



Easton Islami Darasgah

Castle Green Building
Greenbank Road
Bristol
BS5 6HE

Islam: The complete code of life.

EASTON ISLAMI DARASGAH (BRISTOL)

Charity number 1040850

Report and Financial Statements

Year ending 28 February 2021

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The trustees present their annual report and independently examined financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2021 and confirm they comply with the Charities Act 1993, as amended by the Charities Act 2006 and the charity's constitution.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name	Easton Islami Darasgah (Bristol)
Charity Registration Number	1040850
Principal Office	Castle Green Building Greenbank Road Bristol BS5 6HE

Board of Trustees

Imtiaz Ahmed (Chairman)
Habib Rahman (Secretary)
Syed Riazullah Hussaini (Joint Treasurer)
Mohammed Abbas Khan (Joint Treasurer)
Khushnood Iqbal
Rizwan Tariq
Zahid Nadeem
Abdul Samad Tariq
Hateem Mukarram
Muhammad Bashir
Mohammed Nasar
Mohammed Khaliq Sharif
Tahir Iqbal
Mohammed Azir Razzak (Left August 2020)
Nadeem Mohammed
Shafiq Rehman (Left August 2020)
Amir Sharif (Left July 2020)
Talhah Malik (Left January 2021)
Mohammed Tariq
Muhammad Aamer

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
Fishponds Branch, Bristol
697 Fishponds Road, Bristol BS16 3UJ

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Easton Islami Darasgah (Bristol) is registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1040850. The governing instrument is the Charity's Constitution last updated in June 2005.

Organisational structure

The charity trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity. The trustees give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

The trustees meet together as a body monthly and as and when necessary and are responsible for all decisions taken in relation to running facilities and the activities provided by the charity. The day-to-day management of facilities and projects are delegated to staff and volunteers where appropriate.

Appointment of trustees

The charity trustees are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) every two years through an election process by the members of Easton Islami Darasgah.

In selecting new trustees, members seek to identify people who regularly attend programmes, events and functions organised by the charity, who are known to the members, who fully support the constitution, and who are willing to volunteer themselves practically to help in the management and running of the charity. New trustees are guided as to their role and responsibilities by more longstanding trustees. The trustees receive regular communications by email from the Charity Commission which enables the trustees to keep abreast of developments issued by the Charity Commission.

Risk management

The trustees regularly assess the risks the charity faces and are satisfied that systems are in place, or arrangements are in hand, to manage the risks that have been identified. In particular, insurance cover is in place and the finances of the organisation are kept under review. Appropriate Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) checks, supported by regularly reviewed policies, are made for all those who work with children or other vulnerable groups within the charity. Health & Safety policies are regularly reviewed to ensure absence of risk to safety and health of employees and others 'so far as is reasonably practicable'. This year, in particular, the Trustees have considered the effect of the Covid-19 outbreak on the charity's activities and finances. These systems and/or arrangements are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

Objectives and activities

Our aims

The objects of the charity are set out in the charity's constitution and are summarised as follows:

- To promote Islam in accordance with the Holy Quran and Sunnah for the benefit of the public, in particular, through spiritual teaching and by conducting regular congregational prayers and ceremonies.
- To promote Islamic education amongst both Children and Adults through holding regular classes and organising events and functions from time to time.
- To relieve those Muslims who are in need.

Our objectives

Our objectives are set to reflect our faith and community aims. Each year our trustees review our objectives and activities to ensure they continue to reflect our aims. In carrying out this review the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular its supplementary public guidance on the advancement of religion for the public benefit.

Our dual aims remain to provide a facility where Muslims can worship and to provide a community facility for the inhabitants of Bristol. Our long-term ambition is to build the self-confidence of Bristol's Muslims in their faith, and through our facilities and activities, help make our area a peaceful, vibrant and harmonious community.

Strategies

We want to make our organisation an accessible and welcoming venue where all Muslims, or those who wish to know more about our faith, can gather together to learn about their religion and worship. Easton Islami Darasgah is open at all times with daily prayers, the Friday prayers being a focus of our activities.

The charity aims to promote the Islamic faith by continuing to provide facilities for teaching both children and adults and through the holding of regular events for Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

Our two main strategies this year has been to ensure we come through the pandemic SAFELY with minimal impact to our finances and services and to move forward with our vision; a strong Madrassah (Education) system, improving women/youth facilities/events and becoming a community hub.

