

# Boys and girls 'unlawfully segregated' at Islamic school – head says it's what parents of faith want

*From the [Al-Hijrah school uniform](#) (Navy blue 2-Piece Jilbab purchased from school) on those trips while the boys did not.*

One group of pupils told inspectors a member of staff, who has since left, had told them: "University is not for females."

The report concluded: "Leaders are aware that segregating pupils by gender is unlawful and that they are in breach of the Equality Act 2010. They recently applied to open a separate girls' school on the same premises but were unsuccessful."

The school's head Saadat Rasool disputed Ofsted's findings and defended the segregation practices, which he said were in line with the Muslim faith of parents.

In the damning opening to its report, Ofsted inspectors ruled: "Pupils say that they feel safe in school, but they are not. Procedures are disorganised. Leaders do not ensure pupils get the help they need. Boys and girls are unlawfully segregated by sex for all school activities, except for weekly assemblies."

*Photographs from school's [Daily Mail](#)*



“Boys enjoy school more than girls. This is because they are treated favourably and have more privileges. Boys have more opportunities to play sport. They get to choose the places to go to for work experience first. Some of the girls told us that they do not like this. They said that this was not fair and they feel disadvantaged.”

The curriculum is narrow, lesson plans disorganised, and pupils are not challenged or helped sufficiently. From Year 9

there are no artistic opportunities in the school day, and all pupils study the same subjects to GCSE.

The report adds: "At the beginning of Year 11, pupils take tests in some subjects. If they do not pass the test, they are removed from the course. The removal of pupils from examination courses suggests that leaders are trying to make the GCSE examination results look better, without considering what is in pupils' best interests . . . only those pupils who are likely to gain a strong pass can complete their GCSEs in subjects such as English literature, history and Arabic. Pupils told us that they were unhappy about this because it limits their options for college."

And while all pupils study Islamic studies, they learn little about other faiths, including about festivals celebrated by other religions common in the local area. In its report, the inspectors also reported an exchange with a group of pupils: "A member of staff had told them that 'university is not for females'. This member of staff has since left the school."

The academy is led by head teacher Saadat Rasool and its listed proprietors are Redstone Educational Services Ltd, whose directors are listed as Ozak Cicek and Shabeer Majid.

A nearby Muslim primary school (*overlapping personnel*) also led by Mr Rasool, [The website](#) is set up as if this has already happened.