

**Consultation on Relocation of Islamia Primary School  
from September 2024**

**A Public Consultation**

**Proposed Change of Location of Islamia Primary  
School from September 2024**

**Consultation period:  
28th September to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

**For further information please attend one of the consultation meetings  
being held in October 2022**

**Consultation meeting for staff**

10th October 2022 at 4.00 – 5.00 pm

**Public meetings for parents/other interested parties**

12th October 2022 at 9am – 10am at Islamia Primary School

12th October 2022 at 5pm – 6pm at Islamia Primary School

13th October at 6pm-7pm at a location in the locality of the Strathcona site to be confirmed

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## **Consultation on Relocation of Islamia Primary School from September 2024**

**1.**

### **The proposals**

The Yusuf Islam Foundation has served notices pursuant to section 30 of the School and Standard Framework Act 1998 and section 25 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 on the Governing Board of Islamia Primary School, requiring the school to leave its current site on 129 Salusbury Road by 31 July 2023.

The Foundation, the School and the Local Authority have agreed terms whereby the School can remain in its current Salusbury Road location until August 2024 (or in very exceptional circumstances January 2025 at the latest). The terms are yet to be signed by the parties.

The Governing Board of Islamia Primary School is proposing the relocation of the school from September 2024, to the site known as the Strathcona site, which is located on Strathcona Road, Wembley, HA9 8QW, as this is the only site that the Local Authority has identified as available, despite searching across the borough for suitable sites.

The Governing Board is seeking the views of interested parties through this informal consultation on:

- Option 1: A proposal to relocate Islamia Primary School to the Strathcona Site as a 2 form entry school (offering 60 places in each year group and 420 places in total)
- Option 2: The school ceasing to exist from July 2024.

This informal consultation provides an opportunity for discussion with staff, parents and the public about the issues that need to be considered in relation to this proposal.

If, following informal consultation, the Governing Board remain of the view that the proposals should be progressed, the Governing Board will undertake formal consultation through publishing a statutory notice which would allow for formal representations on the proposals for a further four-week period from the date of publication. The statutory notice must contain sufficient information for interested parties to decide on whether to support or challenge the proposed changes. Following formal consultation, Brent Cabinet would be asked to make a final decision on the proposals.

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**2.**

### **Background and rationale**

Islamia Primary School (IPS) was established as an independent school in 1983 by the Islamia Schools Trust. The school was granted public funded status as a Grant Maintained school (GM) and then Voluntary Aided status in 1998. The school is currently located on a split site between the Salusbury Road school site, which is owned by the Yusuf Islam Foundation and Winkworth Hall which the school rents from the Local Authority. The Salusbury Road buildings also house the Islamia Girls School, an independent fee-paying school established by the Islamia Schools Trust, which became incorporated within the Yusuf Islam Foundation in 2017.

IPS initially opened as a 1 Form Entry (FE) school. In 2006 the Yusuf Islam Foundation was approached by the Local Authority requesting assistance for the children from the near- by Avenue School, (another Voluntary Aided Muslim faith primary school), when the Trustees of the Avenue School decided to close due to ongoing disputes between the parents at that school and the Trustees/Governing Body. The Yusuf Islam Foundation and the then Governing Board of IPS agreed to accommodate the former Avenue pupils and expanded to 2 form entry. As it was not possible to accommodate 2 forms on the current Salusbury Road site, the School was offered rental premises in Winkworth Hall for some of the classes. The Local Authority assured the Trustees and the Governing Body at the time that this would be a temporary arrangement whilst alternative solutions were found to house all the children on one site.

The Local Authority identified funding to build a 2FE school for Islamia Primary School on the Salusbury Road site and design work was undertaken in 2015. However, the Foundation and the LA were unable to agree terms in respect of the build which finally resulted in the Foundation indicating in 2016 that they would no longer agree to a new build on the existing premises.

Despite the efforts of the Foundation and the Governing Body over the years, the Local Authority has made no offers of alternative sites over the last 16 years (9 years prior to the plan to build and 7 years since the Foundation confirmed they would not agree to a build on the current premises). Any sites identified by the Governing Body and proposed to the Local Authority throughout this period have been rejected by the Local Authority either as unsuitable or because they had already been allocated elsewhere.

While the school has been operating as a 2FE school since 2010, there has been no statutory consultation to formalise the school's intake.

