



# Sunnah Trust

Inspiring Excellence





## OUR MISSION

To empower young people to develop essential life skills and build their confidence through interactive and engaging programmes.



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“I can’t begin to describe how truly amazing the Servitude programme run by Sunnah Trust has been. The growth in confidence I have seen in my son is incredible. The dedication of the team towards the youth is so admirable. I am recommending their programme to everyone I meet. May Allah truly reward all at Sunnah Trust. Ameen.”

PARENT, SERVITUDE



# Welcome

## WELCOME TO SUNNAH TRUST

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of gratitude that I extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you to Sunnah Trust. In today's dynamic and ever-changing world, the need for strong, ethical leaders is more crucial than ever. Our youth, with their energy, passion, and commitment, are the torchbearers of positive change. The Servitude programme is designed not only to equip you with essential leadership skills but also to instill the values and virtues that are intrinsic to Islamic teachings.

Throughout this journey, you will have the opportunity to engage with inspiring mentors, learn from experienced leaders, and connect with like-minded peers who share your aspirations. Our aim is to foster an environment where you can not only develop your leadership abilities but also deepen your understanding of Islamic principles and values.

Remember, leadership is not just about holding positions of authority; it is about service, responsibility, and making a positive impact on the lives of others. As you embark on this transformative experience, I encourage you to embrace the teachings of Islam as your guiding light and use your leadership skills to contribute to the betterment of society.

I have full confidence that each of you has the potential to become a beacon of leadership, promoting compassion, justice, and unity. May this programme be a source of inspiration, empowerment, and spiritual growth for all of you.

May your journey be filled with blessings, knowledge, and the strength to lead with integrity and compassion.

Wassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu.

**SHAHIN AHMED**  
CEO & Founder of Sunnah Trust



# Introducing Servitude

## Sunnah Trust

Sunnah Trust is a grass-roots organisation established in February 2017, whose sole focus is to **empower young people towards a brighter future**. By providing them with opportunities to build their skills and broaden their horizons, they will have the confidence to make informed decisions and serve themselves and their communities. Our purpose is to **build a cohort of conscious, mobilised individuals** who are ready to take charge.



## Servitude - Youth Leadership Programme

'Servitude' is a year-long transformative leadership programme designed to **empower young Muslims** with essential skills and knowledge in core leadership. Powered by Sunnah Trust, our mission is to **ignite inspiration** and enable each student to unlock their distinctive abilities fully. At the heart of 'Servitude' lies a commitment to **foster personal growth and development**. Through our carefully curated curriculum, students embark on a transformative path, **honing interpersonal and leadership skills** while boosting their self-confidence. We firmly believe that by nurturing these aspiring minds, we sow the seeds of a **brighter, more compassionate future**.



The programme allows students to discover their potential by **developing interpersonal and leadership skills**, increasing their self-confidence and acquiring the motivation and ability to solve problems, resolve conflicts and bring about change. To raise aspirations and self-confidence in our participants, we organise regular trips and visits to various companies. Once our participants have completed the programme, they will be encouraged to utilise all they have learned to serve their communities by developing social action fundraising campaigns.

The programme is centred around the **leadership qualities of the Prophet (SAW)**.



In the words of the late Nabeel Al-Azami: 'The Prophet famously said "the leader of a people is their servant"- as such a leader should not be self-serving; rather, a leader should take an approach where they seek to serve others. In another narration, the Prophet said: "God will continue to assist His servant, as long as the servant is assisting his brother". Hence, a person is deserving of Allah's help and support when they are in service of others.'

## Our Core Values

During the programme, we refer to the teachings of the Prophet and Sunnah Trust's 6 core values:

- 1 Servitude:** Serve others by supporting them through hardship and guiding them towards success.
- 2 Unity through diversity:** Our differences bring new skills and experiences to society.
- 3 Resilience:** Never give up on anything; whatever you may be, whatever you may do, give nothing except your utmost best.
- 4 Nurture:** A seed never flowers overnight. Take an active interest in your personal growth and development and that of others.
- 5 Ambition:** The sky is the limit. Set goals and targets so that every day is better than the day before.
- 6 A Helping Hand:** We are in it together. We listen, learn, and develop solutions as a team. Be generous with your expertise, tools and time.





