

March 20th, 2012

To All Muslim students,

Assalaamu alaikum, Peace be with you.

It has come to my attention that some of you think that if there are a lot of Muslims in your particular school, then you can turn around and be mean to people who aren't Muslim.

That kind of behavior is completely unacceptable and UN-ISLAMIC!

In the Quran, God says that Muslims should not make fun of other people's beliefs because then those other people can say bad things about what we believe in.

We live in a MULTICULTURAL society!

The only way we can get along is if EVERYONE respects each others' rights to live their lives in the ways they want to. You are free to practice your religion and EVERYONE else is free to practice theirs or to not even have a religion if that's what they want!

There is NO compulsion in matters of faith! That's what Islam teaches us.

So BULLYING other children, EXCLUDING them and INSULTING them, is not something the Prophet (peace be upon him) ever allowed!

He NEVER forced anyone to accept his beliefs, and in fact he RESPECTED the beliefs of other people, and he made peace treaties with people who had different beliefs.

When I was growing up I was often bullied because of my faith. I know exactly what that feels like and you should NEVER make anyone feel that way!

It is WRONG.

I made myself a promise that I would NEVER bully other people the way I was bullied and I hope that you make yourself a promise like that too.

And I hope you will all make a promise to be kind to all other people, EVEN when you disagree with how they choose to live their lives.

We all want peace. That's the beauty of this peaceful country. We are all free to live the way we choose in peace.

It means so much to me, and I hope you will respect it for others as well.

With peace,

Rukhsana Khan