



**Barnet Hill Academy**  
FAITH • EXCELLENCE • KNOWLEDGE

**Consultation for the Proposed**

**Barnet Hill Academy  
Voluntary Aided (V.A.)  
Primary School**

**London Borough of Barnet**

*Faith, Excellence, Knowledge*

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## ***The Consultation***

### ***Consultation by Barnet Hill Academy in relation to a planned proposal for the school to leave the independent sector to join the maintained sector as a Voluntary Aided School.***

The Governors of Barnet Hill Academy have prepared this consultation document as part of the Academy's planned proposition (the "**Proposal**") for the school to join the maintained sector as a Voluntary Aided ("**VA**") school. However, before publishing its statutory proposal, the school is required to consult with such persons as it appears to the school to be appropriate. On entering the maintained sector, the school will also be increasing its size from one form to two form, to accommodate the needs of the growing local Muslim community as detailed further below.

We believe you may be an interested party and, as such, we are inviting your comments on the Proposal. If you have any questions regarding this consultation, you are invited to send them by email to [va@barnethillacademy.org.uk](mailto:va@barnethillacademy.org.uk) or you can contact the school; a copy of this consultation document can also be downloaded from the school website at [www.barnethillacademy.org.uk](http://www.barnethillacademy.org.uk)

After the end of the consultation period, the next step will be for the Academy to publish its Proposal. Legislation sets out how Barnet Hill Academy must present its Proposal and the way in which it should be published (as a statutory notice). Following publication of the Proposal, there is a further four-week period when representations can be made about the Proposal to the London Borough of Barnet ("**Barnet Council**"). Barnet Council will decide whether or not to agree the Proposal for Barnet Hill Academy to join the maintained sector. If the Proposal is accepted by Barnet Council (and subject to any conditions), Barnet Hill Academy will be able to implement the Proposal. Subject to the approval of the Proposal and any conditions that may be applied, the Academy presently aims to join the maintained sector as a Voluntary Aided school by September 2026.

Please note that, following the consultation, Barnet Hill Academy may provide the following information to Barnet Council as part of its Proposal, which includes details relating to any response you may provide:

- (a) a list of the persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (c) a copy of the consultation document and a statement of how it was made available.

A list of all the parties that have been sent a copy of this consultation document is set out at page 12.

## ***Executive Summary***

The Academy proposes to be the London Borough of Barnet's first Islamic faith-based Voluntary Aided School. The School will be established as a mixed, two-form entry primary school.

Muslim residents represent 12.2% of Barnet's population. In 2021, the population of Barnet was estimated to be 389,340, the second largest of all the London boroughs; the highest proportions of Muslims were found in wards concentrated in the West of the borough: Colindale (24.7%); Burnt Oak (21.2%) and West Hendon (19%) (*Based upon 2021 Census data; Barnet Insight & Intelligence Hub*).

The Academy will cater from Nursery through to Year 6, and will look to open in September 2026 for the first VA intake. The Academy proposes to be established at its present site, 10a Montagu Road, Hendon NW4 3ES in the London Borough of Barnet. The Montagu Road site is one of great local significance, with a school and briefly a college on this site continuously since 1900, and having since been refurbished and utilised in several different ways for the benefit of students and the local community. The site is currently registered with the DfE to accommodate 400 students.

The school is working in affiliation with the support of the three central community mosques based in Barnet; Hendon Mosque and Islamic Centre (HMIC), The Islamic Association of North London (IANL) and Islamic Centre Edgware (ICE) which encompass the broad Muslim community in Barnet stretching from West to East and South, where the greatest proportions of the Muslim community are represented. As such, the Proposal is heavily supported by the local Muslim community with which we are extremely delighted.

There has been an Islamic faith school on the existing site since 2008, initially operating as Ayesha Community School until 2018, at which time it underwent a governance and leadership transition becoming Barnet Hill Academy in September 2018. The Academy's leadership and Governance teams have extensive experience in school governance and in educational establishments across both the independent faith school and state sectors. The present Ofsted status of the school is Good, with student personal development reflecting Outstanding practice (*Ofsted, June 2024*).

