

**PROPOSAL  
TO ESTABLISH A NEW  
VOLUNTARY AIDED SCHOOL**

**BARNET HILL  
ACADEMY**

**May 2026**

## PROPOSAL DOCUMENT

This document sets out the proposal for the establishment of a new voluntary aided school to be known as Barnet Hill Academy (the “school”) which will replace the existing independent school, known by the same name. It is being sent to the decision maker, the London Borough of Barnet. To respond to this document, please email [Ferzana.Arif@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:Ferzana.Arif@barnet.gov.uk)

### Contact Details

**1. The name of the proposer or proposers and a contact address.**

The Governors of Barnet Hill Academy  
10a Montagu Road  
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NW4 3ES

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### Implementation

**2. The date on which it is proposed that the school be opened or, where it is proposed that the opening be implemented in stages, the dates of and information about each stage.**

It is proposed that the new school be opened on 1 September 2026 (being the start of the 2026/27 academic year). It is proposed that the opening be implemented in stages, initially operating as a one-form entry school, with each subsequent year accruing an additional form, beginning with the Reception Year in September 2027 and completing the transition to a full two-form entry school by 2033/34.

**3. Where the proposals are to establish a voluntary, foundation or foundation special school, a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local authority or by the proposers, and if the proposals are to be implemented by both, (a) a statement as to the extent that they are to be implemented by each body, and (b) a statement as to the extent to which the capital costs of implementation are to be met by each body.**

The proposals are to be implemented by the proposers, with the capital costs of implementation to be met by the proposers.

### Reason for the new school

**4. A statement explaining the reason why the new school is considered necessary and whether it is to replace an existing school or schools.**

The proposal is for the existing co-educational, independent school, Barnet Hill Academy, to enter the maintained sector by becoming a voluntary aided school and nursery catering for pupils aged 3 - 11, from Nursery through to Year 6. The new voluntary aided school will be two-form entry from Reception to Year 6. The present school is located at the original Victorian school site of 10a Montagu Road, Hendon, London NW4 3ES which has operated as a school from the 1900s and latterly, for a period, a college, prior to reverting back to a primary school

in its current form. Since its foundation, the school has had as its primary objective the provision of mainstream education to pupils resident in Hendon and more widely Barnet. This is due to the fact that the largest contingent of the Muslim community across Barnet resides in West Hendon and surrounding wards, hence the location of the school.

The current independent school has a very popular nursery and school, and was established in 2008 to meet an increasing demand for additional school provision which follows the National Curriculum tailored to meet the needs of the Islamic faith community in Barnet, North West London. As it is, it would be only the second such Islamic voluntary aided school across the entire North and North West London community. The current school aims to achieve the highest educational standards in both secular and religious studies. It seeks to provide this education in a warm, caring, forward-looking and progressive environment, where children are happy and can grow into valued members of the community. It is intended that the current school's successful approach will be continued within the maintained sector as a VA school.

The new (VA) school, which will replace the existing independent school, is necessary as there is a current well-recognised need for additional primary school places in the maintained sector at schools serving the needs of the Islamic faith population of North West London. The shortage of (Islamic faith school) places in the maintained sector is evidenced by the current popularity of the existing independent school which is oversubscribed in many of its recent admission years notwithstanding the burden of paying fees particularly during the recent economic impact, the introduction of VAT on school fees and the ongoing impact of CoVID during the past few years – such demand for the school has not ceased. It is well-recognised by the current school that its present popularity is due to a lack of suitable equivalent provision in the maintained sector in Barnet and indeed more widely across North and North West London.

Becoming a maintained school will also support the diversity of provision within the Barnet maintained sector reflecting the religious, ethnic and cultural diversity of Barnet's significant, growing population. By entering the maintained sector Barnet Hill Academy will greatly enhance Barnet Council's educational offer to students of both the Islamic and non-Islamic faith traditions by ensuring a greater diversity of provision, further school-led inter-faith opportunities and a stronger community engagement portfolio with the minority ethnic groups present in one of London's most populous boroughs. Further, by entering the maintained sector, the governors of Barnet Hill Academy believe that the school's ability to provide high quality education will be enhanced by providing the school with greater access to the skills, knowledge and resources available to all schools, faith and non-faith, in the maintained sector. Such an opportunity will also enable the school and the community it serves to benefit from the experience and expertise of other schools in Barnet through empowering the school to become an active participant in the wide, diverse family of multi-denominational, maintained schools.