# Course Information

## Programme Specifics

The programme runs annually, from **September to July** and is jam-packed with approximately **24 sessions** each year, about 2-3 sessions per month.

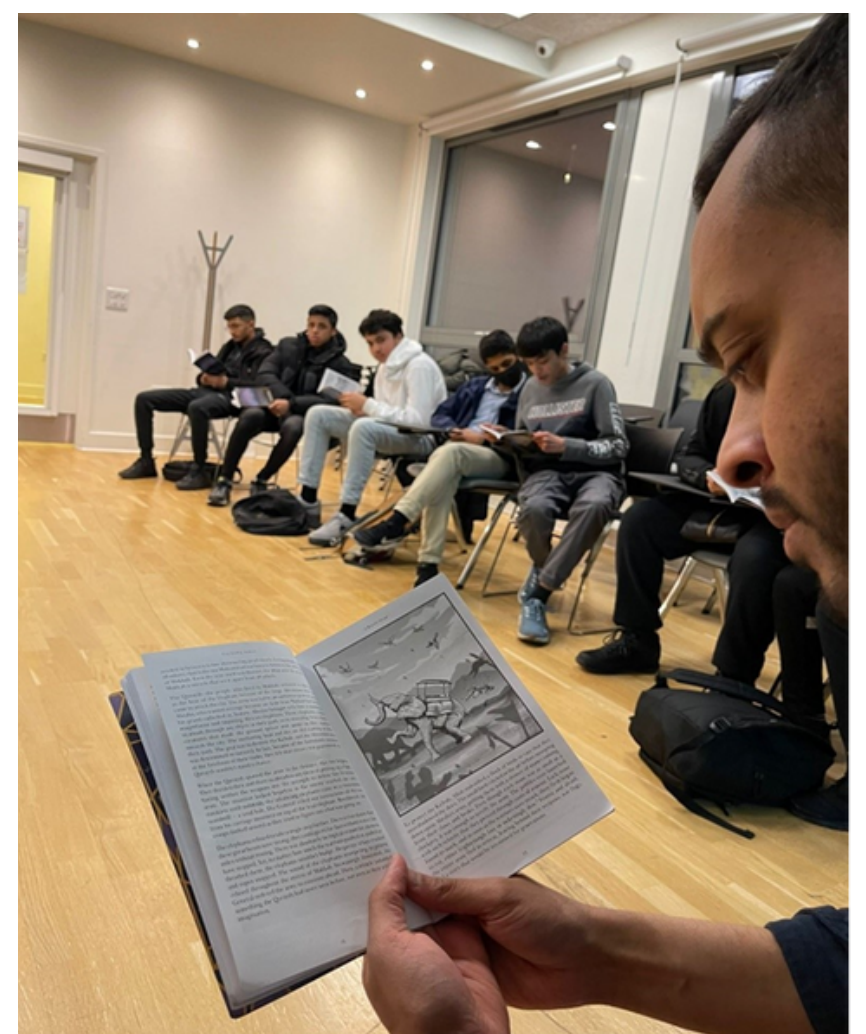
We currently have **two cohorts: Tower Hamlets and Chadwell Heath**. Our Tower Hamlets cohort is on St Paul's Way in Mile End, while our **Chadwell Heath** cohort is in the FITYA Centre. We try to allocate spaces according to the student's closest location and accept preferences made in the application form and cater also to students living in neighbouring boroughs.



## Seerah based Curriculum

We are proud to announce that we are a Seerah-based curriculum. We value the teachings of our beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW and embed the **Sunnah** in every session.

At the first session, all students will be given a new copy of Asim Khan and Toyris Miah's The Simple Seerah: The Story of Prophet Muhammad - Part One and a course booklet for them to keep. Both will provide ample opportunities for the **students to reflect spiritually and personally throughout the year**. Events that feature in The Simple Seerah will be discussed in each session and the course booklet will have set tasks used during the session and others set homework. We want our students to be driven and inspired to act as the Prophet did, nurturing their leadership qualities along the way.





## Criteria - Who are we looking for?

We are not looking for the next Malcolm X to join the programme - we are looking to enhance the confidence of our youth, so they can be equipped with the necessary skills to serve their communities and grow.

