



Statutory Proposal

Alteration to Islamia Primary School

Publication Date: Monday 30 June 2025

Deadline for representations: Monday 28 July 2025

School and Local Authority details

The School:

Islamia Primary School, 129 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6PE

The Local Authority:

Brent Council, Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) and 21(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (as amended by the Education Act 2011) that the Governing Board of Islamia Primary School is proposing the relocation of the school to the site known as the Gwenneth Rickus Building on Brentfield Road, NW10 8HE as a two-form entry school (offering 60 places in each year group and 420 places in total). The Governing Board is seeking the comments of interested parties on this proposal through this formal consultation.

Islamia Primary School is a popular, oversubscribed school as the only state Muslim school in the London Borough of Brent.

Since 2020, the Yusuf Islam Foundation, as the legal owner of the Salusbury Road site, has been working with the Governing Board of Islamia Primary School and Brent Council to facilitate the school's relocation, as the Foundation requires the site for other long-term purposes aligned with its charitable mission. The Foundation has issued a series of formal notices to vacate; the most recent, served in December 2023, has been extended to August 2026 to allow time for consultation on a potential move to the Gwenneth Rickus site on Brentfield Road. The Foundation has confirmed that, if a decision is made to proceed with the relocation, the notice period will be extended to August 2027. If no alternative site is secured, consideration may need to be given to closing the school.

The final decision on whether to agree this proposal will be made by Brent Council's Cabinet.

Description of alteration and evidence of demand

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), the first of its kind in the UK, and then Voluntary Aided status in 1998. The school is currently located on Salusbury Road school site, which is owned by the Yusuf Islam Foundation. The buildings also house the Islamia Girls School, an independent fee-paying school established by the Islamia Schools Trust in 1989, which became incorporated with the Yusuf Islam Foundation in 2010. The primary school also occupies classroom space in nearby Winkworth Hall, which is owned by the Council.

The Brentfield Road site has been identified as a potential site for the school. It has appropriate capacity for a two form of entry primary school, which would allow Islamia Primary School to continue as a two-form entry school offering 60 places a year on one site. The site is currently used by Leopold Primary School, which expanded onto the site in 2013 as bulge provision when demand for primary school places in Brent was very high. In the context of a reducing primary school population across the borough, Brent Council took the decision in May 2024 that the Gwenneth Rickus site will no longer be used by the school from September 2027. The Brentfield Road site is 2.27 miles from the current Islamia Primary School site. Children who are on roll at the school at the time would transfer to the site from September 2027.

If the school did not relocate to the proposed new site, and a new site could not be located, then Islamia Primary School may need to close in July 2026 with pupils needing to be offered places at alternative schools.

Objectives (including how the proposal would increase educational standards and parental choice)

The purpose of the proposal is to secure the future of Islamia Primary School. The Gwenneth Rickus Building site is currently owned by the local authority. Brent Cabinet have agreed that the Governing Board of Islamia Primary School can undertake the formal consultation process to propose the relocation of the school to the site on Brentfield Road. If the proposal goes ahead, the land would be transferred to the Yusuf Islam Foundation under a trust agreement that it can only be used for the provision of Islamia Primary School.

The school currently attracts pupils from a wide geographic area and in the future the population that the school serves may change in response to the new location. Islamia Primary School was originally a one-form entry school. However, it has operated two forms of entry since 2010, following the closure of a nearby school (The Avenue School), whose children and staff joined Islamia Primary School.

The provision at Salusbury Road does not fully meet the needs of 420 children, and the school has been using additional accommodation at the nearby Winkworth Hall, that is owned by Brent Council. This has been extremely challenging for Islamia Primary School, from both an administrative and operational impact, as well as a student experience perspective.

The Brentfield Road site is larger than Islamia Primary School's existing accommodation and can fully meet the needs of a two-form of entry school, with additional space for a library,

SEND provision therapy rooms, play and social zones, IT suite, 2 large halls, permanent kitchen, food tech, art and music classrooms, after school club facilities and car parking for staff, etc.

Over time, and due to the proposed site's more central location in the London Borough of Brent, the school may attract more applications from children in the north and west of the borough.

The effect on other educational institutions within the area

The Gwenneth Rickus Building is located in Brent Council's Primary Planning Area 4. This is an area identified by the council as having excess surplus primary school places and measures have been put in place to mitigate this, including reducing the published admission number at Mitchell Brook Primary School and instigating the closure of existing primary school provision at the Gwenneth Rickus site (currently provided by Leopold Primary School).