## ***The Vision: Faith, Excellence, Knowledge***

Barnet Hill Academy, the only Islamic faith school in Barnet, aims to develop each child's full potential spiritually, morally and academically; in so doing, it strives to deliver the highest standards of academic, character and spiritual education by means of a truly values-based curriculum.

Our goals at Barnet Hill Academy are directed at preparing our pupils in becoming individuals of excellent character and exceptional behaviour, secure in academic and intellectual rigour. The Academy aims to achieve such high standards by:

- schooling children in exceptional academic rigour through the application of in-depth learning and critical thinking, thereby delivering best-in-class educational experiences and students who excel academically across all National Curriculum subjects; whilst simultaneously energising students towards the history, achievements, philosophy and practices in Islam which will help drive them to achieve the pinnacle of their academic potential – **Knowledge**;
- activating in children an understanding of how to apply Islamic values in their modern British daily lives, thereby becoming beacons of positive stature in their communities and steadfast Muslims in their contemporary British lives – **Excellence**;
- instilling self-esteem, self-confidence and a strong sense of identity through underpinning a sense of self-discipline, self-awareness and self-reflection based upon an understanding of the concept of servitude, that they are a servant of God (Allah) and that this value is best demonstrated through service to others, an inherent value in Islamic thought and practice – **Faith**.

These aspirational, value-laden ambitions create a holistic educational experience for pupils, empowering them with the opportunities to excel and prepare for secondary education and in so doing lay the foundations for well-balanced individuals through the creation of an educational environment that focuses on the following five key strands:

- exceptional academic attainment;
- a spirit of educational endeavour that dwells upon a healthy body, 'healthy' mind and soul;
- instilling a strong sense of character, emotional intelligence and social skills;
- engaging effectively with parents, the community and stakeholders;
- teaching and learning practice which appreciates harmony in the natural world, the environment and within ourselves.

***“The school provides a welcoming and caring environment in which pupils are eager to learn.”  
(Ofsted, June 2024)***

## Why an Islamic Faith School?

Parents of children of the Islamic faith should have an equal degree of choice with respect to the education of their children, which is often not the case due to the lack of state-funded Islamic faith school options nationally, as is demonstrable locally within the Borough of Barnet and beyond i.e. amongst the surrounding boroughs of Harrow, Enfield, Haringey, Ealing and Camden, only Brent has a state-sponsored Islamic faith school – Islamia Primary School – which was the first Islamic state-funded school nationally, established as such in 1998.

Faith schools, nationally, are traditionally oversubscribed and it is well established that faith schools generally perform very well. It may be of note that some 28 years on, after transition from the independent sector to the VA (maintained) sector, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for Islamia Primary School is 60, but the school still annually attracts over 200 applicants for admission to Year 1 demonstrating the need and demand for Islamic faith schools. ‘In 2018 the average Attainment 8 score in mainstream state-funded faith schools was 49.6 compared to 47.0 at non-faith schools. In addition, the average proportion of faith school pupils achieving grades 9-5 in English and Maths GCSE was 48% compared to 44% at non-faith schools’ (*House of Commons Library, Faith Schools in England Briefing Paper, Dec 2019*). This further compounds the lack of choice for high quality education for Muslim parents and their children. If Muslim parents wish to send their children to another faith school, they are placed at a significant disadvantage since they are not members of the faith. Thus, they are both unable to send their children to a school of their own faith, and simultaneously are less likely to gain entrance into a school of any other faith.

Unlike parents of any other religion, Muslim parents in Barnet do not have the option, choice or opportunity to send their children to a state school based on their faith. Currently, there are Voluntary Aided schools in Barnet for the major religions present in the Borough, Christianity and Judaism, and for children of no denomination there is also a wide choice of many non-denominational schools. Islam is excepted from the Barnetonian’s educational landscape. Muslim parents in Barnet do not have a choice unless they can afford the fees for Barnet Hill Academy, Barnet’s only Islamic faith school which currently resides in the independent school sector thereby excluding the vast majority of Barnet’s Muslim population from accessing a school for their children based upon their beliefs.

