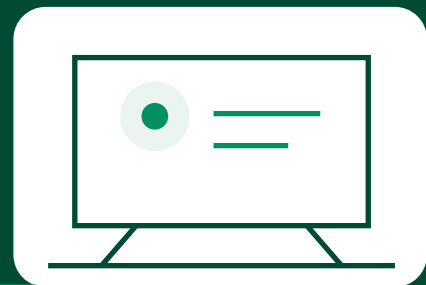


How to Choose the Right Online School for Your Child

A simple, practical guide to help you compare schools, ask better questions and choose with confidence.



ASK BETTER QUESTIONS

COMPARE FAIRLY

CHOOSE WITH CONFIDENCE

Use it during every school tour

Tick the boxes, write your notes and score each school as you go. Use it on screen with your PDF annotation tools, or print it and write by hand.

1

Set your priorities

2

Compare the evidence

3

Plan your next step

START THE GUIDE



1 Priorities

2 Questions

3 Compare

4 Check fit

5 Decide

START HERE

Choosing a School Is Not Easy

Every school sounds impressive. The real question is whether the school can show you how it supports your child.

What schools often say

Outstanding

Supportive

Student-focused

Different from other schools

These words are useful only when the school can back them up with clear examples.

This guide helps you

1

Ask better questions

Move beyond general promises.

2

Compare schools fairly

Use the same checks for each school.

3

Choose with confidence

Decide based on your child, not pressure.

"We are parents too. We know this decision can feel hard."

Use the next pages to slow the decision down, focus on what matters and keep a written record of what each school tells you.

Parent action

Before your next school tour, write down one thing your child needs most from school. Keep that need in mind when you listen to every answer.

1 Priorities

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STEP 1

Before You Compare Schools

Tick what matters most to your family. There is no perfect list. The best choice depends on your child.



Learning

- ☐ Good grades
- ☐ UK-trained teachers
- ☐ Small classes
- ☐ Strong GCSE/IGCSE preparation



Values & wellbeing

- ☐ Islamic values
- ☐ Student happiness and wellbeing
- ☐ Making friends
- ☐ Safety



Support

- ☐ Regular parent communication
- ☐ Help for children with extra needs (SEN)
- ☐ Good technology



Practical

- ☐ Flexible timing
- ☐ Fees you can afford

Your top 3 priorities

Write one clear priority in each box. These become your decision filter.

1

2

3

1 Priorities

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LOOK BEYOND THE FIRST IMPRESSION

Common Mistakes Parents Make

A good decision is not only about price, results or a polished timetable. Look at the full experience your child will receive.



Choosing the cheapest school

A lower fee may mean larger classes, less feedback or less individual support.

Ask: What support is included in the fee?



Only looking at GCSE results

Results matter, but also ask how the school helps every learner improve, not only the highest achievers.

Ask: How do you support pupils who are behind?



Forgetting about friendships

Children learn better when they feel known and included. Online students still need belonging and interaction.

Ask: How do students connect outside lessons?



Looking only at the timetable

A timetable does not show who checks homework, monitors progress or notices when a child needs help.

Ask: What happens between and after lessons?



Thinking all online schools are the same

Schools differ in teaching quality, technology, class size, routines and the level of parent communication.

Ask: Can you show me how your system works?

1 Priorities

2 Questions

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[TAKE THIS PAGE TO THE TOUR](#)

Questions to Ask

Tick each question as you ask it. Write down any answer you want to remember.

☐

Feedback

How often will my child get useful feedback?

☐

Understanding

How do teachers know if my child understands the lesson?

☐

Falling behind

What happens if my child falls behind?

☐

Parent updates

How often will I hear from teachers?

☐

Friendships

How does the school help children make friends?

☐

Online safety

How do you keep children safe online?

☐

Extra support

What extra help is available if my child needs it?

☐

Islamic values

How are Islamic values taught in everyday school life?

☐

See teaching

Can I watch a live lesson?

☐

See the work

Can I see examples of student work and feedback?

Notes from the school tour

1 Priorities

2 Questions

3 Compare

4 Check fit

5 Decide

STEP 3

School Comparison Chart

Give each school a score from 1 to 5. Use evidence from the tour, not only your first impression.

1 Poor

3 Okay

5 Excellent

Type a number into each box

WHAT TO CHECK	BAYAAN ACADEMY	SCHOOL A	SCHOOL B
UK-trained teachers			
Small classes			
Live lessons, with recordings available			
Live feedback during lessons			
Homework is checked			
Progress is checked through assessment			
Regular communication with parents			
British curriculum and GCSE/iGCSE			
Islamic Studies			
Clear behaviour rules and expectations			
Student and parent technology portals			
Extra help when needed			
Online safety and monitoring			
Clubs and activities			
Arabic language			
How confident you feel about the school			

1 Priorities

2 Questions

3 Compare

4 Check fit

5 Decide

KNOW WHAT GOOD LOOKS LIKE

What Great Online Schools Do

Strong online schools do more than deliver live lessons. They build a complete learning system around the child.



Teaching

- Lessons are planned with clear learning goals.
- Students take part regularly, not only listen.
- Teachers check understanding throughout the lesson.



Feedback

- Feedback happens during learning, not only after marking.
- Students know what they did well and what to improve.
- Teachers use feedback to plan the next steps.



Talking with Parents

- Parents receive regular, useful updates.
- There is a clear person to contact.
- Concerns are followed up, not passed around.



Technology

- Students can interact with the teacher and share work.
- Parents can see attendance, progress or messages.
- Technology helps learning instead of distracting from it.

One thing I want to observe in a live lesson

1 Priorities

2 Questions

3 Compare

4 Check fit

5 Decide

LOOK FOR PATTERNS

Warning Signs and Good Signs

One sign alone may not tell the whole story. Several repeated signs usually reveal the school culture and level of support.



Warning signs

-  Large class sizes
-  No feedback during lessons
-  Very little communication with parents
-  Students rarely get to speak
-  Homework is not checked often
-  Students work alone for long periods
-  No clear behaviour routines
-  No extra support for children who struggle



Good signs

-  Teachers know every student
-  Students take part often
-  Parents receive regular updates
-  Progress is checked every week
-  Work receives useful feedback
-  Students have ways to make friends
-  Teachers are easy to contact
-  Clear routines and expectations

Remember

Ask the school for examples. A strong answer usually includes a clear process, a named person and evidence of how it works in practice.

1 Priorities

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STEP 4

Is Online Learning Right for Your Child?

Tick the statements that describe your child or home setup. Unticked boxes are not automatic problems, but they may need a plan.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ My child can work independently for short periods. | ☐ My child responds well to clear routines. |
| ☐ My child feels comfortable using a computer and video calls. | ☐ My child would benefit from a school with Islamic values. |
| ☐ My child learns better in a small, quiet space. | ☐ We have a quiet space and a working computer at home. |
| ☐ My child needs a flexible daily routine. | |

Your decision planner

What did you like about each school?

What worries do you still have?

What questions do you still want to ask?

How confident do you feel, and why?

1 Priorities

2 Questions

3 Compare

4 Check fit

5 Decide

YOUR NEXT STEP

Come and See Bayaan Academy

We want to show you our school, not just tell you about it.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

bayaanacademy.co.uk

1

Watch a live lesson

See the teaching, technology and student participation.

2

Meet our teachers

Learn who will teach and support your child.

3

Ask your questions

Use this guide and compare the answers clearly.

BOOK A VIRTUAL TOUR

WEBSITE

bayaanacademy.co.uk

EMAIL

admissions@bayaanacademy.co.uk

PHONE

0772 462 3914 | 0208 044 9599