Keeping our attendees safe has been our topmost priority. To this end, a strategy has been devised to help us achieve this; creating & implementing a COVID-19 risk assessment utilising 3rd party expertise, governmental & council resources & buy in from our trustees, employees & volunteers. A big thank you to our trustees for their unflinching support & commitment in helping our organisation keep our attendees, employees and trustees safe. On minimising the impact of the pandemic on our organisation, we have devised strategies to keep a close eye on our finances (utilising furlough and other schemes where appropriate). We have also devised a strategy to move to on-line environments for our teaching, fund raising & deliveries of talks & seminars.

On moving forward with our vision, we are pleased to say an Imam has been successfully recruited and we are devising strategies on how best to utilise this resource alongside our existing resources.

We hold an open day each year as part of the Bristol Diverse Doors Open Day event when we open our doors to the public of Bristol to visit us and learn more about Islam. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold an open day this year.

An important part of our strategy is community welfare and education. All our community facilities and activities including classes, health initiatives and seminars are advertised and we welcome the participation of all in our local community, Muslim and non-Muslim alike. Most of our activities are free and supported by donations or grant funding. Where a charge is made, concessions are made for students, people on means-tested benefits and pensioners.

Funds are raised to meet the charity's objectives by voluntary collections at the Mosque and on-line and from yearly donations from our members. The Madrassah classes (after school Islamic classes) are funded by contributions from the students' parents/guardians. Gift Aid claims are submitted from time to time to claim back tax from our eligible donors.

Use of volunteers

Volunteers are an important resource in both our faith and community work. Volunteers are involved in most of our faith and community activities and we have over 5 people regularly giving their time. All our trustees also give of their time freely. We encourage all members of our organisation to be involved in voluntary activities and to share their skills with others. All those volunteers working with projects involving children or other vulnerable groups are DBS/CRB checked.

Activities and achievements

How our activities deliver public benefit

The charity carries out a wide range of activities in pursuance of its charitable aims. The trustees consider that these activities, summarised below, provide benefit both to those who worship at Easton Islami Darasgah and the wider community of Bristol.

Religious activities

Easton Islami Darasgah provides a centre for our prayers and worship and for the activities associated with our faith. During this unprecedented year under review, we continued to offer a range of religious services and activities including:

Prayers: Thanks to our capable and dedicated trustees, staff and volunteers, Easton Islami Darasgah managed to stay open for the 5 times daily and Friday prayers (once restrictions allowed this to occur). During the week we had over 20 people who regularly attended daily prayers and over 150 who regularly attended Friday prayers.

Daily after school classes: Easton Islami Darasgah continued to offer after school classes for children both online and on-premises (when allowed) during this lockdown period. Children are schooled in Islamic Education including reading the Muslim holy book The Holy Qur'aan. Students are taught the Islamic way of life so they can be model citizens. The classes are run by the Principal Sheikh Ilyas alongside 9 part time teachers and 1 full time Imam. The numbers attending after school classes varied due to the pandemic but improved as the year progressed.

Hifz classes: Memorisation of the Holy Qur'aan is considered an important element of religious education and training. Easton Islami Darasgah continued to provide this facility online for the committed students who wish to memorise the Holy Qur'aan.

Islamic lectures: Islamic lectures are held on a daily and weekly basis to promote Islamic knowledge and awareness. Muslims are encouraged to attend these events. Special lectures are also organised throughout the year for the benefit of all people in the community. This year, due to the pandemic, the classes were held on-line and have proved very popular with a more wider audience.

Festivals: The 2 Eid festivals are our focal points of the year and facilities are provided for the Muslims of Bristol to celebrate Eid in an Islamic manner. This year, due to the lockdown, Easton Islami Darasgah was unable to provide facilities during Ramadhan and one of the two EID festivals for our members and attendees.

Funeral facilities: The Mosque provides a complete funeral service in line with the teachings of Islam. We relieve the deceased's bereaved relatives of the burden of organising burials. We also hold special classes to teach people how to proceed with Islamic burial procedures. Our funeral facilities and service have been widely used by people from as far afield as London and Cornwall and has been very much appreciated. This year, due to the pandemic, our funeral facilities were used in a very limited capacity.

