

# Joint Religious Festivals For Aga Khan School Pupils

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Aga Khan junior school in Mombasa organizes all religious festivals for their kids.

When it comes to religious festivities every religion knows how to celebrate its own, Aga Khan Academy in Mombasa however defied all odds, by having a festival that brought together Eid, Christmas, Hanukah and Diwali; all in one day.

The school that has students of all religions had its junior school students aged 6-11yrs old, organized a ceremony on December 4 that saw their parents attend and were entertained through Christmas carols, Islamic poems, Indian dances and Jewish songs.

According to the principal, junior school Isla Gordon; the event was to bring all these religions to show how similar they are, despite of their differences.

“It’s time of the year when many cultures are celebrating different festivals, in a school such as ours, it can be challenging to choose exactly when and what to celebrate, but we were able to find common things in these religions and so we came up with this.” Said Ms. Isla Gordon

According to Ms. Gordon, the themes of giving to the less fortunate, stories about unique individuals who had compassion for others; guided by spiritual authority and light which symbolizes peace, are central to the activities of these different religious festivities.

“Some schools in the world, decide not to celebrate any festivals or mention any religions through fears of living one group of people out but this does not develop compassion and understanding of others,” added Ms. Gordon.

The festival that was also resonating with the school’s theme of Education for peace, was entirely organized by the junior school students with little help from the teachers.

“We did have some challenges in organizing plays, poems and songs having to decide who performs and not, was hard but with the help of our teachers we were able to do it,” Said 11 year old Kaleem, the junior school pupils president.

Other pupils who were part of the experience expressed joy in participating some of the plays and poems and thanked the school for coming up with the festival.

“I was a bit nervous but when we started performing, I felt a bit encouraged and I gave out my best, I thank my teachers for having helped bring the best out of me,” said Gabriela a pupil at Aga Khan Academy.

Some of the parents who attended the ceremony that talked to Baraka FM, thanked the school for bringing together different family backgrounds and religions through a very colorful ceremony