



Barnet Hill Academy

FAITH • EXCELLENCE • KNOWLEDGE

VOLUNTARY AIDED PROPOSAL





Barnet Hill Academy is presently a 3-16 Islamic Independent Faith school, located in the London Borough of Barnet. We warmly welcome students of all backgrounds from Barnet, North-West London and beyond. Both boys and girls are welcome from the age of 3 through to 11. The school serves the local community and is located in a grand Victorian school building originally built in the early 1900's.

We're proud of our heritage as a school with such a lengthy educational legacy including our most recent reincarnation as a forward thinking school where we're proud to serve students, communities and young people from a wide range of backgrounds in fulfilling our tripartite vision and focus on:

Faith - Iman, Excellence - Ihsan, Knowledge - Ilm!

This document shares our vision for the next phase of our journey in pursuing ever higher standards for our children and community through creating a sustainable future for the school via the Voluntary Aided programme...

Alim Shaikh
Principal



Barnet Hill Academy

Voluntary Aided Proposal

The London Borough of Barnet is the largest of the London Borough's with a population of some 400,000, with over 12% per cent Barnet's population being Muslim (ONS, 2019). The Borough's schools do a truly excellent job of educating children. Within this community there are many faith schools and also many non-denominational schools, however, amongst them is not a single state supported Islamic faith school. Barnet Hill Academy is the only Islamic faith school in Barnet, indeed, the only Islamic faith school of any type, in Harrow, Hillingdon, Camden and, one of the very few North-West London Islamic faith schools rated as Good by OfSTED (July, 2018). The Board of Governor's for this school wish to not only continue this success but to enhance and develop it much further, to be the best, a truly outstanding school of excellence!

The Governors of Barnet Hill Academy are of the view that there are certain characteristics within each community, be they Muslim, Christian, Jewish or of no faith, which are particular to that faith or tradition. Consequently, there is a very long established educational tradition of communities serving the needs of their young people through their education and schooling, indeed the roots of the modern day education system in the U.K. stem from the Church. As a school, we feel now is the time, to knit the only Islamic faith school in Barnet more firmly into the fabric of our local community through embedding ourselves amongst the broader family of schools.

It is with such lofty ambitions the Governors are launching an application to make the school a Voluntary Aided (V.A.) school, so that the school will be supported by the London Borough of Barnet, educating children within Barnet's family of schools. In doing so, we believe that education, one enthused with an Islamic ethos, should not be the preserve of the few but the right of all our children.

Lubna Khan
Chair of Governor's

Haji Abdul Aziz
Vice-Chair of Governor's





Hendon Mosque and Islamic Centre

is delighted that Barnet Hill Academy is pursuing a Voluntary Aided (V.A.) application bringing the school into the mainstream sector amongst the broader family of school's in Barnet. We feel a successful outcome would be of tremendous support to our hard-working local community and an invaluable asset to our fraternity of parents and elders in Hendon and Barnet, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, as it would bring communities together and we hope, one day, become a beacon school instilling in our children strong Islamic ideals through a values-based educational offer.

The Islamic Centre Edgware

fully supports Barnet Hill Academy's goal of converting to a Voluntary Aided (V.A.) school. We welcome this initiative and after having observed the school's work over the recent past, we feel this would complement the established educational and social institutions across Barnet and serve the entire community as a resounding base for an Islamic ethos education aligned with the National Curriculum. The I.C.E. community thoroughly endorses the school and we wish the Governing Board of Barnet Hill Academy all the success in their application in becoming Barnet's only Islamic ethos Voluntary Aided school!

Dr Matthew Offord MP

HENDON CONSTITUENCY

This popular and successful school in W. Hendon attracts pupils from a wide area and diverse backgrounds. It is currently a fee-paying school but the possibility has been raised with me of it becoming Voluntary Aided like many other faith schools in Barnet. This would mean the educational side of the school would be funded by the Government and the school would be accessible to a wider group of children. I have pledged to make representations on this matter to the Department for Education



FAQs

What is a Voluntary Aided School?