IPS is a popular oversubscribed school. It is the only state funded Muslim school in the borough. The school has 420 pupils on roll and each year the 60 Reception places are usually offered to families who applied to the school as their first preference. The school has a high sibling factor with over 80% of Reception places in September 2021 and 52%

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	<p>of Reception places in September 2022 being offered to siblings. The majority of pupils are from Brent. There has been some shift in the area the school serves since 2020 when the school removed its previous catchment area from its admission policy.</p> <p>During July and October 2020 and in January 2022, the Yusuf Islam Foundation served notices on Islamia Primary School, requiring the school to leave the Salusbury Road site. The Governing Body and Brent Council have negotiated an agreement with the Foundation and are in the process of finalizing and executing that Agreement which allows the school to remain in its current premises until 31 July 2024, (or at the latest January 2025 in very exceptional circumstances), the Council having identified a possible alternative site for the school.</p> <p>The Governing Body, the Foundation and the Council have worked together to negotiate terms that commit Brent Council to providing the site to the school by 31 July 2024, subject to various approvals.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Detail of Proposals</b></p> <p><b>The future of Islamia Primary School</b></p> <p>The eviction notices issued by the Yusuf Islam Foundation mean that Islamia Primary School cannot stay on its current site after July 2023. However, the terms of the agreement between the Governing Body, the Foundation and the Council extends this period to July 2024. There are therefore two options for the school:</p> <p><b>Option 1: For the school to relocate to the Strathcona site in Wembley,</b> as this is the only available site that the Council has identified. The school would relocate to the site once a capital build program to provide sufficient accommodation has been completed and once various approvals have been obtained. The school would be formalised as a 2 form entry school offering 60 places a year.</p> <p><b>Option 2: For the school to cease to operate.</b> This would mean the school closing by July 2024 with pupils offered places in alternative schools that have spare places. This would most likely be a phased closure with no Reception places offered from September 2023.</p> <p>The Council has undertaken a comprehensive site search across the borough for an alternative site for the school. The Local Authority have informed the Governing Body that the only site that has been identified that could be available by July 2024 is the Strathcona site (that was used for primary provision by Roe Green Infant School until July 2022). The site is around 6 miles from the current Islamia Primary School site. It is recognized that this is a considerable distance for some families, but there is no</p>

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available site closer to the current school's location.

The Strathcona site is located within walking distance of South Kenton overground and tube stations (0.5 miles) and is on bus routes. The Council and the Governing Board will develop safe travel plans for pupils and welcome any suggestions on what would make the transfer easier.

The site would be accessible for children with SEND.

Muslim families who live in the north of the borough do not currently have access to Muslim faith education provision. In the future the population that the school serves may become more local to the new site.

If the school did not relocate to the proposed new site, then the only alternative option is for the school to close and for pupils to be offered places at alternative schools.

### **Capital Investment Options for the Strathcona site**

Brent Council has identified capital funding for Islamia Primary School to relocate to the Strathcona site. The current building on the site is a 1FE school with accommodation for 210 pupils. The building is in good condition, but on its own it is not big enough for the current pupils on roll at Islamia Primary School (420).

A feasibility study has identified the following 5 options to provide accommodation for the school on the Strathcona site.

1. Demolition of existing buildings on the Strathcona site and provision of a new-build two-storey 2FE School. This is the Governing Body's preferred option. The Council does not feel that this option is deliverable by July 2024, the time by which the school must leave its current premises. The Governing Body will attempt to keep to tight deadlines to make this a viable option timewise.
2. Demolition of existing buildings on the Strathcona site and provision of a new-build three-storey 2FE School. This is the Governing Body's second preferred option. The Council does not feel that this option is deliverable by July 2024, the time by which the school must leave its current premises. The Governing Body will attempt to keep to tight deadlines to make this a viable option timewise.
3. Part demolition, part refurbishment of the remaining buildings and a new build for required additional accommodation. The Council believes that this option could be deliverable by July 2024, subject to the design and construction process.

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4. Retain and refurbish all buildings on the Strathcona site and build a new block to meet 2FE accommodation requirements. The Council believes that this option would be deliverable by July 2024, subject to the design and construction process, and for this reason it is the Council's preferred option. This is the Governing Body's least preferred option.
5. If following consultation, demand for the school on the Strathcona site appears to be low, current accommodation would be maintained on the site for a 1FE primary school and bulge accommodation would be provided until larger cohorts have moved through the school.

**We are interested in your views on Option 1 and Option 2 and on the capital investment options.**

**4. Frequently asked questions**

If the school relocates, where would my child go to school?

- Your child would transfer with the school to the new site.

Can I change my child's school now?

- Yes – you can submit an in-year application to the Local Authority for any school. An offer will only be made for preference schools if there are vacancies.

Can parents apply for Islamia Primary School for Reception in September 2023?

- Yes. Parents who receive an offer of a place to start at Islamia Primary School in September 2023 would be made aware of the proposal for the school to relocate to the Strathcona site for September 2024. Parents will be able to request a place at an alternative school if the proposal to relocate is agreed.

What happens if a decision is taken to close the school?

- If a decision to close the school is taken, then all parents will be offered places in alternative schools for September 2024.

Will free transport be provided for parents whose children attend Islamia Primary School to the proposed new site?

- There is currently no identified budget to fund transport for families currently attending Islamia Primary School. Parents could request an alternative place at a school closer to where they live if they are concerned about travelling to the Strathcona site. However, this is one of the matters that the Governing Body is continuing to discuss with the Local Authority.

What will happen to the existing school site?

- The Yusuf Islam Foundation plans to develop the Salusbury Road site.

