

	Cabinet 8 September 2025
	Report from the Corporate Director of Children, Young People and Community Development
	Lead Member - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools (Councillor Gwen Grahl)
Relocation of Islamia Primary School	

Wards Affected:	Stonebridge / Queens Park / Preston
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
List of Appendices:	One Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment on Relocation of Islamia Primary School
Background Papers:	None
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1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides Cabinet with a summary of informal and formal consultation undertaken by the Governing Board of Islamia Primary School (IPS) on the school's proposed relocation to the Gwenneth Rickus site on Brentfield Road as a 2 Form Entry (2FE) school from September 2027.
- 1.2 The Yusuf Islam Foundation (YIF) served eviction notices to its Voluntary Aided school, IPS, in 2022. As the Local Authority has a duty to maintain IPS as a

Voluntary Aided school, officers have been working since then with the YIF and the school's Governing Board to find an alternative site.

- 1.3 In May 2025, Cabinet agreed that the Governing Board of IPS should follow the statutory consultation process and undertake consultation on a proposal to relocate to the Gwenneth Rickus site in 2027, supported by the Local Authority.
- 1.4 Informal consultation was undertaken from Monday 26 May 2025 to Monday 23 June 2025. After reviewing responses received during the informal consultation, the Governing Board took the decision to undertake formal consultation from Monday 30 June 2025 to Monday 28 July 2025. A summary of responses to the formal consultation is set out in Section 4 below. Having considered the responses, the Governing Board and the YIF remain in support of the relocation.

2.0 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Notes the outcome and analysis from the formal consultation.
- 2.2 Agrees the proposal to relocate Islamia Primary School to the Gwenneth Rickus site on Brentfield Road as a 2FE school from 1st September 2027.
- 2.3 Notes that the Gwenneth Rickus site would be transferred into the name of the Yusuf Islam Foundation, who would be required to hold the site for the benefit of the Islamia Primary School. Further details in terms of ownership would be set out in a Trust Deed. This would ensure that the primary school would be protected from eviction in future.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Cabinet Member Foreword:

- 3.1.1 IPS has had voluntary aided status since 1998 and, as the only Muslim state primary school in the borough, is a popular school with 420 pupils on roll. It is important that the Local Authority supports the continuation of the school and a move to the Gwenneth Rickus site would make this possible.
- 3.1.2 School organisation and place planning supports the Borough Plan Strategic Priority 4: The Best Start in Life, by ensuring there are sufficient school places for children and young people in Brent and choice in places available, supporting every child and young person to access high quality education in the borough.
- 3.1.3 Responses from stakeholders during the formal consultation are appreciated and those in support of the proposal demonstrate how valued IPS is by the school community. Concerns raised during the formal consultation are also acknowledged and the Local Authority commits to working with the wider community to ensure a successful relocation of the school.

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 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 as a one form of entry school. In 2006 when the Trustees of another Voluntary Aided Muslim faith primary school, the Avenue, decided to close their school, the Governing Board of IPS agreed to publish proposals to accommodate former Avenue pupils with a view to formally expand the school through development of a new-build 2FE primary school on the Salusbury Road site. This, however, has not progressed despite considerable efforts by the Council, including design development work in 2015, and development of a capital funding package (that include £2.8m from the then Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA)). The school has, therefore, continued to operate as a de facto two form of entry school based at the school's main site on the Salusbury Road site and occupying the top floors of Winkworth Hall on Chevening Road via a lease agreement with the Council, which was a temporary solution to meet the school's additional accommodation needs.
- 3.2.2 In July 2020, the Yusuf Islam Foundation (YIF) as owners of IPS's current site on Salusbury Road, served an eviction notice on IPS and the Council. During January 2022, the YIF served new eviction notices on IPS and the Council requiring IPS to vacate the premises they currently occupy on Salusbury Road by 31 July 2022 and 31 July 2023 respectively. In December 2023 a new eviction notice was served requiring the school to vacate the premises by January 2026, now extended to August 2026. The YIF will extend the latest eviction notice to August 2027 if Cabinet agrees to the relocation of the school to the Gwenneth Rickus site. If there is no such agreement and an alternative site is not identified, then closure of the school would need to be considered.
- 3.2.3 IPS is one of Brent's most popular schools as the only state Muslim school in the borough. The school has 418 pupils on roll (School Census January 2025), the majority of whom are from Brent and each year the 60 Reception places are usually offered to families who applied for the school as their first preference. The school has a high sibling factor with 43% of Reception places in both September 2025 and September 2024 offered to siblings. The number of out-of-borough children offered was historically low, but is now 21.5% of all pupils (17.2% in 2024 and 14.4% in 2023), following the removal a local catchment area from the school's admission arrangements in 2020. 36.7% of offers made for Reception in September 2025 are for children who live outside Brent.
- 3.2.4 As a Voluntary Aided school, Brent Council has a duty to maintain IPS, which includes considering alternative site options. The Council has previously considered options to relocate the school to the Strathcona site on Strathcona Road, Wembley, that was previously used for primary provision by Roe Green Infant School until July 2022. Following an informal consultation, the Governing Board did not move forward with statutory consultation on the proposal and has informed the Council that they do not wish to locate to the Strathcona site.