**Category**

**5. The category of school that it is proposed be established (a foundation or foundation special school and, if so, whether it is to have a foundation, a voluntary school, a community or community special school, or a local authority maintained nursery school) and, if required by section 10, a statement that the Secretary of State's consent has been obtained to publish the proposals.**

It is proposed that the new school will be voluntary aided. It was not necessary to gain the Secretary of State's consent to publish the proposal.

**Ethos and religious character**

**6. A short statement setting out the proposed ethos of the school, including details of any educational philosophy, which it is proposed that the school will adhere to.**

The governors intend that Barnet Hill Academy will be an Islamic Faith school providing the Muslim community in North West London with access to high quality general education that meets the National Curriculum as well as excellent religious education in accordance with Islamic norms and practice.

The ethos of the school is reflected in its vision which states that the Academy’s aims are expressed in its tripartite focus: **Faith Excellence Knowledge**

Barnet Hill Academy seeks to achieve this vision of delivering a high quality education by ensuring that its students succeed academically and spiritually. Such values are demonstrated clearly through its latest Ofsted inspection (June, 2024) which graded the school as ‘Good’ in all areas including one grading of ‘Outstanding’. In addition, the school seeks to holistically develop its pupils by imbuing in each child a love of Islamic practice as demonstrated in its Quranic values and the Prophetic traditions, thereby supporting children in developing positive personality morals, habits and traits. The Muslim prayer and the study of the Prophetic manners and well established Sunnah and Hadith literature (ritual practices and sayings of the Prophet Muhammad), alongside SMSC and PSHE programmes aim to encourage positive character traits and are therefore integral to the overall curricular programme. Through such an approach, Barnet Hill Academy places a high value on developing pupils as well-rounded individuals who can play a part in modern British society. Explicitly teaching British values and preparing students for life in modern Britain is therefore integrated into the curriculum, including Islamic studies, and is an important part of pupils’ education at Barnet Hill Academy. Such excellence is demonstrated through the Ofsted inspection report, “the school organises a wealth of extra-curricular experiences to broaden pupils’ outlook beyond their academic work and the local community.” (Ofsted, 2024).

Barnet Hill Academy therefore will:

- provide an outstanding and inspiring Islamic studies curriculum that is integrated with an excellent secular education
- create a warm and friendly school for the local community
- work in partnership with parents to help their children learn and develop
- add to the life and well-being of the school’s local community
- foster a safe, supportive and nurturing learning environment
- ensure that all children have equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- encourage children to have respect for themselves and for others
- offer care and support to children with special educational needs

**7. If it is proposed that the school is to have a religious character, confirmation of the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets religious education will, or may be required to be provided at the school; and a statement that the proposers intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.**

The school will have an Islamic religious character. The proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character albeit its current designation in the independent sector is already of an Islamic faith designation.

**8. Where it is proposed that the school—**

- (a) has a religious character, evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion; or**
- (b) adheres to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with that philosophy that is not already met in other maintained schools or academies in the area.**

See section 4 above. The London Borough of Barnet is one of the largest, most populous Boroughs across all thirty-two London boroughs, of whom some 12.2%, equating as some 47,688, of Barnet residents designated Islam as their religion according to the latest Census data. There are no other primary, nor secondary, schools in Barnet that seek to provide education in accordance with the tenets of the Muslim Faith, with parents travelling across boroughs or relocating for an Islamic faith school provision, evidencing the high demand for places at schools in the area for this type of education. Indeed, 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 a similar transition from the independent to the VA (maintained) sector, the Published Admission Number (PAN) for the next nearest maintained Islamic faith school, Islamia Primary School (in Brent) is 60, but the school still annually attracts over 200 applicants for admissions to Year 1, demonstrating the need and demand for Islamic faith schools in North West London. The narrative resonates with similar Islamic faith state-maintained schools across London, a familiar story of demand far outstripping supply e.g. Al-Noor (VA) Primary School, Gatton Primary (VA) School, amongst others.

