



NEW MUSLIM
ACADEMY

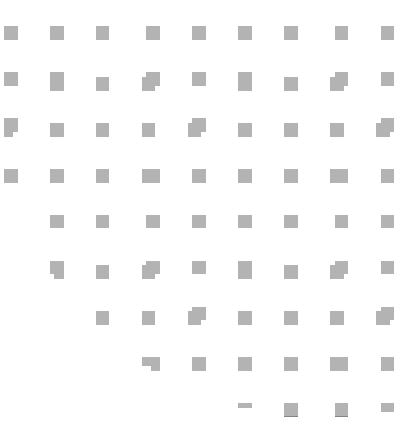


مناهج التعليم

Muslims at Work

Trustworthiness





One of the noblest characteristics we can possess is trustworthiness. In the Qur'an, Allah commands us to fulfil our trusts and describes trustworthiness as one of the characteristics of the successful believer.

Even before his prophethood, Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known among his people as 'the trustworthy one'. He told us to fulfil our trusts and not to cheat, even if others cheat us. In another tradition, he also informed us that breaking the trust of others is from the signs of hypocrisy.



The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) was known for fulfilling his trusts. At the time of his migration from Makkah to Madinah, when he was fleeing for his life and had to leave in the dead of night to avoid detection, he asked his cousin Ali to remain behind in Makkah temporarily and repay his loans. Despite the danger, he would not leave without ensuring that his trusts would be fulfilled. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us that whoever cheats does not represent the Muslims and in fact is going against teaching.

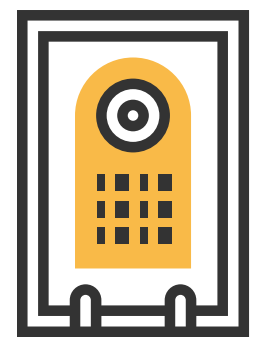


Trustworthiness is based on honesty and integrity; it is being honest in all your dealings and especially in business and work. It is having integrity to the extent that people know they can trust you and will not have to worry about being cheated or deceived by you. With trustworthiness, Allah blesses our work and income. Islam spread to countries like Indonesia and Malaysia via the Muslim traders who would buy and sell in those countries. Muslim merchants were known for their honesty and trustworthiness to the degree that people accepted Islam simply by following their example and being impressed by their behavior.

Trustworthiness encompasses the following:



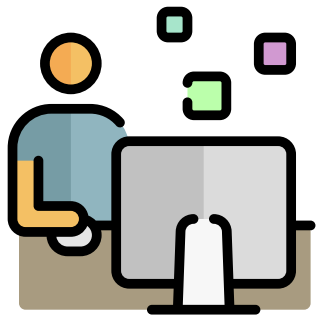
People's secrets and confidentiality: These should be preserved unless there is some valid reason not to do so. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us that from the actions which bring Paradise closer to us is to not breach the trusts we have been given.



Money: Safeguarding the trusts that people give us, especially when there is a financial component, is part of trustworthiness, as is paying people fairly for the jobs they have done for you. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) warned that on the Day of Judgement, he will personally argue against any person who hired someone for a job and then neglected to pay him.



Work: Being honest in your job by fulfilling your duties in a responsible and efficient manner is part of trustworthiness.

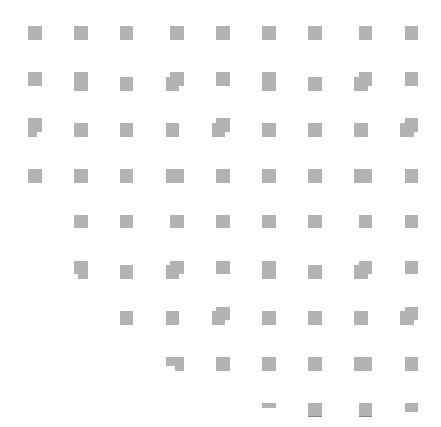


Responsibilities: If you are in a position of leadership or management, being trustworthy is important. The Messenger Muhammad (peace be upon him) told us that we are all like shepherds responsible for our flocks.



Speech and action: Our words and actions should also exemplify trustworthiness. We should be honest in speech and have integrity in carrying out tasks and jobs. Allah commands us in the Qur'an to always speak good.

These are some examples of trustworthiness. Embodying this characteristic is also a wonderful way to show others the beauty of Islam. It helps us to conduct ourselves according to the highest of ethical standards and with excellence.



Here are some things you can do to put the above into action:

- 1 Remind yourself of the importance of trustworthiness.
- 2 Be honest and trustworthy in speech.
- 3 Be honest and trustworthy in actions.
- 4 Be trustworthy even when in a position of leadership.
- 5 Be honest in trade and businesses.
- 6 Fulfil your trusts.
- 7 Fulfil your duties and obligations with honesty.
- 8 Preserve people's secrets and confidentiality.

May Allah protect you.