3.2.5 The Council has continued to consider alternative sites across the borough for the school. The only other suitable site that has been identified is the Gwenneth Rickus site on Brentfield Road, which will be vacant from September 2027 following the Cabinet decision in May 2024 to implement a phased closure of the current primary school provision on the site, which is delivered by Leopold Primary School. At the time of the decision, the council committed to retaining the site for educational use, with the intention to use the site for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). While the relocation proposal would mean this would not be possible at the Gwenneth Rickus site, the Strathcona site will be developed for this purpose as it is not required for IPS.

3.2.6 The relocation of IPS to the Gwenneth Rickus site would contribute to the borough's strategic objective to ensure that all children have the Best Start in Life. It would:

- Help meet the Council's statutory duty to provide a diversity of school places for all Brent pupils applying to the Council for a school place
- Provide a new site for IPS to sustaining an overall good quality of education for pupils
- Ensure that children are taught in a suitable setting. Currently pupils are taught in split-site accommodation on the Salusbury Road site and in classrooms in Winkworth Hall, a building leased from the Council.

3.2.7 On 19th May 2025, Cabinet received a report that noted the historical context and background of educational provision provided by IPS and the proposal to move IPS to the Gwenneth Rickus Site. It was noted that the proposal would require the statutory process for making significant changes to schools to be followed as set out in Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools (Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision-makers, Department for Education, March 2025). Cabinet was informed that this would involve informal and formal consultation led by the Governing Board. It was also noted that if the school relocated to the Gwenneth Rickus site, the site could be transferred into the name of the YIF, who would be required to hold the site for the benefit of the IPS through a Trust Deed thereby ensuring that the primary school would be protected from eviction in future.

4.0 Stakeholder and Ward Member Consultation

4.1 Statutory Consultation

4.1.1 The relocation of IPS required the statutory process for making a prescribed alteration at a maintained school to be followed. As a Voluntary Aided school, the Governing Board was responsible for the proposal and complying with each step of the statutory consultation process. The Local Authority is the decision maker and Cabinet need to either agree or reject the proposal within two calendar months of the end of the representation period.

Informal Consultation

- 4.1.2 Informal consultation took place between 26 May 2025 and 23 June 2025. Consultation packs were shared with staff and parents of children at the school and leaflets were distributed to local stakeholders, including households who live in the area around the Gwenneth Rickus site. Other local primary schools were also made aware of the consultation. A staff meeting was held on 2 June and public meetings were held at IPS on 9 and 17 June (one in the morning and the evening) and at the Gwenneth Rickus site on 19 June.
- 4.1.3 37 written responses were received and approximately 50 members of the public attended the public consultation meetings. The overwhelming consensus of views expressed during the informal consultation was that IPS's current shared site/split-site arrangement and shortage of space was having a negative impact on the educational provision being provided by IPS. It was noted that the Gwenneth Rickus site on Brentfield Road would offer improved indoor and outdoor facilities on a single site which would enhance the children's learning experience.
- 4.1.4 At the public meeting held on the Gwenneth Rickus site, staff from Leopold Primary School expressed concerns around the impact on children currently receiving education on the site, whose families were unsure of what would be happening to them, and the impact more broadly on other schools in the area, given that the Local Authority has already identified that there is a surplus of capacity in the area. Local Authority officers committed to continue to work with Leopold Primary School to support parents to understand the impact of the school ceasing to use the site from 2027 (which was work that had already started following the consultation to close the provision on site from May 2024).
- 4.1.5 Concerns were raised in the public meeting at the Gwenneth Rick site about the impact of relocating a mainstream provision to the site on pupil numbers at other local schools. This point was also made in the one written objection to the proposed move during the informal consultation from the governing board of a local school that questioned the decision to relocate IPS to the site, given that the closure of the Leopold Primary School provision on the site was intended to support the sustainability of local schools by removing mainstream capacity in the context of falling pupil rolls. This concern was also raised during the formal consultation (see below). The Governing Board of IPS considered that moving IPS to the Gwenneth Rickus site would not have an adverse impact on other local schools as it is expected that almost all current pupils would transfer with the school. There is also no intention of expanding the school beyond its current 2FE. The move would, however, bring clear benefits to IPS pupils such as much needed space and purpose-built facilities that would enhance education and learning, particularly in circumstances where the school might otherwise face closure, which would be a loss to Brent's educational landscape.
- 4.1.6 Having considered the written response and comments shared during consultation meetings, the Governing Board took the decision on 23 June 2025 (reaffirmed on 24 June to allow consideration of any responses received on the evening of 23 June) to proceed with formal consultation and publication of a statutory notice in line with DfE guidance Making Significant Changes

