BRICK LANE JAMME MASJID – NIKAH SERVICE
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Nikah: Pre-Marriage Guidance & Verification Requirements

For the bride and groom | Please read before your Pre-Nikah consultation

1. Before your Nikah

The Masjid requires a compulsory Pre-Nikah consultation before a ceremony can be confirmed. Both prospective spouses as well as the Wali (bride's guardian) and the 2 witnesses must attend. You are not required to attend together.

Chaperones: Each person may bring a chaperone, family member or other trusted supporter to the consultation. The Imam/officiant may also speak to the bride and groom separately, without family members or chaperones present, to verify free and informed consent. An interpreter independent of either family may be arranged where needed; tell us in advance.

We will examine original documents, discuss religious and legal eligibility, confirm the proposed marriage arrangements and assess that both people freely wish to marry. A booking enquiry or provisional date does not guarantee that the Nikah can proceed.

2. Eligibility and Islamic contract verification matrix

Requirement	What we will check / evidence	Outcome required
Age and identity	Original valid photographic ID; full name, date of birth and likeness compared with application.	Both aged 18+; identity verified.
Freedom to marry	Each person confirms current status; previous civil and/or Islamic marriages, divorces or bereavements are reviewed.	No unresolved existing marriage or impediment.
Consent and capacity	Private discussion may take place with each person; clear understanding, voluntary decision and ability to consent.	Independent, informed and continuing consent.
Prohibited relationships	Declaration of no prohibited relationship by blood, marriage or milk-kinship (rada'ah); further review where relevant.	No Islamic or legal impediment.
Faith and guardian	Masjid policy requires both parties to be Muslim; bride's wali or properly authorised representative and their identity/authority checked.	Masjid requirements met or referred to Imam for review.
Witnesses	Two adult Muslim male witnesses are current Masjid policy; verify identity and ability to hear/understand the offer and acceptance.	Eligible witnesses confirmed.

Mahr	Agree amount/item(s), currency/value, immediate/deferred portions and due dates; record clearly.	Bride and groom agree written terms.
Prohibited degrees of relationship (UK law and Islamic law)	Check whether the parties are related in a way that prohibits marriage under the law of England and Wales or Islamic law. This includes close blood relationships such as parent and child, brother and sister (including half-siblings), aunt/uncle and niece/nephew; and any prohibited relationship arising through marriage, adoption or milk-kinship (rada'ah), where applicable. Refer any uncertain relationship to the Imam and, where necessary, obtain appropriate legal advice.	Both parties are confirmed not to fall within a prohibited degree of relationship under applicable UK law or Islamic law; no unresolved legal or religious impediment.

Islamic schools of law differ on some details of guardianship and witness requirements. The above describes the Masjid's own requirements, it is not a universal statement of every school's rules. Any exception must be discussed with the officiating Imam before a booking is approved.

3. Document verification matrix — what to bring

Who	Original documents required	Additional checks
Bride and groom — each	One current photo ID (passport or photocard driving licence); one recent proof of UK address (e.g. bank statement, council tax or utility bill, normally dated within 3 months).	Bring a photocopy of each document for Masjid records. Names must reconcile across documents.
Bride and groom — where applicable	Final civil divorce order (formerly decree absolute); evidence of Islamic dissolution/Talaq or khul where applicable; former spouse's death certificate; Shahadah/conversion confirmation if requested.	Officiant reviews whether any waiting period (iddah) or other impediment applies.
Wali or authorised representative	Original photo ID and recent proof of address; written authority if acting as representative maybe requested.	Authority and identity must be accepted by officiant.
Each of two witnesses	Original photo ID and recent proof of address, as required by Masjid verification policy.	Witnesses must be adult, Muslim, identified and able to witness the contract.

Examples of acceptable proof of address include a recent bank/building society statement, utility bill or council tax statement. Mobile telephone bills are not accepted. Digital-only statements may be accepted only if the Masjid can verify them. Contact the office beforehand if your documents differ or you live overseas. Do not send sensitive identity documents through an insecure channel.

4. What happens at the consultation

The Imam/officiant will:

(1) Inspect documents and reconcile names, ages and addresses.

(2) Discuss previous marriages, Islamic dissolution and any waiting period.

(3) Ask each person about their wishes, safety, capacity and any pressure.

(4) Check any prohibited family relationship.

(5) Establish wali/representative and witness arrangements.

(6) Record the Mahr and any proposed contract terms.

(7) Explain civil-marriage status and legal protections.

(8) Decide whether further evidence, specialist advice or a second meeting is required.

We may defer or decline a Nikah where checks cannot be satisfactorily completed.

5. Civil marriage and legal rights in England and Wales

A religious Nikah alone will not normally create a legally recognised marriage in England and Wales. A Masjid issued Nikah certificate is evidence of a religious ceremony, not a substitute for a civil marriage certificate. Couples should arrange a legally valid civil marriage through the appropriate registration process and consider independent legal advice on financial, inheritance, housing and separation rights. If already legally married abroad, seek advice on whether that marriage is recognised here.

6. Mahr, contract terms and marriage records

Mahr is the bride's entitlement and should be agreed without pressure. The certificate/contract should specify exactly what is promised, what is paid now and what remains deferred. Any additional conditions (for example, residence, education, work or delegated divorce rights) should be discussed with the Imam before the ceremony; legal enforceability under English law is not guaranteed.

The Masjid will enter completed Nikahs into its central register and issue its standard stamped religious certificates. Two signed copies, one for each spouse will be given at the end of the ceremony. Please retain your copy safely.

7. Forced marriage, safeguarding and confidential help

You have the right to decide whether, when and whom to marry. Forced marriage is illegal. Pressure may include threats, violence, intimidation, emotional blackmail, financial control or threats of family shame.

An arranged marriage is not a forced marriage if both people freely agree and can say no. In England and Wales, arranging a marriage for anyone under 18 is an offence even without coercion. If you are being pressured, tell the Imam privately if safe to do so; you do not need to involve your family. The Masjid will not proceed with a ceremony where consent is in doubt.

Immediate danger: call 999. Forced Marriage Unit: 020 7008 0151 (Monday–Friday, 9am–5pm); out of hours 020 7008 5000; fmu@fcdo.gov.uk. The Unit can advise confidentially about protection, safety and overseas risks. If you suspect you may be taken abroad against your will, contact the Unit before travelling if safe. Do not rely on family mediation where coercion is suspected.

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8. Preparation checklist

- ☐ Both parties have read this guidance and can attend the consultation.
- ☐ Original ID, proof of address ready.
- ☐ Divorce/death/conversion documents gathered where relevant.
- ☐ Wali/representative and witnesses notified.
- ☐ Mahr and payment arrangements discussed.
- ☐ Civil marriage arrangements considered.
- ☐ Chaperone/interpreter needs communicated

Important note

This is practical pre-marriage guidance, not individual legal advice or a definitive fatwa.

Reviewed November 2026.