Voluntary aided schools are maintained by local authorities, and their governing bodies employ the staff in the school and are the admission authority. Voluntary aided schools are usually designated as having a religious character, such as the one proposed at Barnet Hill Academy.

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The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils is excellent.

OfSTED, 2018

Will we have to live in Barnet to attend or apply to the school?

No, however, places are based upon demand. If children live outside of Barnet and are currently attending the school the demand or proximity factor in allocating school places will not apply, thereafter, so long as places exist children living outside of Barnet are free to apply.

Will there be school fees to be paid?

Voluntary Aided schools are supported by the Local Authority where they are based and thus there are no fees for the education or teaching of students. However, to support the additional focus on spirituality and Islamic Studies an additional small fee element will be applied so that the school continues to support and develop this area of its work robustly and firmly through a strong faith focus.

Who are the members of the Barnet Hill Academy Governance Board?

We have a strong Governance Board consisting of educationists, community and business leaders and scholars. Please see our website for further details of the Governing Board.

Will the school be inspected by OFSTED?

Yes, the current OfSTED grading is Good with some areas deemed Outstanding (July, 2018). Please visit our website for the full OfSTED report.

How is a faith designated V.A. School different to other schools?

Faith designation is legal recognition that a school has a religious character. This means that Governors are able to give priority for up to 100% of their places on faith-based admissions criteria; appoint teachers by reference to faith; and provide religious education and collective worship according to the tenets of the faith of the school.

Which subjects do you teach?

We follow the National Curriculum and teachers teach all of the subjects detailed therein. Teachers identify opportunities for our faith ethos and values to be incorporated in their teaching, they do this by integrating, for example, scientific discoveries during the Golden Age of Islam, all the way through to breakthroughs and achievements of contemporary Muslims.

Will you teach RSE (Relationship & Sex Education)?

Faith designated V.A. schools have additional freedoms around the teaching of Religious Education, PSHE Education, and RSE. The faith lead, in this instance Shaykh Shuayb, will develop and deliver age-appropriate elements of these subjects in line with tenets of the Islamic faith and in the context of Islamic family values. Policies for these subjects are already well developed and have been shared with parents at consultation meetings and approved by the Governing Board. We welcome discussion and dialogue on our approach with our specialist Islamic Studies teachers.

Is Islamic Studies part of the curriculum?

The Islamic faith ethos and values of our school is integrated throughout the curriculum and guides our teaching, learning and behaviour. In RE, children learn about all the major faiths, enriched with guest speakers, collaborative projects, celebrations and activities with faith school partners such as 3 Faiths Forum (3FF) amongst others.



Are children taught to read the Arabic and the Quran?

We introduced Arabic for all students from 2019 as it will be one of the most vital languages to the UK over the next 20 years. Children wishing to develop their skills further, for example, in Quranic recitation, are supported through extra-curricular clubs and activities.

Will children have opportunities to meet and learn with and about children of other faiths?

Children will have the opportunity to learn about all faiths, British history, and a variety of cultures whilst developing confidence and pride in their own faith. HPS will provide enriching experiences through links with local schools, encouraging children to engage in sport, academic and other inter-school activities.

“Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning. They work hard, are inquisitive and try their best. Misbehaviour is rare.

OfSTED, 2018



♦ OPEN FOR ENROLMENT ♦

So, how do I become involved with Barnet Hill Academy's Voluntary Aided application? **There are two concrete ways in which prospective parents can support the school's application:**

- 1 Visit our website and support our application — either via writing a message of support, completing the survey or even making a donation
- 2 Raise awareness for the V.A. application and share the website details, (especially the V.A. link) with your friends, relatives and network

www.barnethillacademy.org.uk/parents/va

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New leaders have improved the quality of teaching and made sure that children make good progress academically and socially.

OFSTED, 2018

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Across all key stages and subjects, pupils make good progress overall

OFSTED, 2018



CONTACT US FOR MORE DETAILS

Barnet Hill Academy, 10a Montagu Road, Barnet NW4 3ES
0203 411 2660 | info@barnethillacademy.org.uk
www.barnethillacademy.org.uk