(‘prescribed alterations’) to Maintained Schools (Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision-makers, Department for Education, March 2025).

Formal Consultation

4.1.7 Statutory (formal) consultation took place between 30 June 2025 and 28 July 2025. Notices were placed at the school site and at prominent locations on the IPS website and the Council’s consultation portal. Staff and parents of children attending the school were informed about the formal consultation and a notice was published in the Brent and Kilburn Times. Stakeholders were able to respond to the consultation with their comments or objections by completing the response form available on the Brent Have Your Say consultation portal, or by e-mailing or writing to the school directly.

4.1.8 56 responses were submitted to the Brent Have Your Say consultation portal, 6 responses were submitted directly to the school and one response was handed in to the Civic Centre.

4.1.9 50 responses were fully supportive of the proposal. 13 respondents either opposed the relocation or raised concerns about it. Of these, 7 were explicitly opposed or objected to the proposal, while 6 were generally supportive but raised concerns regarding the relocation without explicitly opposing or objecting to the proposal.

4.1.10 The reasons respondents provided for supporting the proposal include:

- that the current site is not fit for purpose, citing the inadequacy of the current split-site arrangement, lack of space and insufficient facilities (such as playgrounds, canteen, and SEND provision) as major issues and that the new site offers much-needed space and modern facilities.
- that the move is “long overdue” and essential for the school’s future, with several responses noting that the new site will allow all pupils to be together, improve learning conditions and provide a safer, more suitable environment.
- that the move is vital for preserving the school’s unique faith-based educational offering and its role in the community.
- that for some parents the relocation will make the school more accessible and that, while the site may be further away for some, the benefits of the relocation outweigh any personal inconvenience.

4.1.11 A number of respondents:

- suggested that the new site is fully refurbished and equipped to modern standards before the move, with particular attention to SEND facilities, safety and appropriate faith-based spaces.
- suggested that consideration is given to transport solutions for families who would have a longer commute.
- mentioned practical issues related to parking and public transport access and community integration at the new site.
- asked for clear transition planning and communication with stakeholders to ensure a smooth move.

4.1.12 The Governing Boards of three local primary schools responded to raise concerns that opening another mainstream primary in an area where there are falling rolls could destabilise local schools, arguing that surplus capacity on the Gwenneth Rickus site should be used for SEND provision instead.

4.1.13 The Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) submitted a comprehensive response to the formal consultation that raised a number of points and included a counter-proposal for the Council to consider.

4.1.14 The key concerns raised in responses that objected to the proposal are:

- the impact of moving IPS to the Gwenneth Rickus site on pupil numbers at other local schools and the balance between faith and non-faith school places
- transferring the new site to the Yusuf Islam Foundation which has issued eviction notices to IPS
- increased travel time to school for some families with pupils at the school and the inconvenience for families who live near the existing site
- traffic congestion and safety at the new site
- the importance of considering community cohesion in a multi-cultural area
- questioning of whether the proposal and consultation are consistent with the Council's statutory duties, national planning legislation and commitments in the Brent Borough Plan.

4.2 Response to objections and concerns

4.2.1 ***Impact on pupil numbers at local schools and community school places:***
It has been suggested that the proposal to use the Gwenneth Rickus site for IPS from 2027 contradicts the rationale for ceasing mainstream primary provision on the site that was aimed at supporting the sustainability of other schools in the context of falling demand by removing capacity. There is concern that moving IPS to the site will increase surplus places in other local schools.