	<b>England and Wales %</b>	<b>England and Wales total population (59,616,000)</b>
<b>Christian</b>	46.2	27,500,000
<b>Buddhist</b>	0.5	273,000
<b>Hindu</b>	1.7	1,000,000
<b>Jewish</b>	0.5	271,000
<b>Muslim</b>	6.5	3,900,000
<b>Sikh</b>	0.9	524,000
<b>Any Other religion</b>	0.6	348,000
<b>No Religion</b>	37.2	22,200,000

Table 1.1: National population by Religion, with 6% of people (3.6 million) choosing not to respond  
(Census 2021, ONS)

## Why Barnet?

Barnet is a welcoming borough with a strong track record of multiculturalism and diversity across all areas. It is home to one of the largest Jewish faith communities in London; the Muslim community is also well established in the borough, with many institutions representing an increasing Muslim population particularly in the wards of Colindale, Burnt Oak and West Hendon.

Barnet has a proven track record in educational excellence and has consistently performed exceptionally well in the LA league tables. The combination of local demand, Barnet's education performance and being in the vicinity of one of the largest Muslim communities representing almost 1.2% of the national Muslim population of England and Wales (*based upon 2021 Census data*), makes Barnet an ideal choice for the first Islamic Voluntary Aided school in Barnet and the second-only Islamic state-sponsored school across the entire North-West London region spanning some ten Local Authorities.

In developing the Academy as a maintained school the Governors aim not only to continue to deliver the high educational standards currently available but also to enhance these for a much larger cohort who currently have no access to such provision, thereby greatly adding to the diversity of provision currently available to parents in Barnet. Developing an inclusive educational offer will not only reflect the local demographic needs but significantly help redress the desperate need expressed by many parents for a school that better reflects the diverse religious, ethnic and cultural diversity of the population. In doing so, the Academy will also support the inclusivity and equalities remit of Barnet Council in ensuring that provision for all segments of the BAME community is met and expressed through the educational offer made available by Barnet Council for the Muslim community and indeed the wider Barnet population.

## Why Voluntary Aided?

There were 63,099 pupils in Barnet, spread across 133 schools in May 2023. Nearly half - 49.2 per cent - of these pupils (31,059) attended the primary schools in the borough.

<i>Type of School</i>	<i>Total No. of Schools</i>	<i>No. of VA Schools</i>
<b>Primary</b>	89	30
<b>Secondary</b>	27	5
<b>Special</b>	8	0
<b>Other</b>	9	0

Table 1.2: Table showing the number of VA schools by type in Barnet  
(*Barnet Education Strategy 2024/25 - 2026/27, Barnet Education & Learning Service, April 2024*)

Data in Table 1.2 demonstrates that:

- there were a total of 116 mainstream, Local Authority primary and secondary schools in Barnet, of which 35 schools - almost one third - were VA (faith) schools
- one third - 33 per cent - of Barnet's primary schools were VA (faith) schools.

<i>VA School Type</i>	<i>VA School by Religion</i>			
	<b>Catholic/ RC</b>	<b>Church of England</b>	<b>Jewish</b>	<b>Islamic</b>
<b>Primary</b>	9	10	11	0
<b>Secondary</b>	3	0	2	0

Table 1.3: Table showing the number of VA schools by religion in Barnet (*AllSchools UK*)

Data in Table 1.3 displays the faith denomination of VA schools in Barnet by religion. Despite there being a significant Muslim population in Barnet, Muslim parents have no VA faith school of choice available to them at either the primary or secondary stages of education.

Based on our preliminary research for the demand for such a school and the 12.2% (equating as some 47,688) of residents in Barnet who identify as Muslim (*Census, 2021*), mostly within the wards in the vicinity of the school, namely West Hendon, Colindale and Burnt Oak, the school will be oversubscribed from the day it opens. Additionally, our research from other faith groups as well as within the Muslim community, demonstrates that the demand for faith schools currently is and will continue to be sustained over the long-term and over the coming generations.