Present demographic trends for Barnet representing the growth of the Muslim community indicate that this demand will continue to grow. 12.2% of the Barnet population is Muslim, with 36.6% being Christian and 14.5% Jewish. The population growth phenomenon of the Muslim community can be witnessed principally across particular wards. An analysis of the wards inhabited by the largest congregation of Muslims indicates that the three most populous wards are: Colindale (24.7%), Burnt Oak (21.2%) and West Hendon (19%), with the school residing in West Hendon, which borders the Burnt Oak and Colindale wards in the South-West corridor of the borough. Hence, these three wards form the immediate catchment area of the proposed Voluntary Aided school. At the present moment there are no faith schools for children of Muslim descent; Christian, Catholic and Jewish faith schools are accounted for by 30 VA faith schools of the 89 or so primary schools across Barnet i.e. over 33% of Barnet's primary schools are of a faith designation in the form of a VA school, which clearly underscores the importance of values-based, faith education for Barnetonians of all denominations. *(Data taken from 2021 Census and BELS 2024/25 - 2026/27 Education Strategy)*

The school has the support of the some of the most long established central community mosques 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. As such, the proposal is heavily supported by the local Muslim community and this demonstrates the broad appeal and support enjoyed by the school from across the Muslim community spectrum. The current demand, which outstrips available places, for children to attend the existing independent school Barnet Hill Academy, notwithstanding the requirement to pay fees, during an economic downturn, VAT imposition and high cost of living, is itself evidence of the demand for this type of educational provision.

### **Pupil numbers and admissions**

**9. The numbers (distinguishing between compulsory and non-compulsory school age pupils), age range, sex, and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is to be made at the school.**

It is proposed that the school will have 420 day pupils, boys and girls, across Reception to Year 6 once it is operating at full capacity as a two-form entry school. This will consist of a primary school from Reception through to Year 6 with an admission number of 60 per year group. Nursery pupils will also be catered for, from the age of 3 years old.

### **Admission Arrangements**

**10. Except in relation to proposals for special schools, the proposed admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria for the new school including, where the school is proposed to be a foundation or voluntary school which is to have a religious character—**

**(a) the extent to which priority for places is proposed to be given to children of the school's religion or religious denomination; and**

**(b) the extent, if any, to which priority is to be given to children of other religions or religious denominations or to children having no religion or religious denomination.**

As a faith school, it is proposed that the school will give priority to children of the Muslim faith. Any priority given, however, will be subject at all times to meeting the requirements of the School Admissions Code. 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"). Verification of Islamic practice will be obtained from the Imam of the local Barnet Mosque where the applicant family regularly attends and primarily based across one of the three established mosques (earlier referenced as HMIC, IANL and ICE) in Barnet. Evidence will be sought of active Islamic worship and observance of Islamic practice.

Accordingly, in the event that the school is oversubscribed, priority will be given as follows:

- Looked After and Previously Looked After Muslim faith children
- Muslim faith children with siblings who are currently at Barnet Hill Academy at the time of the application.
- Children of members of staff
- Other Muslim faith children
- Other Looked After and Previously Looked After children
- Other children

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. The SEND policy can be found on the school's website: [www.barnethillacademy.org.uk](http://www.barnethillacademy.org.uk).

The full proposed admissions criteria for the school can be found at Annex A. Please note that the Admissions criteria are currently under consultation until 18 May 2026.

## Early Years Provision

- 11. Where the proposals are to include provision for pupils aged two to five—**
- (a) details of how the early years provision will be organised, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number of places, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;**
  - (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services, and how the proposals for the establishment of the school are consistent with the integration of early years provision with childcare;**
  - (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;**
  - (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school; and**
  - (e) the reasons why schools and settings outside the maintained school sector which deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within three miles of the school and which have spare capacity, cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the numbers of such children.**

The school proposal includes the provision for a Nursery.

- (a) Early years provision will be made for children aged 3 to 5, in the Nursery and Reception classes. It is not proposed to admit children under the age of three. The Nursery can accommodate up to 40 children, including both full-time and part-time places. Reception class can accommodate up to 30 children, in line with statutory class sizes; it is proposed that two form entry for the Reception Year will be implemented in September 2027.