The closure of Leopold Primary School's provision on the Gwenneth Rickus site and a reduction in the Published Admission Number of Mitchell Brook Primary School are measures aimed at reducing primary capacity in the area to support the sustainability of local schools, as set out in the report considered by Cabinet in May 2024. Other measures have also been implemented to reduce capacity and support school organisation, including capping admission numbers at some schools or in individual year groups.

It is expected that the majority of pupils currently attending IPS will remain on the school's roll, with very few places available for new admissions. Furthermore, there is no intention to expand the school beyond its current 2FE, which would not be supported by the Council. It is recognised that relocating IPS to the Gwenneth Rickus site could impact on future reception intakes at local schools. However, as the only Muslim faith school in Brent, IPS draws from a wide area across the borough and this is expected to continue following relocation. The school also has a high intake of pupils from other boroughs (21.5% of all pupils currently and 36.7% of offers made for Reception in September 2025). For 30% of the current pupils, the site will be closer to where

they live. Given the high sibling factor in the school's intakes (43% of Reception places in both September 2025 and September 2024 were offered to siblings), many families currently attending the school irrespective of where they live will continue to access places for younger children in the future.

Demand for school places in Primary Planning Area 4, where the site is located, will continue to be monitored. If further interventions are needed, then this will be considered as set out in the School Place Planning Strategy 2024 – 2028, 1st Refresh (November 2024).

It has been questioned whether the proposal is in line with equality legislation and the Local Authority's duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places for all children who require one and to ensure there is diversity of education provision across the borough in line with fair access to school places. The Local Authority is confident that there are sufficient community school places in Planning Area 4 to meet parental demand. In terms of supporting diversity of provision, the relocation of IPS to the Gwenneth Rickus site ensures a future for the school, that might otherwise need to close. There are no other local Muslim schools in Planning Area 4 and the nearest schools to the site are all community schools. This is very different to the situation in South Kilburn where, as part of the South Kilburn Regeneration Programme, a community school is being built on a site which has been suggested as more suitable for IPS, because all other local schools are denominational and there would be no community provision to provide parents with choice.

4.2.2 *Transferring the site to YIF:* *It was noted that the Gwenneth Rickus site would transfer to YIF, the same organisation that had issued eviction notices to IPS.*

Retaining IPS supports diversity of provision of school places across the borough ensuring there are denominational school places as well as non-denominational places. As IPS is a Voluntary Aided school, the local authority has a responsibility to provide the school with a new site and to transfer this to the YIF, as the school's foundation body in accordance with The Schools Standards Framework Act (SSFA) 1998. The obligation is a statutory one under Paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 3 to the SSFA 1998, and typically these transfers will be referred to as "statutory transfers". This duty is acknowledged in local authorities' place planning function and, in partnership with trustees, operates alongside a local authority's statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places in its area (Section 13(1) Education Act 1996).

The YIF would be required to hold Gwenneth Rickus site for the benefit of IPS. Details of terms of ownership would be set out in a Trust Deed that would ensure that the primary school would be protected from eviction in future. If the site ceased to be used for the school, it would revert back to ownership of the Council.

BAPS raised concern that they had been promised in 2013 that the Council would let them have full particulars of sale to consider an offer, at a time when no changes were anticipated, and they would be made aware if any changes came forward. It is not clear how these statements were made, as no evidence

has been provided, but the Council is of the view that any statements made were not clear and unambiguous to be authoritative to form the basis of a legitimate expectation. In addition when a disposal for school land occurs, it must be lawfully made and in accordance with the relevant legislation.

4.2.3 *Increased travel times to the new site:* *During the informal consultation stage, a minimal number of parents raised concerns that relocation to the site would result in increased journey times.*

There are no plans to provide support for travel assistance for pupils currently attending IPS to the new site, other than travel assistance that is available to eligible children in line with the Local Authority's statutory duties. This includes consideration of the impact of the relocation on children with an Education, Health and Care Plan, some of whom may become eligible for travel assistance.

The Governing Board of IPS remains of the view that the relocation would be positive for the school and that the increase in journey times would not be significant and a longer journey time should be borne by parents who want their children to continue in the school. The parents of any children living in Brent who feel that the journey to the new site is too long or difficult to make or whose journey to school falls outside of the statutory walking distance thresholds set by DfE, would have the option to move their child to a school closer to home by making an application to the Local Authority or to other schools nearby that manage their own in-year admissions.

