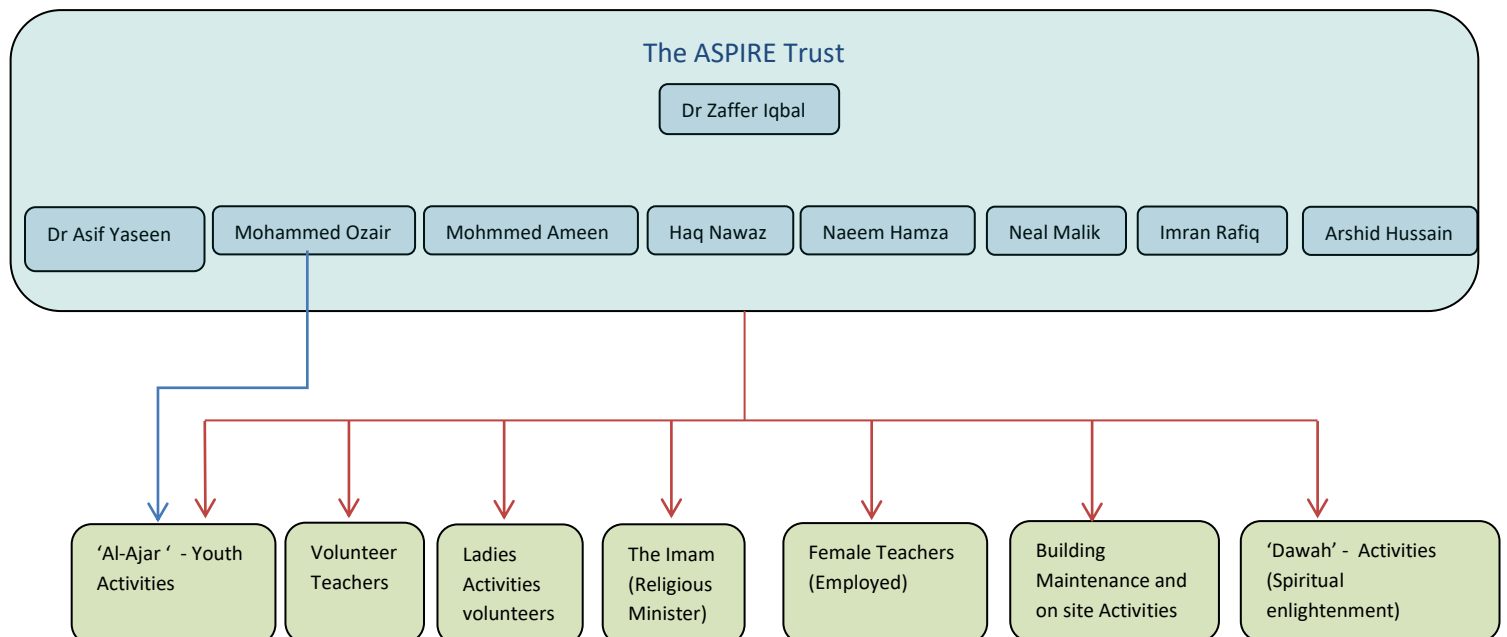
The Imams are employed by the ASPIRE trust as the main religious ministers for the mosque and report directly to the ASPIRE Trust and will have a line management structure from within the Trust in place. The Imam will be subject to all Aspire Trust staff policies.

We also use volunteers locally for day to day running of the facilities. These volunteers are supervised by the ASPIRE Trust.

The ASPIRE Trust employs 4 female teachers. They will continue to serve in that capacity.

All teachers and volunteers are DBS vetted (Disclosure and Barring Service is the replacement for CRB). All trustees are DBS vetted.

Our hierarchical structure is as per the chart below.



Summary

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This letter is a summary of the Trust background, our activities, our facilities. proposed role I hope I have covered what is required by you in terms of the background information of our organisation, however, if you feel that we have missed out anything, or if you need further clarification then please feel free to contact me directly.