The nursery will operate 10 sessions per week (morning and afternoon) each session lasting 3 hours with options for full-time or part-time attendance to meet parental needs. Reception will operate full-time from 8:25am to 3:15pm, Monday to Friday, offering a structured environment that supports both children’s learning and care needs. In addition, the school currently offers an after-school provision for Reception children from 3:15pm to 4:15pm, which includes Quran class. This extended provision supports working families and provides continuity of care beyond the formal school day in a familiar and safe environment.

The school is committed to inclusion and follows the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework to support all children’s learning and development. While there are currently no children with disabilities at the school, Barnet Hill Academy does support children with additional needs, such as speech and language development, and staff are well-equipped to provide appropriate support should the need arise.

- (b) The school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services by offering parents the full early years curriculum covering all seven areas of learning and development as required. The school will offer parents 15 or 30 hours free childcare in line with government policy. The proposals for the establishment of the school are consistent with the integration of early years provision with childcare as the school will offer a broad and balanced early years curriculum with staff providing a consistent and nurturing environment throughout the day, where learning, play and care are delivered together.

The school’s overall approach is consistent with the integration of early years provision and childcare, as it ensures continuity through familiar staff, routines and surroundings, supporting smooth transitions and a secure experience for all children. Staff support

children's educational development alongside their personal, social and emotional wellbeing, ensuring that all needs are met within the same setting.

The school has worked closely with BELS to ensure the curriculum and standards are compliant with what would be required of a maintained school. The school intends to continue to work with Local Authority Early Years experts to continually develop solid integration of the early years provision.

- (c) See sections 4 & 8 which discuss the demand for educational provision in Islamic faith schools. The proposed Nursery will replace the existing popular independent Nursery operated by the school. Pupils who attend the Nursery invariably seek to continue at the School in Reception (although the admissions criteria to Reception do not give exclusive priority to pupils who attend the Nursery). The school therefore offers parents the possibility of Nursery through to Year 6 education at the same school, which is highly attractive to many parents.

The school has gathered evidence of parental demand for additional early years provision through direct engagement with families; informal discussions and feedback from parents have indicated a need for extended provision beyond the standard school day.

In addition, the uptake of the existing after-school provision, including the Quran class for Reception children, demonstrates interest in extended services. The school has also received enquiries from parents seeking places, indicating that there is a demand for additional early years provision within the community.

- (d) & (e) An assessment of early years provision within a three-mile radius of the school shows that there are a number of maintained schools and private providers delivering EYFS. While some settings have capacity, many operate at or near full capacity, particularly for nursery-aged children. In terms of quality, local providers have a range of Ofsted ratings, with several settings judged as 'Good' and some as 'Outstanding'. This indicates that there is generally acceptable provision in the area.

However, as a faith-based school with an Islamic ethos, the demand for places at Barnet Hill Academy's Nursery is higher, since many local Muslim families are seeking early years provision that reflects their values alongside high-quality education. This is supported by parental enquiries and the uptake of existing provision.

The sustainability of current providers appears stable, but increasing demand from local families, particularly those looking for Islamic ethos provision, suggests that additional high-quality early years places in Barnet would be beneficial. The proposed school will complement existing provision by offering education and care that meets both the developmental and faith-based needs of the community. Existing providers do not offer an environment where Islamic values are embedded within daily learning, routines and care. Barnet Hill Academy's Nursery is specifically designed to meet this need by providing a nurturing setting where children can develop academically alongside their understanding of faith, identity and values.

At the same time, the school actively promotes diversity, inclusion and mutual respect. Children are given opportunities to learn about and appreciate other cultures and celebrations, ensuring they develop an understanding of the wider community and British society. In addition, the provision offers a consistent and integrated approach to education and care, including extended opportunities such as after-school provision with Quran learning. This holistic model is highly valued by parents who are looking for both

high-quality early education and faith-based support within a familiar and supportive environment.

For these reasons, despite some spare capacity in other existing early years' settings nearby, they are not able to meet the specific and increasing demand for Islamic ethos early years provision. This highlights the clear need for additional places at Barnet Hill, supporting children's moral, spiritual and cultural development from an early age.