4.2.4 *Traffic congestion and safety at the new site:* *Concerns have been expressed that the relocation of the school will increase traffic congestion on Brentfield Road, because a high number of parents are likely to drive their children to school. Some parents raised concerns that it could be difficult to drop off and pick up children.*

It is acknowledged that initially some parents will drive to the school's new site and that this could increase traffic at certain times of the day on Brentfield Road and the surrounding area. The Governing Board of IPS is committed to exploring options to provide drop off/pick up parking for parents to minimise the impact of any increased traffic on the local community. It is noted, however, that over time the school may have a more local intake, which would reduce the risk of traffic congestion.

There are transport links to the Gwenneth Rickus site, including a direct bus from IPS' current site. Officers have initiated discussions with Transport for London to increase and improve bus provision once demand for transport services becomes clearer.

School place planning and admissions policies aim to ensure primary school children can attend a local school and therefore can walk to school or take public transport. Within this context, all schools in Brent can access support to develop a sustainable travel plan. IPS currently has a Bronze level travel plan which demonstrates commitment to sustainable travel and minimising car

dependency. The school would be encouraged to develop a travel plan for the new site to assist parents in identifying the best way to travel to school.

4.2.5 *Concerns about community cohesion:* *Concerns have been raised about community cohesion given the relocation of a Muslim school to a site close to the Neasden Temple.*

Mixed communities across Brent reflect that Brent is the most diverse borough in London. Within this context, the Local Authority works proactively with communities to address any community cohesion concerns. Supported by the Council, the Brent Multi-faith Forum also works to develop understanding and shared belonging through bringing communities together.

IPS serves primary aged children – it is not a religious institution used by the wider community. The school seeks to foster community cohesion and interfaith understanding through a broad programme of activity, as highlighted in its most recent s48 Ofsted inspection ([OfSTED & AMS S48](#)). The report noted that “visits to various places of worship and interactions with speakers of other faiths are frequent” and that “followers of other faiths are invited to come to speak to pupils in different year groups.” It also commended collaboration with local mainstream and other faith schools, supported by external quality assurance, ensuring that pupils benefit from a rich and comprehensive educational experience.

The YIF, and its schools, also have a track record of interfaith work, including representation at the former London Interfaith Centre for a number of years, working with the former Three Faiths Forum (now called, The Faith and Belief Forum), hosting the launch of Nisa-Nashim, a Jewish and Muslim women’s network, regular engagement with representatives of the Brent Multi Faith Forum, and participating in borough-wide interfaith walks and outreach activities.

If the relocation to the Gwenneth Rickus site proceeds, the YIF has indicated that it would be supportive of working with the local community to ensure that local considerations are reflected in the school’s decision-making processes. This might include, for example, exploring options for local representation on the Governing Board and, through its broader activities, creating space for dialogue that brings together faith representatives, community groups, residents and council members to consider inclusive engagement and to explore, with the Governing Board, how the site might also support wider community benefit.

4.2.6 *The proposal and consultation are not consistent with the Council’s statutory duties, national planning legislation and commitments in the Brent Borough Plan.*

The proposal to relocate IPS is consistent with the Local Authority’s statutory duties to ensure there are sufficient school places and diversity in provision as set out above. The relocation proposal is not subject to planning consideration.

There is no planned change of use of the site, which has been used for education provision since 2012.

The consultation process has been carried out in line with DfE guidance Making Significant Changes ('prescribed alterations') to Maintained Schools (Statutory Guidance for Proposers and Decision-makers, Department for Education, March 2025). As set out above in Section 4.1 two stages of consultation have been undertaken in relation to the proposal to relocate the school. The first stage was informal consultation, which while not formally required, is considered good practice. The purpose of informal consultation is to hear from the community about any concerns that they may have to measure the likely impact of the proposal on the local community. The second stage was formal consultation for a period of four weeks following publication of a Statutory Notice at the school, on the IPS website, on the Council's consultation portal and in the Brent and Kilburn Times in line with DfE guidance, as referenced above.

The consultation has involved staff, parents and carers of children at IPS and the wider community, including local residents, local schools and BAPS. Meetings with representatives from BAPS, Members and officers took place during the informal consultation period and a formal representation was subsequently received, raising a number of issues that have been considered in the commentary of this report.