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5.

### Timeline

The Governing Board and Brent Council will follow the statutory guidance set out in the Department for Education document 'Making significant changes ('prescribed alterations') to maintained schools' (2018).

The indicative timetable for the full statutory consultation process is as follows:

Date	Action
28 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Informal Consultation begins
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Consultation meeting for school staff at 4.00pm
12 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Consultation meetings for the public at 9.00am and 5.00pm
13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Consultation meetings for the public around the new site at 6pm
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2022	Informal Consultation closes – deadline for responses
November 2022 (on a date to be confirmed)	Governing Board decision on agreeing formal consultation
November/ December 2022 – (on a date to be confirmed)	Publication of statutory proposal notice and formal consultation
4 weeks following publication	Formal Consultation closes
To follow	Final Decision by Cabinet
01 September 2024	Relocation is implemented

All timings are subject to change.

If, after this informal consultation, the Governing Board decides to proceed with the proposal, a statutory notice would be published in accordance with school organisation legislation. This would provide a further period of four weeks of formal consultation when anyone can comment on any aspect of the proposal whether in support or disagreement.

Following the representation period, Brent Council's Cabinet would make a final decision on the proposal in accordance with Government guidance for school organisation decisions, taking into consideration consultation and statutory proposal responses.



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A decision has to be taken within two months of the end of a statutory proposal representation period. If this proposal proceeds, it is anticipated that this decision would be taken by Cabinet as soon as possible following the close of formal consultation and consideration of the responses.

**6.**

**How you have your say**

The Governing Board would welcome your views on this proposal.

You can let us know your views by submitting a response to this consultation document and/or attending one of the consultation meetings that are being organised for the public (including parents) and staff.

**The informal consultation closes on 2nd November 2022** – please ensure that you have your say before then.

Please have your say by:

- Completing the attached Response Form and returning it by email or post to Islamia Primary School.

Email: [officemanager@islamia.brent.sch.uk](mailto:officemanager@islamia.brent.sch.uk)

- Attending a consultation meeting:

The following consultation meetings are being held at Islamia Primary School:

- **Consultation meeting for staff**      **10<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 4.00 – 5.00 pm**
- **Public consultation meeting**      **12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 9.00 – 10.00am**
- **Public consultation meeting**      **12<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5.00 – 6.00pm**

The following consultation meeting will be held at a location in the locality of the Strathcona site to be confirmed:

- **Public consultation meeting**      **13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 6.00 – 7.30pm**

Copies of this document are available from Islamia Primary School.

The Consultation and response form are available online at Brent Connects consultations - [www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/brent-connects](http://www.brent.gov.uk/your-community/brent-connects).

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**Islamia Primary School Consultation Response Slip**

Please return to the school by : **2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

**I agree / disagree with the Option 1 proposal to relocate Islamia Primary School to the Strathcona site**

**Agree**

**Disagree**

**Comments:**

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

**I agree / disagree with the Option 2 proposal that Islamia Primary School should cease to operate by July 2024**

**Agree**

**Disagree**

**Comments:**

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

**If the build programme can be achieved within the timescales set by the Foundation, I believe that the capital investment to provide accommodation on the site for the school should be:**

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- A complete new build of a 2 FE school as a 2 storey building**
- A complete new build of a 2 FE school as a 3 storey building**
- Part demolition, part refurbishment of the existing building and a new build for required additional accommodation for a 2 FE school.**
- Refurbish existing buildings on the Strathcona site and build a new block to meet 2FE accommodation requirements.**
- Keep the current 1FE primary school and provide temporary bulge accommodation while cohorts reduce**

**Comments**

Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary

**Name**..... **Signed**.....

**Telephone**..... **E-mail**.....

Contact details are optional. We will respond to any queries where possible.

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Please indicate if you are a:

- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent   | <input type="checkbox"/> Member of staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Governor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other           |

If you are responding on behalf of a business or organisation, please provide details

.....

If you are a parent of a child attending Islamia Primary School or of a child who is due to start at the school, please indicate their current year group.

- |                                    |                                 |                                 |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursery   | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reception | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Year 6 |

**About you**

By answering the following questions, you will help us ensure that we deliver a fair service to all our community. You do not have to give us this information, but we hope you will. All information will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

**Gender** (please tick one):

- |                               |                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Male | <input type="checkbox"/> Female |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|

**Age group** (please tick one):

- |                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0-15  | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-24 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25-34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 35-44 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 45-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 65-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75+   |

**Which one of these groups do you feel you belong to?** (please tick one)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Pakistani               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Bangladeshi               | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Other                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Caribbean                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Black African                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Black African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed White and Asian           | <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed Other                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White British                   | <input type="checkbox"/> White Irish                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White Other                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Ethnic Group            |

Other Ethnic Group - please specify

Please return this form by to Islamia Primary School office vis email to:  
[officemanager@islamia.brent.sch.uk](mailto:officemanager@islamia.brent.sch.uk)