**Sixth Form Provision**

**12. Where it is proposed that the school will provide sixth form education, how for 16 to 19 year olds in the area the proposals will—**

- (a) improve the educational or training achievements;**
- (b) increase participation in education or training; and**
- (c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities available to them.**

It is not proposed to provide secondary education at the school and accordingly there will be no Sixth Form provision.

**Special educational needs provision**

**13. Whether the school will have provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special educational needs and, if so, the nature of such provision.**

The school will adopt an inclusive approach to all children with SEN and disabilities but will not offer any specific reserved provision.

**14. Details of the proposed policy of the school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs.**

The school aims to offer equality of opportunity and diversity to all groups of pupils within school such as children:

- from both sexes;
- who have Special Educational Needs;
- who are Looked After;
- who are gifted and talented;
- who are at risk of disaffection;
- who are young carers;

The school aims to provide a happy, healthy and safe school environment by providing high quality pastoral care, support and guidance by listening to the concerns of children and parents.

The school will work to ensure that all its pupils feel valued, are secure and are given opportunities to learn by providing a differentiated curriculum that caters for the needs of all pupils in both the religious and secular curriculum. The school aims to ensure that all pupils have access to all the school's resources and that they have the opportunity to experience success, are treated fairly and that their individual needs are met.

The school recognises the importance of early identification and assessment of children with special educational needs and it promotes a multi-disciplinary approach. The school believes that it has a duty to bring together and include all groups within the school and the local community and to invite them to use the school facilities for additional learning opportunities.

The school's approach to SEN concentrates on raising the aspirations and expectations for all pupils. The school provides a focus on outcomes for children and young people and utilises the expertise of support staff to meet their learning, social and emotional needs. The school actively analyses data to track and monitor pupil progress and to ensure that interventions are effective and have sustainable and noticeable impact. The school recognises that it is working in partnership with parents and it is receptive to their views, concerns and contributions regarding their children.

For the benefit of all pupils the school works closely with the health service, social care, the learning and behaviour support team and the education social worker.

The SEND policy can be found on the school's website: [www.barnethillacademy.org.uk](http://www.barnethillacademy.org.uk).

- 15. Where the school will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs—**
- (a) a statement on how the proposer believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and range of educational provision for these children;**
  - (b) details of the improvements that the proposals will bring in respect of—**
    - (i) access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local authority's Accessibility Strategy;**
    - (ii) access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support or outreach services;**
    - (iii) access to suitable accommodation; and**
    - (iv) supply of suitable places.**

This school will not be replacing existing education provision for children with special needs.

### Single Sex School

- 16. Where the school is to admit pupils of a single sex —**
- (a) evidence of local demand for single sex education and how this will be met if the proposals are approved; and**
  - (b) a statement giving details of the likely effect the new school will have on the balance of provision of single sex education in the area.**

It is not proposed that the school will admit pupils of a single sex only. The school will admit both boys and girls.

### Curriculum

- 17. Confirmation that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to the curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002 and an outline of any provision that will be in addition to the basic curriculum required by section 80 of EA 2002, in particular any 14-19 vocational education.**

The Proposers confirm that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to the curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002.

The school will provide for a curriculum that offers secular studies and Islamic studies with the aim of delivering excellence in both. To deliver this, the school will be teaching a timetable of which 88% is allocated to deliver the National Curriculum. The balance of the timetable, approximately 12%, is allocated to Islamic Studies educational provision that is in addition to the requirements of the National Curriculum, although Religious Education is incorporated into this element also thereby further covering aspects of the National Curriculum. The school ensures that the two parts of the curricula are integrated where possible to enhance the effectiveness of the educational provision.

### Relevant experience of proposers

- 18. Evidence of any relevant experience in education held by the proposers including details of any involvement in the improvement of standards in education.**

The VA school is being proposed by the Governors of the existing Barnet Hill Academy, who collectively have developed extensive experience in education through the successful operation of the current independent school and beyond i.e. the previous Headteacher was engaged in a consultative capacity and currently leads a VA school in a neighbouring borough, and various members of the board have extensive industry experience. The present Governing body includes individuals with the following expertise, who have all indicated their intention to continue as Governors on entry of the school into the maintained sector:

- The school already operates with a full complement of experienced and qualified teachers.
- The Headteacher, who also sits as a Governor of the school, is well established in Barnet and highly experienced in education, having been at the independent school in one capacity or other for some 15 years. He holds an NPQSL and is currently undertaking an NPQH to become a qualified Headteacher.
- A staff Governor who has resided on the staff teaching team for a considerable period of time thus having experience of the local community, school workforce and

student community over a very long period of time; she is currently on the SLT with an EYFS focus.