The Academy is sensitive to the fact that there is currently a surplus of places in Barnet's primary schools. However, any potential impact on local schools will be minimised as follows:

- whilst it is envisaged that demand for the Academy will evidently outstrip available places (based upon evidence of similar Islamic VA schools), the Academy proposes to open the two-form entry provision to one year group at a time, thereby enabling a phased development. This will mean that any potential impact is staggered and other local schools do not lose pupils from existing classes;
- some of the places at the maintained school may be adopted by parents who would home-school or undertake an alternative form of provision i.e. attend a less costly alternative out-of-borough faith school, and thus their interest or potential enrolment would not impact upon demand at local schools;
- the catchment area for the Academy is likely to be very widespread, particularly given its truly unique nature, and so no particular school is likely to be impacted in a significant way; and
- the Academy will not detrimentally impact other schools as in its maintained guise, many of its existing parents will continue at the school mainly from the Early Years pathway i.e. they have already made their choice of school.

The proposed admissions criteria for the Academy when it enters the maintained sector is set out at Annex A.

## Why Barnet Hill Academy?

At the end of Key Stage 2 (KS2/Year 6), pupils take National Curriculum tests in Mathematics, English (reading) and English Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) which are set nationally and externally marked. Scaled scores are used to report the outcomes of these tests to ensure that accurate comparisons of performance over time can be made. Pupils scoring at least 100 will have met the 'Expected Standard' (ES) on the test. The below tables show the percentage of students at the Academy who have achieved the 'Expected Standard' in these tests in comparison with their peers.

2022 - 2023	English	GPS	Maths
Barnet Hill Academy	82	94	94
Barnet Local Authority	78	80	81
National	71	72	73

2023 - 2024	English	GPS	Maths
Barnet Hill Academy	90	100	100
Barnet Local Authority	90	87	87
National	74	72	73

2024 - 2025	English	GPS	Maths
Barnet Hill Academy	100	100	82
Barnet Local Authority	82	82	82
National	75	73	74

Table 1.4: Tables showing Expected Standard (ES) levels of attainment and comparisons between schools Nationally, in Barnet Local Authority and Barnet Hill Academy (*DfE, National Statistics*)

It is evident from the table that the Academy consistently scores well in comparison to Barnet LA and National data. Consistently, for the past three years, the Academy has outperformed schools nationally on every single measure. The table demonstrates that the Academy is also at least as good, on students' academic outcomes, than schools in its Barnet Local Authority peer group and on the GPS measure, year-on-year students at Barnet Hill have achieved significantly stronger annually.

The data demonstrates exceptional outcomes, given the context for the average scaled scores of pupils in Barnet Local Authority is that the Local Authority (LA) is in the top 20% of LAs nationally in all subjects i.e. the local comparison (with Barnet LA) is a high-stakes comparison for the Academy. Nevertheless, the data demonstrates the Academy's standards as being at least as well as those of schools of a similar intake across Barnet and on some benchmarks i.e. GPS scores, the Academy's students achieve much stronger outcomes.

***“Pupils learn well in a wide range of subjects. They achieve highly in reading, writing and mathematics.”  
(Ofsted, June 2024)***

## ***Inclusivity, Equality & Diversity***

A significant aspect of the Academy will be in removing social divides; the Academy will continue to work towards building partnerships both within and outside of the classroom. This is of paramount importance to the very nature and ethos of the Academy.

Community cohesion is vital for the Academy to be accepted as an integral part of the Barnet educational context. The Academy welcomes creating as diverse a pupil population as possible and will continue to make every effort to ensure that the wider community is incorporated within the Academy's vision and strategy to create a common sense of belonging with an emphasis on shared values of the community.

The Academy will look to integrate with the community in the following ways:

- sharing of best practice with local schools through collaboration and regular networking via both formal and informal sessions;
- granting access to teaching resources in supporting other schools with expertise areas such as Islam and Islamic education;
- define a resource sharing plan where pupils from other schools within the borough could visit on a regular basis and be taught, for example, the principles of Islam as part of the school's R.E. syllabus and interfaith work;
- enhanced community courses provided in partnership with the Hendon Mosque and Islamic Centre, which runs a variety of classes and courses including youth clubs and a wide range of other community services;
- broad utilisation of the Academy's facilities for evening and weekend classes to provide both adult and child educational and recreational classes;
- engage in local interfaith events such as those hosted by Barnet Council, as well as by Middlesex University's Inter Faith Network;
- support local food banks, and continue to liaise with local community hubs such as the Barnet Multicultural Community Centre, to work with groups and charities they support such as Age UK Barnet.