Nikkah (Islamic marriage) The Mosque provides Muslim couples with an appropriate location for their Nikkah (Islamic marriage).

Inter-faith dialogue: Easton Islami Darasgah is an active member of the Multi-Faith Forum for the Bristol area. We use this platform to promote inter-faith dialogue and social cohesion. Due to the pandemic, no events were held this year.

Charitable giving: The alleviation of poverty and suffering lies at the heart of Islam and therefore charitable giving is greatly encouraged. Easton Islami Darasgah provides a venue from time to time, for registered charities to appeal to the congregation to give to worthwhile causes.

Community activities

Easton Islami Darasgah both facilitates and participates in a number of community activities and initiatives to help make our area a peaceful, vibrant and harmonious community. During the year under review, our range of community activities were greatly reduced due to the pandemic. We hope to increase these activities in the coming year. This years activities included:

School and Educational visits: We welcome visits from mainstream schools and other educational or faith based organisations. It enables the wider community to find out more about the workings of a mosque and the Islamic faith for projects and studies. The visit consists of an introductory lecture, a tour of the building and a Q&A session.

Council of Bristol Mosques: We are founding members of The Council of Bristol Mosques formed to give the Mosques in Bristol a stronger and united voice within the community at large. The Council of Mosques has continued to work with key stakeholders including NHS, Police, Bristol City Council, Government agencies and is considered a key Muslim stakeholder in Bristol.

Covid-19 community meetings: A number of community meetings were held with key stakeholders including Mosque organisations (local & national), Police, Councils, Health. These meetings ensured our organisation received good up to date guidance and best practice for navigating our way through the pandemic. As a result of these meetings, actions were implemented within our organisation ensuring our trustees, employees, volunteers and attendees were kept as safe as possible through the pandemic.

BMLSG community group: We are a member of an environmental community group looking at ways how organisation like ours can make our communities more aware of environmental issues and initiatives to reduce their carbon footprint and to take more care of the environment.

Partnership working

In developing our community programmes we are pleased to work in partnership with other Muslim organisations, NHS, Police, Bristol City Council and Government agencies. We work with all of these agencies in promoting harmony, unity and diversity across all communities and are a key Muslim organisation in Bristol.

Financial review

Reserves policy

The trustees have reviewed the reserves of the charity. The Trustees have considered the effect of the Covid-19 outbreak on the charity's activities. This outbreak is likely to cause a significant disruption to the charity's income and continuing activities. Their policy this year was to continue to hold funds of at least £80,000 to meet the general running costs of the organisation and to cover unforeseen emergencies. The reserves policy will be reviewed at the start of the new financial year.

Principal funding sources

The charity's main source of income is giving. This is done through voluntary collections at Friday prayers and at the Eid festivals, contributions from parents/guardians of children attending the after school classes and yearly contributions from the members of Easton Islami Darasgah. We have also moved to online funding sources which has been of great help during the pandemic. All these funding sources will enable us to smoothly maintain and run the premises and implement our strategies for this financial year.

Investment policy and objectives

The charity has no long-term investments.

2020/21 Review

The Year in Perspective

The period 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021 for Easton Islami Darasgah (Bristol) saw us in unprecedented circumstances, when the entire world experienced the COVID-19 pandemic. For the first time, our organisation passed most of the year under lockdown or restrictions. Under these unprecedented circumstances, our trustees, employees and volunteers responded magnificently and have ensured our organisation met this challenge in an exemplary way keeping our attendees SAFE and minimising the impact to our finances and services whilst at the same time moving forward with our vision; a strong Madrassah (Education) system, improving women/youth facilities/ events and becoming a community hub.

Our topmost priority this year has been to keep all our trustees, employees, volunteers, students SAFE. To this end, an on-going COVID-19 risk assessment was compiled and implemented by our trustees. This included manning a reception desk, issuing attendees with hand sanitizer, masks, prayer sheets, recording details for contact tracing purposes and implementing social distancing measures (thereby reducing our capacity considerably). Many thanks to our trustees & employees & volunteers for fearlessly being at the forefront of our response.