### We are looking for students that match the following criteria:

- ✓ Students aged 13-16 years old;
- ✓ In promoting equal opportunity and the promotion of education for both genders, we welcome Muslims and Muslimahs;
- ✓ Open-minded students;
- ✓ And those wanting to improve on their leadership and general lifeskills.

Do consider applying if the following is applicable - applications will open in **July 2024**. For more information and to express interest, please contact us on [admin@sunnahtrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@sunnahtrust.co.uk).



## Programme Timeline

### Application Process

July - August 2024

July

Applications open

August

Application form closes

Late August

Shortlisted candidates invited to in-person interviews\*

### Programme

September 2024 - July 2025

PHASE 1: September - December

#### Introduction to Leadership

Workshops and trips will be centred around key skills including but not limited to leadership, effective communication and confidence. Sessions include Dealing with Conflict, The Apprentice, our inaugural Muslim Ted Talks and a trip to the University of Cambridge.

PHASE 2: January - June

#### Take the Lead

Students will be encouraged to take the lead. Public speaking workshops, planning and hosting large-scale events, our Umarah's Legacy Fundraiser and residential trip will take the skills the students have been working on to the next level.

PHASE 3: July  
Graduation Day

Parents and students will celebrate the progress made by the cohorts across the year.

\*Successful candidates will be enlisted.

## Next Steps: Hikmah Mentoring

Students who graduate from the Servitude programme can join our **alumni network** and gain access to **exclusive opportunities**, including our esteemed Hikmah mentoring programme.

We are blessed to be connected with an array of Muslims in impressive career fields, who volunteer with us in **monthly 1:1 sessions** with selected mentees to work on their personal and professional development throughout the year.

Alternatively, when our former students are older, they have the opportunity to return to Sunnah Trust and volunteer with us, delivering the sessions they were once taught.





As a leadership programme, we value the different ways in which leadership skills can be developed, hence, **no two sessions will look alike**. Sessions vary from classrooms to workshops, trips to talks and venturing the outdoors. Some workshops act as a springboard for the more practical and team-building sessions.

Whatever the session format, the **Sunnah is always embedded in each activity**: in how the students carry themselves on their different projects, their interactions with the community and how they present themselves as a united youth, essentially capturing the spiritual essence and good moral backing of leadership from an Islamic perspective.

### Classroom-based Talks

We sometimes invite **highly valued guest speakers** to provide advice and knowledge in their area of expertise:

- Leadership - Knowing Yourself;
- Positivity and Productivity;
- Ted Talk: Being Muslim in the Modern World;
- Dealing with Conflict.

### Interactive Workshops

In workshops, students **tackle leadership qualities** and engage in activities that promote such skills:

- Let's Communicate;
- My Voice, My Power;
- Speak Out Challenge.



## Nature and the Outdoors

Given the importance of nature in Islam, we organise **trips to the outdoors**, as a reminder of the beautiful creations of Allah and His power:

- Visit to Willowbrooke Farm;
- Activities at Grippid London;
- Pre-Ramadan Residential Retreat;
- Trek to Snowdonia;
- Visit to Gardens of Peace.



## Umarah's Legacy Campaign

Umarah was a student of Servitude and sadly passed away on Thursday 10th August 2022, aged 15. She had many causes and projects close to her heart, from climate change to girls' education and achieved much in so little time. In memory of her goodness, students on the Servitude programme undergo **a month of fundraising**. In 2023, the students collectively raised **over £20,000** for different charitable projects, from sponsoring orphans to building a masjid in Uganda in Umarah's name.



## Ramadan

During Ramadan, there are fewer sessions to help the students focus on other priorities they may have in the month. However, they are reminded of the virtue of this blessed time in the follow-up to, and during Ramadan:

- Pre-Ramadan Residential Retreat;
- Iftar Gathering.



## Exciting Trips

We want our students to aim high and the way to do that involves **gaining exposure** in areas they typically would not:

- Trip to Cambridge University;
- Visit to Bloomberg;
- Competing in The Big London Bake.





We know too well that to make the programme as good as can be, it is incumbent to rely on the voices that the programme is tailored for. Hence, we are active in engaging with our students and their parents on their thoughts after each session and throughout the years. Here is what they had to say.

## Parent Testimonials

“Jazak Allah Khayran to the team for all your time and efforts. Alhamdulillah, my son came out positive and looking forward to the next session. I pray that it is a means for him to gain confidence and better himself.”