The proposal to relocate IPS to secure the school's future aligns with the Brent Borough Plan 2023-2027 objective for all children and young people to receive the Best Start in Life. The Local Authority, YIF and the school have been in dialogue since the school agreed to take pupils from the former Avenue School in 2006 about a long-term solution to the expanded school's accommodation needs. Consultation with key local stakeholders has been undertaken to understand any adverse impacts of the proposal, including on the local community or specific groups. An Equalities Impact Assessment (Appendix 1) has also been undertaken to understand and mitigate any impacts.

- 4.2.7 A document titled "Conceptual Masterplan" has been submitted to the Council on behalf of BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir which outlines their thoughts on the redevelopment of the Gwenneth Rickus property, former Swaminarayan School site, Brentfield Primary School, other land within the temple complex and some of the surrounding properties including existing residential and commercial properties in the vicinity. This is a high-level proposal that provides ideas about how the area could be developed. The proposal has not been developed with involvement or input from Brent Planning, nor with other landowners or stakeholders in the area, and it is therefore not clear if the plan would be deliverable. While in very general terms Brent is supportive of the provision of new homes and community facilities, a number of the ideas that are set out within the document would be contrary to the London Plan and Brent policies and significant further information and engagement with the Council and other stakeholders would be required should the BAPS decide to pursue this.

4.3 Consultation with Ward Members

- 4.3.1 The Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools have been briefed on this proposal.
- 4.3.2 The Stonebridge, Preston and Queens Park Ward Members were made aware of the proposal and updated on the consultation process.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 Capital Funding

- 5.1.1 The Gwenneth Rickus site has been used by Leopold Primary School since 2013. It has sufficient capacity for a 2FE school and does not require capital investment in order for this accommodation to be utilised by IPS. A condition survey would be undertaken to determine any essential condition works that should be completed by the Council in line with the Council's Asset Management Plan before any potential transfer of the site.
- 5.1.2 £2.8m of Targeted Capital Fund was transferred from IPS to Brent by the DfE in 2012 in order to manage and deliver the planned IPS new build following the school's unsuccessful attempt at delivering the project. The design of the Salisbury Road site expansion referred to in paragraph 3.2.2 was funded using £200K of the TCF and therefore £2.6m remains. The DfE has agreed on an annual basis for this funding to be rolled forward until such time as a permanent solution for IPS has been identified. The DfE has confirmed that the relocation to the Gwenneth Rickus site does not meet the original criteria for the award of the funding to meet basic need for places and will therefore be clawing the money back.
- 5.1.3 The DfE expects Voluntary Aided bodies to contribute towards capital works that improve their school buildings at a rate of 10% of total costs. As a voluntary aided school, IPS can apply for capital funding to support condition related works through the DfE's Condition Improvement Fund.

5.2 Revenue Funding

- 5.2.1 The school's DSG allocation currently includes £63K in split site funding, which is an element in the national funding formula allocated to schools that operate from more than one site. The school would no longer be eligible for this funding if it relocated to the Gwenneth Rickus site, reducing its per pupil funding by £150 per pupil.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 Agreement between parties

- 6.1.1 On 8 July and 23 October 2020 and, subsequently on 19 January 2022, the Foundation served eviction notices on IPS and the Council. The notices were served under section 30 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998

(SSFA) and section 25 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 (LTA). They required IPS to vacate the premises they currently occupy at 129 Salusbury Road by “31 July 2022 or the end of academic year 2021/22 if later” (in the case of the July 2020 and January 2022 notices) and by “31 July 2023 or the end of academic year 2022/23 if later” (in the case of the October 2020 notice). A further eviction notice was served in December 2024 requiring the school to vacate the Salusbury Road site by January 2026. This has been extended to August 2026 while the statutory process to relocate to the Gwenneth Rickus site is undertaken.