- The Chair, who has a legal background and has been leading on the maintained sector application process, is an established parent in the school community who started as a reading volunteer and joined the PTFA; she has two children currently attending and having traversed the school on their educational journey. She also works with youth in North West London, as a local scout leader and in an Admissions and Safeguarding capacity at a supplementary Saturday school.
- Two Governors who have professional business/accounting expertise in local businesses and are well established in the community, as well as having experience working with youth and with vulnerable young people.
- A Governor who is an Avionics engineer, who has participated in initiatives that encourage children towards STEM.
- A Governor who is a telecoms consultant, who also does extensive community work with local mosques and has had four children attend the school in the past.
- A Governor with professional experience of teaching at various inner London schools and is currently a qualified teacher at a local secondary school.
- An external LA governor with significant educational experience will be appointed to support the governing body.

### **Effects on standards and contributions to school improvement**

- 19. Information and supporting evidence on —**  
**(a) how the school will contribute to enhancing the diversity and quality of education in the area; and**  
**(b) how the school will contribute to school improvement.**

- a) The proposed school will increase parental choice and diversity of provision by increasing the maintained primary school options available to Muslim faith parents in the London Borough of Barnet. The school will provide access for Muslim children to excellent secular and Islamic religious education within the maintained sector, in response to considerable demand for such education in the London Borough of Barnet. The school will increase the diversity of provision within Barnet’s maintained sector reflecting the religious, ethnic and cultural diversity of its population and further strengthening the local community and equity of access for Barnet’s children from the Islamic faith background, to have a school of their denomination available to them in Barnet. The purpose built school building, established for over 100 years from the Victorian school era, will allow the school to expand provision to 60 pupils per year group. This will provide the much needed additional education provision in Barnet that is tailored to meet the requirements of the growing Muslim faith population in Barnet and in particular in the locale where the school is currently based, enhancing Barnet’s community assets as a consequence and promoting inclusion.

The current school has an established track record of excellent results, evidenced through not only the Ofsted inspection but also national Key Stage (KS2) results, at the primary school phase and on entry to the maintained sector the school will be able to offer access to pupils without the need to charge fees, allowing a greater diversity of access. An important focus of this school is the integration of the secular (National Curriculum) and Islamic Studies with the aim of raising achievement and achieving excellence in both.

- b) The school is already a high performing independent school and was judged Good by Ofsted at its most recent inspection, which was conducted in 2024. The school’s most recent KS2 SATS results found the school to be well above the national average and at least on a par, with some instances of better results than the Barnet average. The school’s contribution to school improvement is expected to increase once the school has become maintained, receives delegated funding for school improvement activities and has access to challenge and support from the wider partnership of Barnet schools.

Approval of these proposals will contribute to the overall quality of education and school improvement in Barnet. In particular:

- Standards of achievement are currently above the national average and the school expects the standards of educational provision to continue to rise in the new (VA) primary school.
- The most recent Ofsted reports for the school judged the school overall as Good, with one area judged as ‘Outstanding’.

The whole school ethos, policies and schemes of work will ensure the continuity and progression in the National Curriculum and provide opportunities to improve further teaching and learning and the raising of standards across the primary school age range. The school will work in partnership with other schools to share good practice and learn from their successes within and beyond the curriculum.