***“Pupils are enthusiastic to take on responsibilities and make a difference to the school and wider community.”  
(Ofsted, June 2024)***

## ***Green School Travel Plan***

The Academy is currently a TfL Travel for Life Gold Star accredited school and has been since 2018, the highest level of recognition awarded to London schools that demonstrate excellence in promoting sustainable, safe and active travel.

The Academy's aim is to maximise the use by pupils and teachers of walking and public transport and to significantly minimise private car use. Families and students are encouraged to use active travel methods and car sharing is encouraged where possible. The Academy has worked with organisers of the Safe Routes to School Programme, sharing their aim to identify and improve pedestrian and cycle routes to schools, and has installed cycle racks in the school.

The Academy plans to implement the following initiatives towards a Green School Travel Plan:

- work on initiatives to enable children to travel by foot to school, in some instances, grouping children with school staff travelling the same local route;
- identify and promote safe walking routes;
- set up a Walking Bus scheme run by volunteers, by identifying parents who walk their children to school and asking them to pick up other children on the way;
- support parent decision-making in conjunction with Barnet Council's Road Safety Team who can provide an assessment of proposed walking routes to and from the school, and suggest suitable crossing points and provide high visibility waistcoats for the child and the parent;
- support safe cycling routes for school commuting;
- promote the use of public transport for staff and accompanied children via safe bus routes;
- running a Breakfast Club and after-school clubs, which will mean that children are arriving at school outside of the typical school run times and hence congestion will be reduced by a staggered traffic flow;
- promote awareness of the Green School Travel Plan amongst students and parents.

### **Benefits**

- A Green School Travel Plan would work towards ensuring that the needs of local residents are fully considered and will help to reduce congestion arising from school traffic.
- The safety of children and staff will be paramount when adopting 'green' ideas.
- The Academy's proposals will improve road safety, helping to prevent road accidents involving school children.
- The curriculum will aim to produce socially and ecologically aware young people.
- These initiatives will improve pupil physical and mental health and safety awareness levels.

The above initiatives provide examples of the seriousness with which the Academy holds travel, health and environmental issues and the tangible steps that will be taken to ensure a viable Green Travel Plan.

## ***Responding to the Consultation***

The consultation will run for a period of eight weeks. You are asked to provide any response to this consultation by **18 May 2026**. The consultation will end after that date.

If you would like to respond to this consultation, please send your response in writing to:

**By Post:** 'Barnet Hill Academy', c/o VA Officer, 10a Montagu Road, Hendon, NW4 3ES

**By Email:** [va@barnethillacademy.org.uk](mailto:va@barnethillacademy.org.uk)

When responding, please provide details of who you are and, if you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide details of the organisation you represent.

## **List of Organisations to be Consulted**

*Staff of Barnet Hill Academy*

*Governing Body of Barnet Hill Academy*

*Islamic Association of North London*

*North London Council of Mosques*

*Age UK Barnet*

*St John's West Hendon*

*The Hyde School*

*Oliver Goldsmith Primary School*

*Kingsbury Green Primary School*

*Islamia Primary VA School (Brent)*

*The Association of Muslim Schools*

*Muslim Council of Britain*

*NASUWT*

*Unison*

*Thomas-Ferdinand Gallery*

*Forgotten Women*

*Muslim Dental Network*

*Elixir Aesthetiq Wellness*

*The Riot Act*

*PrepareRobo*

*Bikeability*

*Leader: London Borough of Brent*

*Leader: London Borough of Harrow*

*Mr David Pinto-Duschinsky, MP (Hendon)*

*Mr Dan Tomlinson, MP (Chipping Barnet)*

*Ms Sarah Sackman, MP (Finchley & Golders Green)*

*London Borough of Barnet Executive Director for Children and Family Services*

*Barnet Education & Learning Service (BELS)*

*Barnet Early Years Strategic Lead for PVI's and Childminders*

*Barnet Lead Practitioner and Advisory Teacher for Early Years*

*Barnet School Travel Officer*

*NHS Children's Speech and Language Therapist*

*Coordinator for Barnet Healthy Schools and Healthy Early Years Programmes*

*Health Education Partnership*

*London Borough of Barnet Councillors for the West Hendon Ward*

*Middlesex University Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network*

