

Irfan College Case Study

School Context

Irfan College is located in the serene surroundings of Cecil Park. It offers a nurturing educational journey from kindergarten through to Year 12. The college leadership leads with a strong emphasis on fostering a deep connection to Islamic tradition, while providing an enriching environment for holistic development for learners. The small learner population ensures personalised attention, creating a close-knit, supportive community where, as the suggests, “every student can thrive”.



college

Key Pedagogical Challenges

Irfan College was grappling with a way to truly center character development that is deeply rooted in Islamic principles, ensuring that every aspect of learning and personal growth is aligned with the college’s connection to the Islamic tradition and its rich cultural and spiritual heritage.

Key Aspirations Inspired by Islamic Pedagogy

- To weave Islamic principles / values (theory for practice) and teachings (content / perspectives) into every Key Learning Area (KLA), ensuring a holistic educational experience.
- An approached to mandatory professional learning sessions that are inspired by Islamic principles, fostering continuous growth and alignment with our faith.
- The *Futuwwah* Project: Embarking on a journey of chivalry and moral excellence, inspired by Islamic traditions.

Key Initiatives in Progress (2023-2024)

- **Futuwwah Project > Sunnah Sports Program:** archery and wrestling sessions for learners
- **20-Week Professional Development:** Weekly *Tazkiyat al nafs* (purification of the self) class guided by the college’s critical scholarly educational / spiritual partner, Shaykh Walead Mosaad.

At a Glance

School Name Irfan College

Established 2012

Orientation Sunni

Student # **376**

Streams:

single

ICSEA (Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage) :

low to middle

Teacher ratio Muslim / Non-Muslim **49:1**

of Educators in or

completed the Graduate Certificate **7**

(ongoing)

Short

Programs: **0**

(running in-house led by

MCIM

graduates)

- **Islamic Worldview Integration:** Infuse primary and secondary education with a profound Islamic perspective across all Key Learning Areas (KLAs).
- **Permaculture Project:** Embrace sustainability with garden maintenance program and the care of sheep and chickens (embedded across KLAs).
- **K-6 Islamic Studies Renewal:** A comprehensive overhaul of the Islamic Studies curriculum, ensuring a robust and engaging learning journey.
- **Why Islam is True Program (Basira Edu):** Centering *Aqidah* (creed), shaping purpose, alignment, and coherence in Irfan College's shared educational approach.
- **Friday Adhkaar [remembrance] Sessions:** for faculty and staff – prioritising educator wellbeing / 'āfiyah, holistic growth, connectedness.
- **Al Ghazzali's 6Ms Framework:** Weaving the wisdom of Al Ghazzali into a comprehensive framework for all stakeholders, fostering a unified and enriched community.



Professional Development Training / Professional Learning and Growth:

Mandatory for all staff members:

- Phase 1: Foundations of Islamic Pedagogy
 - A 10-20 week journey exploring the core principles of Islamic Pedagogy, inspired by the profound insights of Sh. Ramzy Ajam and Assoc. Prof. Nadeem Memon.
- Phase 2: Beliefs That Shape Teaching
 - Delve into "What Muslims Believe In" and discover how *Aqidah* (creed) shapes educational approach, guided by the enlightening works of Basira Education and Sh. Hamza Karamali.
- Phase 3: Path to Spiritual Excellence
 - Spiritual excellence sessions (*tazkiyat al nafs*) to understand how it transforms teaching methods, lead by Sh. Walead Mosaad.

The Way Forward

Exploring New Horizons: Strengthening and Expanding the Theory and practice of *Futuwwa*

The school is delving into innovative methods to implement this foundational theory in practice as the basis for ongoing renewal towards distinction.