On the finances, our income has taken a considerable hit this year due to the lockdown/restriction measures. There has been a significant decrease to charitable donations received via Friday collections (approx. 20,000) and on-site collection boxes as well as a decrease in tuition fees (approx. £19,000). Our expenditure has seen an increase this year but have received some furlough payments from HMRC to offset some of our wage costs. Many thanks go to our Trustees who made extra efforts in the month of Ramadhan to gently remind and fund raise from our members/supporters. As a result we have seen a marked increase in donations and membership fees since that time which improved our funding situation considerably. We have also taken steps to move to on-line funding platforms and social media encouraging our supporters to donate on-line. This is proving successful.

Many of our services have been impacted adversely as a result of the pandemic. We were able to offer some of these services on-line and some are proving popular. Examples of these include delivering talks/seminars on-line to a wider audience and moving teaching on-line ensuring students continue to learn through the lockdown/restrictions.

In spite of the pandemic, some progress has been made on implementing our vision. I am pleased to say that we have now recruited an Imam which will help us move forward with our vision.

In other matters, the Madrassah (after school Islamic classes) has seen a transformation to online learning during the lockdown/restrictions so students miss as little of their education as possible. We are happy to say that the students have slowly resumed learning. At the end of the year 130 students were back learning. We would like to thank the Principal M Ilyas and all supporting staff for their efforts in supporting the students during this unprecedented year.

Our community initiatives have been reduced this year due to the Pandemic. Nevertheless, we have maintained contact with the Council, Police, NHS and inter-faith dialogues via on-line meetings. This year we participated in a number meetings related to Covid-19 which enabled us to receive good up to date guidance and best practice for navigating our way through the pandemic.

Next year, in particular, we will need your active support (both financially & practically) for us to continue to deal with the effects of the on-going pandemic and for us to move forward with our vision. We have come through this year by all of us working and supporting one another and hope this can continue next year.

Lastly, a note of thanks to the continued support from the members, who have supported us fully in the pandemic and have co-operated with us and have dealt with the restrictions with patience.

Imtiaz Ahmed (Chair)

26 December 2021

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing an annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 1993, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees for the purposes of charity law who served during the financial year 1st March 2020 to 28th February 2021 are set out on page 3.

The independently examined accounts of Easton Islami Darasgah (Bristol) for the period ended 28th February 2021 which were approved by the Trustees at their meeting on Sunday 26th December 2021 and will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

Approved by the trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Imtiaz Ahmed (Chair)

26 December 2021



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Castle Green Building
Greenbank Road
Bristol
BS5 6HE

Islam: The complete code of life.

Charity Name	No (if any)
Easton Islami Darasgah (Bristol)	1040850

Receipts and payments accounts


CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/03/2020		28/02/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	36,793	200	-	36,993	51,076
Tuition Fees	29,480	-	-	29,480	48,265
Membership fees	11,128	-	-	11,128	16,975
Targeted appeals	1,008	8	-	1,016	3,285
Fees for charitable services	1,000	-	-	1,000	2,980
Gift Aid claim	-	-	-	-	23,281
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	79,409	208	-	79,617	145,862
A2 Asset and investment sales.					
	-	-	-	-	-
Loans received	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	79,409	208	-	79,617	145,862
A3 Payments					
Wages	57,408	-	-	57,408	61,495
Light and Heat	5,991	-	-	5,991	5,637
Insurance	4,878	-	-	4,878	4,448
Targeted appeals	-	-	-	-	3,285
Other expenditure	6,927	-	-	6,927	11,256
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	75,204	-	-	75,204	86,121
A4 Asset and investment purchases					
Capital expenditure	15,159	-	-	15,159	-
Loan repayments	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	15,159	-	-	15,159	-
Total payments	90,363	-	-	90,363	86,121
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 10,954	208	-	- 10,746	59,741
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	145,787	-	-	145,787	86,046
Cash funds this year end	134,833	208	-	135,041	145,787

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at Bank	134,601	208	-
	Petty Cash	232	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	134,833	208	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Buildings occupied for charitable purposes - Castle Green	Restricted	1,797,381	-
	Other Equipment	Unrestricted	12,128	-
	-		-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Interest Free Loans from Members	Restricted Fund	1,000	<12 months
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Imtiaz Ahmed (Chair)	26/12/2021	