# **Additional information about the Islamic marriage ceremony**

The Nikkah

The process leading up to the Nikkah ceremony is:

1. Bride and Groom are ready to give consent for marriage and understand that marriage is a covenant or pledge to Allah. It is about rights and responsibilities towards each other. It is about love and mercy, and coming together to be happy and content.

2. Parents have given their blessing.

3. An Imam, Muslim scholar or similar has given their blessing.

4. The legal guardian or nominated representative of the bride is available to be present at Nikkah.

5. Witnesses are available to be present at Nikkah.

6. Mahr arrangements have been finalised.

7. Marriage officials are available to conduct the Nikkah (an Imam or religious scholar etc).

Mahr

Mahr are the conditions included in the marriage contract by the bride and agreed by the groom. These could be material gifts: as little as a small sum of money or piece of jewellery; or as large as a house. In addition, or instead, the gift may be confirmation of a lifestyle choice (e.g. freedom to work or follow a profession). Anything given to the bride in the Mahr is 100% hers to keep even if the marriage should end in divorce.

The Khutbah

A marriage Khutbah (sermon, address) is then read. It varies depending on what the Bride and Groom might want the Imam to include in the marriage Khutbah. However, the following three verses of the Qur’an are normally included.