“Credit to you all for making this a positive experience. I have been looking and praying for support like this and feel blessed to have found out about Servitude, Alhamdulillah.”

“I am extremely grateful to the team at Sunnah Trust for doing an amazing job with my son. After attending the course he has increased in confidence, courage and a can-do attitude in and out of school. He has been inspired to take the initiative for his own benefit and to help others. I have no doubt he will continue to grow and become a much better individual as a result of his participation in the programme.”



## Student Testimonials



“Servitude has been a real eye-opener. I feel blessed to have been given such an opportunity, I have learnt many things from all the sessions and none of this would have been possible without the hard work of the volunteers.”

“Servitude has boosted my confidence, as well as my public speaking and communication skills. I have been inspired to try new things, and my knowledge of Islam has increased. I feel more confident in who I am as a young Muslim girl and I have more self-belief than I ever did before.”



“I have found the whole experience a confidence booster. I can now engage in a conversation and do not shy away from volunteering in taking responsibility. I loved the social aspect of the experience, and feel privileged to be given such an opportunity, as I know children do not often have this opportunity.”

20  
volunteers

50+  
parents

300  
community  
members involved

Data from our 2022-23 cohort

## Volunteer Support

“All the volunteers are very helpful, easy to talk to and approachable.”

“A huge credit to the volunteers who have given up their time for the programme. I would like to be a volunteer when I am older.”

“Our volunteers give good feedback, advice and general student support.”





# FAQs

## How do I apply for the programme?

If you would like to apply for the programme please contact us via email [admin@sunnahtrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@sunnahtrust.co.uk). All applicants must complete an application form. If the application is successful, students will be invited to attend an interview to assess their suitability for the programme. Please note, the programme is only for young people aged **13-16 years old**.



## What is the course fee?

The fee for the programme is **£200**, with a **£50 administrative fee** and will cover the following:

- All sessions and course materials;
- All trips and transportation;
- Weekend residential.



## Is a discount available?

The programme has been heavily subsidised, and along with regular sessions and trips, so unfortunately we are unable to offer any discounts. We can, however, offer further subsidies to those unable to afford the full price. We welcome you to email us at [admin@sunnahtrust.co.uk](mailto:admin@sunnahtrust.co.uk) and we will review each case on its merit.



## Is there segregation in the classroom?

There is no physical barrier segregating the boys and girls in the classrooms, although they will be seated separately. **We expect students to learn and develop the required Islamic etiquette when interacting and engaging with the opposite gender.** This will assist them in their current situation at school and/or later in higher education or career. The course aims to instil the values of modesty and good Islamic manners in this regard. Our facilitators and people of knowledge will be leading each of the sessions so they will ensure **boys and girls abide by Islamic rules.**

During the residential (weekend away) each gender will have their own dormitory and any physical activity will only be with their respective gender, to enable greater participation of physical activity. More details will be provided closer to the time of the residential.



## My child has allergies and/or medical conditions. Is this taken into consideration?

Please let us know on the application form if your son/daughter has any allergies or medical conditions. We will try our best to accommodate the student's needs. If however, we are unable to, we shall be in touch.



## My child has special educational needs and requires support.

Unfortunately, we are not in a position to support children with SEN, as this requires a specialist to be with us during all of the sessions.



## Do I need to pick up my child from the centre or can they leave when the sessions ends?

It is the responsibility of the parents to decide how best the child gets home.



## What if my child misbehaves?

We will give a warning to students who misbehave and will be following the behaviour policy. However, with any incident deemed to be serious, we shall endeavour to arrange a meeting with the student and parents to discuss the best way forward. Please remember to read and sign the behaviour policy which can be found on the course booklet.



“If I look back at who I was before joining the Servitude course compared to who I am now, I wouldn’t recognise myself. Servitude has enabled me to do so many different things, and I don’t think it would be any exaggeration to say that it has been life-changing. My experience of Servitude has been completely positive, and I have gained so many different skills and learnt so many new things because of it.”

STUDENT, SERVITUDE



“It’s very beneficial, what we learn is practical, whatever it is that we take away from every lesson we will use it on a daily basis. Personally, I found this experience to be enlightening, learning simple things such as the way we talk. how our body language is and the way we think can be linked to Islam.”

STUDENT, SERVITUDE





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