

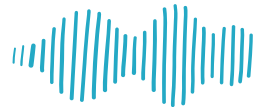
# Supporting our Muslim Learners during Ramadan



Rory Nolan

With Ramadan starting on 10 March, Rory Nolan, from Crumlin Youthreach spoke to two of his Muslim learners on behalf of our newsletter. The podcast and article that resulted are full of valuable insights.

[Click here to listen to the Interview](#)



## Rory writes:

Have you ever heard of Wudu? Why is Ramadan important to Muslims? Why is the Irish weather important during Ramadan? What does Haram mean?

Crumlin Youthreach is no stranger to diversity; at the time of writing this article we have learners and staff with familial links to twenty different countries. This diversity mirrors the changes in Irish society and although I cannot speak for everybody, I believe, the education received as a teacher from this diversity in the classroom is invaluable and priceless. The interview we recorded shines a light on many elements of Ramadan that I never knew about.

## Our Interviewees:



From left to right: Jaber and Dowood

Our two interviewees were enthusiastic about sharing what it is like to attend school during Ramadan. First, we have Dowood Ahmad, who is half-Irish and half-Pakistani. He is sixteen and lives in Dublin 10. He only joined Crumlin Youthreach this year.

The second eager interviewee is Jaber Alhamoud Al Housain who hails from Syria and is seventeen years old; Jaber lives in Dublin 6 and is also a new learner in Crumlin Youthreach. Jaber is an unaccompanied minor with a remarkably interesting personal story that we are developing separate to this article, about his journey to Ireland.

## Physical and mental challenges

As I said above, learners can teach us a lot about their own cultures either from here in Ireland or as far away as Syria and Pakistan. This interview highlights the struggles faced, both physical and mental, by Muslim learners who attend school during Ramadan, struggles that will surprise many readers and listeners.

## What can Irish schools do to help?

Once readers and listeners have digested all the interesting information around the physical and mental toll of Ramadan on learners during school, Dowood and Jaber share what they think schools in Ireland can do to support their Muslim learners during Ramadan while Dowood shares an unfortunate story from one of his previous schools and how it might have been avoided.