In the short term, it is anticipated that the effect on other educational institutions will be limited as the majority of existing pupils at Islamia Primary School are expected to transfer to the new site. In the longer term, Reception intakes at the school are likely to draw more pupils from the area around the Brentfield Road site, which may impact on intakes of other local educational institutions. Islamia Primary School will not be proposing any changes to its admission arrangements (which gives priority to siblings), other than to reflect that distance measurements will be calculated to the Brentfield Road site rather than the Salusbury Road site.

Overall demand for school places in the planning area is not expected to change significantly over the short or medium term. The school will remain as a two-form entry provision.

Project costs and indication of how these will be met, including how long-term value for money will be achieved.

The Gwenneth Rickus Building is already set up as a functioning two-form of entry provision. Islamia Primary School may bear some additional costs, for example the installation of wudu facilities. There will also be costs associated with the transfer of equipment to the school.

Neither the Governing Board, nor the local authority, intend to provide any support to families incurring additional travelling expenses as a result of the relocation of the school. Families remain entitled to request Travel Assistance from the local authority, although this is normally only agreed where the nearest suitable school is at least two miles away.

Implementation plan

Educational provision at the Gwenneth Rickus site is currently provided by Leopold Primary School. In 2024, Brent Council announced that the site would be closed, under a phased timetable, with the school vacating the site in July 2027. The published admission number of the school was varied from 120 to 60 places, and, from September 2025, there will be no new admissions to the Reception year. Children currently educated on the site will either transfer

to the main school site on Hawkshead Road from September 2027, or may move to a different school if their parents would prefer this option.

Leopold Primary School will retain use of the site until the end of August 2027. If the proposal is agreed, then Islamia Primary School would take possession of the site from 1st September 2027. The tightness of the proposed move will be challenging. The Governing Board are considering putting in place measures to finish the summer term 2027 earlier and to delay the start of the autumn term to give school leaders and teachers sufficient time to set up the provision. The Governing Body have also agreed with the LA that upon final approval from Cabinet for the move, the LA will provide a transition plan to be agreed, to enable a September 2027 start.

Summary of Informal Consultation Outcomes

Only one objection was received to the proposed move in the informal consultation. The objection related to the impact that IPS would have on school places for the existing schools in that area.

The Governors need to balance concerns around the perceived negative impact on other schools with what is in the best interests of our school and our pupils. IPS has been waiting for an appropriate building from which to teach our children for 20 years. The overwhelming consensus which came out of the informal consultation was that stakeholders were of the view that the current shared site/split site, shortage of space was having a negative impact on the educational provision being provided by IPS. The new site offers improved indoor and outdoor facilities on a single site which will enhance the children's learning experience. The Governing Body are clear that the benefit to the children of IPS of moving to the Gwenneth Rickus site by far outweighs the potential minimal disruption it may have on primary school numbers for other schools in that locality especially in circumstances where the school faces closure if it were not to move.

Whilst this did not appear to be an issue from the consultation responses, the Governing Body is also considering the issue of traffic at the new site and how to manage drop offs and collections. Whilst it is acknowledged that this may cause some minor issues for parents, the Governing Body must balance this against the needs of the whole school and potential closure if the move isn't agreed. If the move is approved the Governing board will look at traffic/parking/TFL options.

Parents are also encouraged to group together with other families in similar situations so that support can be provided to one another such as carpooling.

Statement explaining the procedure for responses: support, objections and comments.

Within four weeks from the date of publication of this proposal any person may make objections, agreements and comments on the proposal in writing. They can do this in the following ways:

Write to Michael Rollin, Service Manager, Access to Education, London Borough of Brent, 2nd Floor, Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley, HA9 0FJ or email: receptionist@islamia.brent.sch.uk

Provide your views via the Brent's Have Your Say consultation portal www.brent.gov.uk/neighbourhoods-and-communities/have-your-say,

Hard copies of this document can be requested by emailing receptionist@islamia.brent.sch.uk. They are also available the Islamia Primary School office.

This proposal is available on this webpage <https://islamia.brent.sch.uk/>

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to these proposals have been complied with.

The last date for representations is **Monday 28 July 2025**

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sofia Moussaoui". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ms Sofia Moussaoui
Chair of Governors

Publication Date: Monday 30 June 2025