



ACCULTURATION OF THE HALAL CONCEPT AT THE
MATIJA GUBEC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN ZAGREB

Ljiljana Klinger, mr. Ed



Name: Ljiljana Klinger

Profession: School Principal

Organization: Matija Gubec International School in Zagreb, Croatia

E-mail: klinger@os-mgubec.hr





























INTRODUCTION

- *Halal*: allowed, all consumable items that adhere to the principles established in Islamic Sharia Law (moral and legal framework within which Muslims are expected to conduct their lives)
- *Haram*: non-permissible, forbidden, prohibited
- *Halal concept* refers to almost every activity or object of life (cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, medicine, tourism, etc.), not only food consumption
- Growing market value of halal products is mainly driven by factors such as tourism and migration, rather than efforts to adapt and cater to the everyday needs of the Muslim population (Iner & Baghdadi, 2021).
- According to needs, the institutionalized certification of imported and exported halal food products is mostly led by private and non-governmental bodies striving to solidify Islamic dietary codes into national laws (Adams, 2011).



HALAL CONCEPT IN MATIJA GUBEC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- Most influential travel blogs and sites do not have Zagreb on their list of halal friendly destinations, which we strive to become.
- Western dietary regulations are still not in line with Islamic requirements for halal meat products, even though there's a growing demand for halal products, especially in European countries.
- Many children only encounter nutrition, religion, and worldviews different from those of their families in kindergarten or school for the first time, which can result in acceptance or rejection of the student within their school community. **The teacher plays a strong, perhaps even the most significant role in this** (Iversen, 2023).
- **Matija Gubec International School** provides **halal certified meals** hoping to spread awareness on the importance of acculturation of the halal concept region wide



HALAL CONCEPT IN MATIJA GUBEC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

- Matija Gubec International School is **halal certificated since 2014**. (Centre for Halal Quality Certification in Zagreb, Croatia) and is the **only school in Croatia and our region that is halal certificated**.
- Before the issuance of the official Halal certificate was awarded to Matija Gubec International School, vegetarian food was available to Muslim students to ensure they did not come into contact with prohibited foods, primarily meat.
- After the **education program** was successfully implemented, the school was officially awarded the Halal certificate by the Office for Halal (Centre for Halal Quality Certification)
- In line with worldview and programs, all other differences are respected – a vegetarian menu was introduced for children who do not eat meat, and there is also a vegan menu for those who do not eat any animal-derived food, as well as allergy-friendly foods.









HALAL CONCEPT IN MATIJA GUBEC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



WEEKLY MENU



20 th - 24 th May 2024	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BREAKFAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ yoghurt ✓ walnut roll ✓ poppy roll ✓ fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ milk ✓ mixed cereal with dried fruit ✓ fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ tea with honey and lemon 🍽️ sandwich (butter, cheese, ham and vegetables) ✓ sandwich (butter, cheese, ham and vegetables) ✓ fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ tea ✓ bread with honey, butter and jam ✓ fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ probiotic ✓ rolled pastry with cheese ✓ fruit
LUNCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ vegetable soup 🍽️ turkey and peas risotto ✓ vegetable risotto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍽️ Bolognese sauce ✓ macaroni pasta ✓ soy grits in vegetable sauce ✓ lettuce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ broad bean stew with homemade sausage ✓ vegetable stew ✓ cookies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍽️ chicken thighs ✓ rice with vegetables ✓ seitan ✓ kupus salata 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍽️ hake a la cod fish ✓ baked potatoes with vegetables ✓ lettuce ✓ fruit
SNACK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ milk ✓ baked cheese pastry (strukli) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ seeded bread ✓ boiled egg ✓ fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ lemonade ✓ donut (apple, cinnamon) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ milk ✓ corn cracker ✓ fruit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ pudding ✓ fruit



Halal



Suitable for vegetarians











HALAL CONCEPT IN MATIJA GUBEC INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

We asked several students from our school if they were familiar with halal food and the dietary choices of their friends who opt for halal meals at school.