**Location and costs**

<p><b>20. A statement about—</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>(a) the area or particular community or communities which the new school is expected to serve;</b></li><li><b>(b) the location of the site or sites including, where appropriate, the postal address or addresses;</b></li><li><b>(c) the current ownership and tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease;</b></li><li><b>(d) whether the site is currently used for the purposes of another school and if so why the site will no longer be required by the other school;</b></li><li><b>(e) the estimated capital costs of providing the site and how those costs will be met (including the extent to which the costs are to be met by the proposers and the local authority) and how the proposers intend to fund their share of the costs of implementing the proposals (if any);</b></li><li><b>(f) whether planning permission is needed under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and when it is anticipated that it will be obtained;</b></li><li><b>(g) confirmation from the Secretary of State or local authority (as the casemay be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).</b></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) The school will serve primarily the Muslim community of Barnet, but may attract some Muslim families with children from neighbouring boroughs due to its proximity bordering both the boroughs of Harrow and Brent.</li><li>b) The school will continue to occupy a single site at 10a Montagu Road, Hendon, London NW4 3ES.</li><li>c) The current site is a freehold site owned by Hendon Mosque and Islamic Centre (a registered charity) and the school operates via a Licence Agreement presently.</li><li>d) Since its acquisition, the site has always been used as a school site serving the needs of the local Muslim community. The site is currently used for the current independent school which will become the Voluntary Aided school.</li><li>e) There are no budgeted capital costs of providing the site for school purposes, as there are no capital costs required to continue the operation of the school site as it transitions to the maintained sector.</li><li>f) All necessary planning permissions required for the school building have been obtained.</li><li>g) No funding will be required from the Secretary of State or the Local Authority for capital costs of providing the site.</li></ul>

**Travel**

<p><b>21. The proposed arrangements for travel of pupils to the school.</b></p>
<p>The school is currently a TfL Travel for Life Gold Star accredited school and has been since 2018, therefore demonstrating a commitment to sustainable and active travel, and being amongst “the top 10% of London schools, setting high standards to inspire others to transform travel habits” (TfL).</p> <p>Families and students are encouraged to use active travel methods such as walking and cycling; car sharing and the use of public transport is also encouraged. This supports Barnet Council’s aim of reducing car journeys and promoting sustainable transport. Initiatives such as</p>

the “Walk to School Week” challenge, the Park and Stride travel tracking scheme and bicycle safety workshops encourage students and families to adopt healthy and environmentally friendly travel habits.

The school will continue working with Barnet Council to ensure the surrounding area supports safe pedestrian travel. Barnet Hill Academy will continue to implement initiatives towards sustainability and a Green School Travel Plan, and will collaborate with Barnet Council to ensure the STP aligns with the council’s objectives.

**Federation**

**22. Details of any proposals for the school to be established as a federated school.**

There are no proposals for the school to be established as a federated school.

**Voluntary aided schools**

**23. Where the school is to be a voluntary aided school—  
(a) details of the trusts on which the site is to be held; and  
(b) confirmation that the governing body will be able and willing to carry out their obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.**

- a) Hendon Mosque and Islamic Centre (HMIC) is the freehold owner of the site. The foundation body for the new voluntary aided school (for the purposes of the SSFA 1998) will be Barnet Hill Academy Educational Trust. The membership and board of the Educational Trust will be representative of HMIC’s and the school’s interests. HMIC is wholly supportive of Barnet Hill Academy becoming a voluntary aided school, provided it retains its status as a Muslim school and HMIC continues to have the power to use the site outside of school hours.
- b) The governing body is able and willing to carry out its obligations under Schedule 3 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

**Foundation schools**

**24. Where the school is to be a foundation or foundation special school, confirmation as to —  
(a) whether it will have a foundation and if so, the name or proposed name of the foundation, the rationale for the foundation and the particular ethos that it will bring to the school;  
(c) the details of membership of the foundation, including the names of the members;  
(d) the proposed constitution of the governing body; and  
(b) details of the foundation’s charitable objects**

The school will not be a foundation or foundation special school.

**Independent schools entering the maintained sector**

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| <p><b>25. Where a school is an independent school entering the maintained sector-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>(a) a statement that the requirements of section 11(3) are met;</b></li><li><b>(b) a statement as to whether the premises will meet the requirements of the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012 and, if not,</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>(i) details of how the premises are deficient; and</b></li><li><b>(ii) details of how it is intended to remedy the deficiency</b></li></ul></li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) The requirements of section 11(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 are met.</li><li>b) The premises at the proposed permanent site will meet the requirements of the School Premises (England) Regulations 2012</li></ul>  |

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

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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).

### **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.
- In conducting any appeal, the Independent Appeal Panel shall adopt as far as possible the School

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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).*

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.