*Parents of Pupils at Barnet Hill Academy*

*Hendon Mosque and Islamic Centre*

*Islamic Centre Edgware*

*Barnet Multicultural Community Centre*

*Barnet African Caribbean Association*

*Parkfield Primary School*

*Sunnyfields Primary School*

*Colindale Primary School*

*Fryent Primary School*

*Harmony Primary School (Harrow)*

*Faiths Forum for London*

*The Muslim Teachers' Association*

*NEU*

*GMB*

*Alif New Beginnings*

*Cavendish Banqueting*

*Care Dental Smile*

*Super Star Sport*

*MATT+FIONA*

*artsdepot*

## **Annex A – Part 1**

### **Proposed admissions criteria for Barnet Hill Academy when it enters the Maintained Sector**

*(NB criteria are subject to change and may be amended as part of the statutory proposals process)*

This is the comprehensive admissions policy and procedure for entry into Barnet Hill Academy.

Barnet Hill Academy was founded to provide a sound Islamic religious and secular education and priority for admission is given to those children of practising Muslim families, defined broadly as one where the parents are regular attendees of mosques and whose principles and practices are in accordance with the mainstream *Ahl-al-Sunnah* doctrine. The decision as to whether or not an applicant qualifies for priority consideration will be based on the information provided by the applicant in the Supplementary Information Form ("SIF"). In this policy those who qualify for priority are referred to as Muslim Children.

#### **Admissions**

- The school has a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 60 children.
- In the event that the school is oversubscribed priority will be given as follows:
  - Looked After and Previously Looked After Muslim children.
  - Muslim children with siblings who are currently at Barnet Hill Academy at the time of the application. For these purposes "siblings" shall include half-siblings, step-siblings and adopted siblings who are Muslim Children and who are living at the same address.
  - Children of a member of staff where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time of application or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
  - Other Muslim children
  - Other Looked After and Previously Looked After children
  - Other children
- Distance will be used as a 'tie-breaker' if two or more applicants are equally qualified for a place within any of the above criteria. Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home to the school's main gate, using Barnet Council's computerised measuring system. For this purpose, the address of an applicant is the permanent domestic address of the parents. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the school, priority will be decided by random allocation in the presence of an independent observer.
- A "Looked After child" is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. A "Previously Looked After child" is a child who was in public care, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order immediately after being in public care. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

- Verification of regular, Islamic practice <sup>1</sup> will be obtained from the Imam of the one of the three established Mosques in Barnet following the mainstream Islamic doctrine in line with the Muslim ethos of the school. Evidence will be sought of active Muslim worship and observance of Islamic laws and practice.
- Exceptional Circumstances: The Governors reserve the right to give priority to applications which are considered by the Governors to merit special consideration on the grounds of exceptional social or medical needs. Applicants under this category must supply evidence to support their exceptional circumstance.

### Admissions Procedure

- All applications for Reception places at the school in the normal year must be submitted on the home local authority's Common Application Form (CAF) and, if the applicant seeks consideration for priority admission, the applicant should provide a completed SIF. This must be sent to the school at the same time as the CAF is completed.
- The closing date for all applications to the Reception class will be a date set each year in line with nationally set dates for the making of offers for admission in the school year (1 September to 31 August) in which the child will attain four years of age. Late applications will be dealt with in accordance with the London Borough of Barnet Coordinated Admissions Scheme.
- A separate application must be made on behalf of ALL children seeking admission to Reception Classes, including those attending the Nursery. There is no automatic progression from the Nursery to the Reception Classes.
- Parents will be notified by the home local authority in accordance with its Coordinated Admissions Scheme. Parents must indicate in writing within 10 days their intention to take up a place.