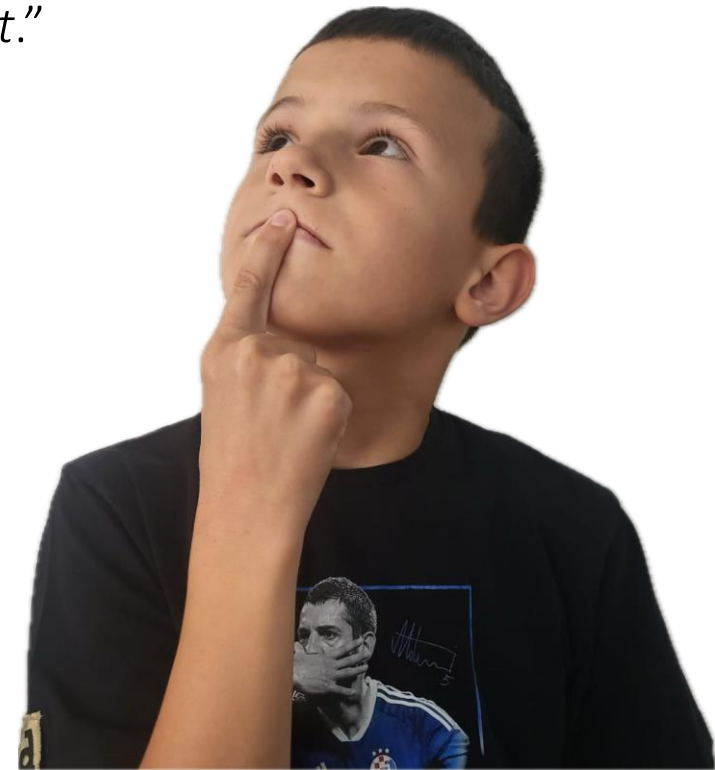
Anja (7) one of our first graders, new to the school states , *“Halal means Happy Easter.”*

Max (7) states, *„Halal has something to do with vegans, I don’t know exactly what.”*

Lukas (10), Mark (9) and Mihaela (9) honestly answer, *“I have absolutely no idea what halal is, I really don’t know.”*

Gabrijel (6) states, *“Bog na nekom drugom jeziku.”* (Halal means God on another language).

Luka (7) says, *“Halal je čovjek koji ne smije nešto jesti pa u školi na primjer umjesto kobasice dobi hrenovku.”* (Halal is a person who can not eat something in school, so he get’s a hot dog instead of a sausage.)





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We asked several students from our school if they were familiar with halal food and the dietary choices of their friends who opt for halal meals at school.

Lara (8) states, „Halal is when people from Azerbaijan cannot eat pork. Some of my friends eat halal, but we also have one who is very picky, but sometimes we manage to persuade him to taste the food. We all eat together at the same table, sometimes we talk.”

Samra (8) is a consumer of halal meals at school, „I eat halal, and so does my friend from the class. I’m not allowed to eat pork, it’s haram. My friend from India is a vegetarian, sometimes we like to eat similar food.”

Viktor (8) and Emanuel (8) would like to try halal food sometimes, „Halal is when you’re not allowed to eat pork. Samra and Aras eat chicken, and sometimes their meat and stew look different. We all eat together, and we like it because we’re not separated, and sometimes we laugh together. Sometimes for lunch, we all eat halal, we don’t always have to eat our own food.”



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Dominick (11) has friends that eat halal, „Halal is a diet that my friends who go to Islamic religion eat. The Muslims kill and cook the meat in a special way, the food is unique and interesting and can be even better than the usual food.”

Sara (12) states, „Halal is the food type that Muslims eat. If a food isn't halal Muslims can't eat it. There is no pork in their lunch.”

Mayon (13) understands that halal goes beyond food, „Halal means allowed and it refers to the food Muslims are allowed to eat. It also means following the rules allowed in Islam including the behaviour and dietary restrictions. .”



CONCLUSION

- *IB Parole “Think globally, act locally”* – empowering other schools to make small changes in their school menus to fulfill the needs of all students
- Offering halal food options in schools promotes cultural understanding and inclusion by allowing students from different religious backgrounds to enjoy meals together without compromising their beliefs.
- The implementation of halal food options in schools can contribute to creating a more positive environment for all students regardless of their religious or dietary preferences.
- School leadership to insist on quality certified meat suppliers
- MGIS as an advocate of the Halal concept for our Muslim students and their families





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