6.1.2 The Council has agreed with the YIF and the Governing Board of IPS that:

- a) In the event that a decision is taken following consultation to relocate the school, the notice will be extended until August 2027, requiring the school to vacate the YIF’s Salusbury Road premises by August 2027.
- b) Providing the statutory procedures (as required by SSFA 1998) once concluded confirm it is feasible to do so, the School will be relocated to the new site;
- c) The SSFA 1998 requires local authorities to transfer any site provided for the use of a Voluntary Aided school (a) “to the trustees of the school” or (b) if the school has no trustees, “to the schools’ foundation body”. This includes all buildings and amenity space but excludes any area defined as playing fields. The obligation is a statutory one under Paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 3 to the SSFA 1998, and typically these transfers will be referred to as “statutory transfers”. This duty is acknowledged in local authorities’ place planning function and, in partnership with trustees, operates alongside a local authority’s statutory duty to ensure there are enough school places in its area (Section 13(1) Education Act 1996).
- d) The local authority will take all reasonable measures to support the relocation of the school, if the proposal is agreed.
- e) The YIF will be responsible for deciding the future use of the school’s current Salusbury Road site. The lease between the Council and the school for use of accommodation on the Winkworth Hall site would cease when the school relocates in 2027.

6.2 The relocation of IPS

6.2.1 The legal implications associated with the Council’s statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of the local population were set out in the School Place Planning Strategy 2024-28 Refresh (November 2024).

6.2.2 The IPS Governing Board has followed statutory processes for the relocation of the school in line with DfE Statutory Guidance on Making Significant Changes (‘prescribed alterations’) to Maintained Schools (March 2025). There would be a requirement to follow statutory processes in line with DfE Guidance on Opening and Closing Maintained Schools should a decision be taken not to retain the school.

6.2.3 The Council currently owns the Gwenneth Rickus site and the transfer would be undertaken in accordance with paragraph 6.1.2 (c)

6.2.4 Paragraph 11.8 of Part 3 of the Constitution makes it clear that nothing should prevent the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources from acquiring or disposing of freehold land or acquiring, granting or disposing of leasehold land (for any term of years) or from entering into licences and easements in respect of land and buildings so long as doing so is (or would be) in accordance with the Academies Act 2010 or any other education legislation, regulation, order, direction, circular or guidance.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Local Authority when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a protected characteristic and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics covered under the Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership (only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination) pregnancy and maternity, race (this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality) religion or belief (this includes lack of belief) sex and sexual orientation. Due regard means giving relevant and proportionate consideration to the duty, in that whenever significant decisions are being made consideration must be given to the impact/affect that implementing a particular decision will have in relation to equality before making that decision. Brent Council also has a policy of considering Human Rights and socio-economic impact.

7.2 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary. The proposals set out in this report aim to ensure that there are sufficient and suitable school places for Brent children and diversity of local provision through supporting the future of IPS.

7.3 An equalities impact analysis has been undertaken as part of the formal relocation consultation process, that includes understanding any impacts on the basis of the protected characteristics. Identified mitigation measures will be taken forward during the implementation phase.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 School place planning and admissions policies aim to ensure primary children can attend a local school and therefore can walk to school or take public transport. There are transport links to the Gwenneth Rickus site, including a bus from the IPS current site. IPS will be encouraged to access support from the Local Authority to develop a sustainable travel plan for the new site.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Implications

9.1 The Council currently owns the Gwenneth Rickus site, which would be vacant from July 2027. If the proposal is agreed, the site would transfer to the school's Foundation or trustees as set out in paragraph 6.1.2 (c).

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 The distance between the main entrance of IPS (129 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6PE) and the main entrance of the Gwenneth Rickus Building (242-250 Brentfield Road, London NW10 8HE) is 3.65km or 2.27 miles. As this is more than 2 miles, the statutory process, including formal consultation, had to be followed to progress the proposal to relocate the school from its current site to the Gwenneth Rickus Building. This has been undertaken following a period of informal consultation, in line with DfE statutory guidance.

10.2 Within one week of making a decision the local authority must publish their decision and the reasons for it on the website where the original proposal was published and send copies to:

- the Schools Adjudicator;
- the governing body;
- the trustees of the school (if any);
- the Diocesan Board of Education for any diocese of the CofE any part of which is comprised in the area of the local authority;
- the bishop(s) of a diocese of the RC Church any part of which is comprised in the area of the local authority;
- any other body that they think is appropriate (e.g. other relevant diocese or diocesan board, faith organisation and any affected educational institutions in the area).

10.3 The Local Authority will work with the Governing Board on implementation of the proposal. This will include developing a stakeholder communication plan.

Related document(s) for reference:

[School Place Planning Strategy 2024 – 2028 1st Refresh Cabinet Report 12 November 2024](#)

[The Future of Islamia Primary School Corporate Report 19 May 2025](#)

Report sign off

Nigel Chapman

Corporate Director Children, Young People &
Community Development