### In-Year Admissions

- In-year admissions for all year groups will be coordinated by Barnet Council in accordance with the Barnet In-Year Coordinated Admissions Procedure. Applications for an in-year school place must be submitted via the [Barnet Parent Portal](#) and will be processed in line with the published local authority timetable and procedures. The governing body, as the admission authority, will apply the school's oversubscription criteria where the number of applications exceeds the number of available places.
- Copies of the proposed admission arrangements for the 2026/27 and 2027/28 intakes are available on the school's website.

### Waiting List

- When all available places have been filled, children not allocated places will be placed on a waiting list ranked in descending order according to the published admissions criteria. The waiting list will remain in operation from the day the original places are awarded and will be open until the end of the academic year. Those who wish to remain on the waiting

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<sup>1</sup> Islamic practice is defined as observance of the five core tenets of the Islamic faith including regular attendance at mosques, fasting, alms-giving, pilgrimage and acceptance of the Shahadah (proclamation of faith).

list after this period should notify the school each year in writing.

### **Applications on behalf of Twins or Triplets (Multiple Births)**

- If only one place is available at the school and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, those children will be admitted in excess of the Published Admission Number to avoid a situation where the children have to attend different schools. The children admitted over the PAN will be “excepted pupils” until the class size falls back to 30 pupils.

### **Request to delay entry to school (known as deferred entry)**

- Children reach compulsory school age at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. Where a child has been offered a place at the school, that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following the child’s fourth birthday. Parents of children below compulsory school age may, however, defer their child’s entry to a Reception class until later in the school year. However, a Reception class place must be taken up by the start of the summer term. Where parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age. If parents want their child to take up a Year 1 place in the following academic year a fresh application must be made.

### **Summer-born children**

- Parents of summer born children may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that their child is admitted out of their normal age group – to Reception rather than Year 1.
- If parents wish to apply for their summer-born child to join a Reception class, instead of Year 1, in September of the following year, they must complete an application for Reception of the current admission year **and** must submit a separate written request to the Governing Body. Summer-born children are those born between 1 April and 31 August.

### **Requests for admission outside the normal age group**

- Children are educated in school with others of their age group, with the curriculum differentiated as necessary to meet the needs of individual children. However, parents may request that their child is exceptionally admitted outside their age group, for example if their child is gifted or talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. The Governing Body will decide whether or not the individual circumstances make this appropriate on educational grounds and in the best interests of the child. This will include taking account of the parents’ views; information about the child’s academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The Governing Body will also take into account the view of the Head Teacher of the school.

### **Special Needs**

- The admission of children with statements of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan is dealt with by a completely separate procedure.

**Incorrect or Misleading Applications**

- If the information given in the application form is not accurate or up to date, your child may lose priority. In such a case, the Governing Body will have discretion to refuse the offer of a place. The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place where it is found that the place was offered on the basis of fraudulent or misleading information.

**Appeal Procedure**

- If a place is not offered, parents will be advised as to their right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel and will be advised on the process for appeal.

## **Annex A – Part 2**

### **Proposed admissions criteria for Barnet Hill Academy**

#### **Nursery**

*(NB criteria are subject to change and may be amended as part of the statutory proposals process)*

This is the comprehensive admissions policy and procedure for entry into Barnet Hill Academy Nursery, which provides nursery education to children from the age of 3. Once admitted to the Nursery, children remain enrolled subject to Nursery terms and conditions, until they reapply to transition to Reception.

Barnet Hill Academy Nursery was founded to provide a sound Islamic religious and secular education and priority for admission is given to those children of practising Muslim families, defined broadly as one where the parents are regular attendees of mosques and whose principles and practices are in accordance with the mainstream *Ahl-al-Sunnah* doctrine. The decision as to whether or not an applicant qualifies for priority consideration will be based on the information provided by the applicant in the Supplementary Information Form ("SIF"). In this policy those who qualify for priority are referred to as Muslim Children.

