



Nikah Policy

Family life is the foundation of a successful society, and marriage is an occasion of great joy endowed by Allah ﷻ. 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 bilingual English/Urdu speaking Imam Ghulam Moyhuddin performs the Nikah ceremonies, otherwise the Urdu speaking Imam Muhammad Zahid Sharif. A Nikah certificate is given to the bride and groom and a master copy is retained for Mosque records.

NB: 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 also be annulled. The Nikah may also take place between a Muslim man and Christian woman, or Muslim man and Jewish woman. However it is necessary for the partner (wife) to believe in the oneness of Allah as well His legislation (Shariah), whether it be Islamic, Christian or Jewish; otherwise the Nikah will not be valid or be recognised.

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

The following provides a brief overview of the ACM 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 form is returned completed. 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. Telephone the Imam on **0161 330 0617** and he will complete the booking form on your behalf and address any queries you may have.
- c. Alternatively you may email the completed form to the Imam at **imam_gm@yahoo.co.uk**

NB: The details provided in the booking form will appear exactly on the Nikah Certificate, therefore exercise caution when filling in.

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 clause please contact the Trustees.

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: Full details of the fees are set out on the Nikah booking form. A receipt will be provided for payments made and sent out in the post.

5. Pre-Marriage Consultation: Whilst not compulsory, we encourage that the parties to the marriage and/or members of the respective families meet with the appointed Imam at a mutually agreed time prior to the day of 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. 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.

NB: Both sessions are provided free of charge.

7. Documents: Please see the documents listed in the booking form. If these are not shown, 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 this can be hired. All persons attending the ceremony are kindly requested to observe the Islamic tradition of dressing in keeping with Islamic values. The management reserves the right to refuse admission to anyone who does not comply with this request. For community hall charges please liaise with the Mosque Trustees.

NB: 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.

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 UK 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)
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Further Useful Information

<http://ashtoncentralmosque.com/index.php/resources/al-nikah-the-islamic-marriage/>