#### **Admissions**

- In the event that the Nursery is oversubscribed priority will be given as follows:
  - Looked After and Previously Looked After Muslim children.
  - Muslim children with siblings who are currently at Barnet Hill Academy or the Nursery at the time of the application. For these purposes "siblings" shall include half-siblings, step-siblings and adopted siblings who are Muslim Children and who are living at the same address.
  - Children of a member of staff where the member of staff has been employed at Barnet Hill Academy or the Nursery for two or more years at the time of application or where the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.
  - Other Muslim children
  - Other Looked After and Previously Looked After children
  - Other children
- Distance will be used as a 'tie-breaker' if two or more applicants are equally qualified for a place within any of the above criteria. Distance is measured in a straight line between the address point for the child's home to the Nursery's main gate, using Barnet Council's computerised measuring system. For this purpose, the address of an applicant is the permanent domestic address of the parents. Where it is necessary to further differentiate between applicants living the same distance from the Nursery, priority will be decided by random allocation in the presence of an independent observer.
- A "Looked After child" is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. A "Previously Looked After child" is a child who was in public care, but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order immediately after being in public care. Child arrangements orders replace residence orders and any residence order in force prior to 22 April 2014 is deemed to be a child arrangements order. A special guardianship order is defined by section 14A of the Children Act 1989.

- Verification of regular, Islamic practice<sup>2</sup> will be obtained from the Imam of the one of the three established Mosques in Barnet following the mainstream Islamic doctrine in line with the Muslim ethos of the Nursery. Evidence will be sought of active Muslim worship and observance of Islamic laws and practice.
- Special Circumstances: The Governors reserve the right to give priority to applications which are considered by the Governors to merit special consideration. Applicants under this category must supply evidence to support their special circumstance.

### **Admissions Procedure**

- All applications for places at the Nursery must be sent to Barnet Hill Academy Nursery and, if the applicant seeks consideration for priority admission, the applicant should provide a completed SIF. This must be sent to the Nursery at the same time as the application.
- The closing date for all applications to the Nursery will be a date set each year (in line with nationally set dates for the making of offers for admission, if any) in the school year (1 September to 31 August) in which the child will attain three years of age. Late applications will be placed at the end of the waiting list.
- Parents will be notified by Barnet Hill Academy Nursery and must indicate in writing within 10 days their intention to take up a place.

### **Waiting List**

- When all available places have been filled, children not allocated places will be placed on a waiting list ranked in descending order according to the published admissions criteria. The waiting list will remain in operation from the day the original places are awarded and will be open until the end of the academic year.

### **Applications on behalf of Twins or Triplets (Multiple Births)**

- If only one place is available at the Nursery and the next child who qualifies for a place is one of multiple birth siblings, those children will be admitted in excess of the Published Admission Number to avoid a situation where the children have to attend different nurseries. The children admitted over the PAN will be “excepted pupils” until the class size falls back to 30 pupils.

### **Incorrect or Misleading Applications**

- If the information given in the application form or SIF is not accurate or up to date, your child may lose priority. In such a case, the Governing Body will have discretion to refuse the offer of a place. The Governing Body reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place where it is found that the place was offered on the basis of fraudulent or misleading information.

### **Appeal Procedure**

- If a place is not offered, parents will be advised as to their right to appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel and will be advised on the process for appeal.

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<sup>2</sup> Islamic practice is defined as observance of the five core tenets of the Islamic faith including regular attendance at mosques, fasting, alms-giving, pilgrimage and acceptance of the Shahadah (proclamation of faith).

- In conducting any appeal, the Independent Appeal Panel shall adopt as far as possible the School Admissions Appeals Code, with such necessary adjustments as the Independent Appeal Panel considers necessary to ensure that the appeal is conducted in a fair manner. For the purposes of applying the School Admissions Appeals Code, the Nursery shall be deemed to be an infant class and the infant class size limit shall be deemed to be 30 pupils per class.

### **Places at Barnet Hill Academy**

- Admission to Barnet Hill Academy Nursery will not guarantee the child a place in the Reception class at Barnet Hill Academy.