

**Part A**

**Kings Avenue (KA) School**

Minutes of the Extraordinary Governing Body meeting of Kings Avenue School  
held virtually on Monday, 14 June 2021 at 7.00pm

**Members present:**

Mr Matthew Bryant (MB)	Co-opted Governor (Chair)
Mrs Tanya Jonas (TJ)	Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)
Ms Gay Wenban-Smith (GW)	Co-opted Governor
Mr Rodney Lenthall (RL)	Local Authority Governor (not available from 7.30pm-8pm)
Mr Alan Sendorek (AS)	Co-opted Governor
Ms Rachel Mollett (RM)	Headteacher
Mr Oliver Butcher (OB)	Co-opted Governor
Ms Bisma Jones (BJ)	Parent Governor
Mr Tom Berry (TB)	Co-opted Governor

**In attendance:**

Mr Sameer Koomson (SM)	Vice Chair - Foundation governor, Iqra School
Mr Tanvir Choudhury (TC)	Foundation governor, Iqra School
Mr Zafar Razaq (ZR)	Foundation governor, Iqra School
Ms Humaira Saleem (HS)	Headteacher, Iqra School
Mrs Zainab Olaniyan (ZO)	Parent governor, Iqra School
Ms Jo Sullivan-Lyons (JSL)	Assistant Director (Education Strategy, Access & Inclusion)
Mr Peter Compton (PC)	Governance Co-ordinator, Lambeth Local Authority
Ms Linda Poole (LP)	School Improvement Advisor, Lambeth Local Authority
Ms Joy Clarke (JC)	Deputy Headteacher
Ms Mel Brown (MBr)	Clerk

**1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from David Ritchie, and Christian Adebisi was absent without apologies. It was noted that RL would be attending another meeting later but would return at 8pm.

**2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

**3. Quorum**

The meeting was quorate with most Governors present.

**4. Proposal to Temporarily Share the Kings Avenue (KA) Site with Iqra School**

MB welcomed everyone and set out the purpose of the meeting which had been convened at the request of JSL (Lambeth Council's Assistant Director) to consider the issues to temporarily share the KA site with Iqra School.

Everyone introduced themselves and MB set out the format of the meeting for both Schools to consider the issues with a view to KA governors having a confidential discussion with Lambeth Council officers.

HS thanked KA governors for hosting the meeting and shared her presentation slides which set out the background and context for Iqra School's proposal to share the KA site. HS highlighted the

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shared federation history and location of both schools, and how the proposal had been developed with the support of Lambeth Council.

Arising from HS's presentation, the meeting noted and considered the following key points:

- There were mutual benefits for both schools sharing KA's premises.
- Iqra School was currently facing structural problems with its buildings involving hazardous and major defects including asbestos, water leaks, poor roofing, plumbing and electrics, poor ventilation and heating, and future fire and safety obstacles. Fixing the roof alone would cost £1.5m.
- Overcrowding was a key concern and challenge because Iqra School was continuing to grow with increasing pupil numbers. The School currently had over 250 pupils and 40 staff and was now beyond the physical capacity of its current site. Iqra had also grown significantly over the past few years and eradicated its deficit funding over that period.
- A DfE representative had visited Iqra School and a recent inspection visit had highlighted the need to drastically improve the physical environment. Iqra School had been submitting bids to improve the site and were optimistic of receiving funds for a new building which would take two to three years to construct.
- The proposal was to agree a lease arrangement and split the KA building and playgrounds into two sites with separate entrances.
- There were advantages for KA in sharing its site. Iqra had achieved its outstanding status in the face of these challenges and was aiming to develop a supportive relationship with KA. Benefits would include sharing of costs that would produce an income stream (currently estimated at c£50k per annum) to reduce KA's deficit in the face of reducing pupil numbers; sharing of best practice to improve the quality of education and helping KA strengthen its position in relation to the second IR judgement; support staff expertise, SENCO, PSQM, and developing maths provision.
- Iqra governors highlighted the mutual benefits of a shared collaborative arrangement.
- KA governors asked how the Iqra building was allowed to deteriorate over the last few years. and HS responded that she had inherited the poor state of the building when she became Headteacher. It was reported that Lambeth Council do not own the building as Iqra was a voluntary aided school.
- There was a general discussion about the history of the KA building, KA's past relationship with Iqra, falling pupil rolls and the growth of Iqra, car parking problems and possible remedies, and the future of the KA building if it was shared with Iqra. Some KA governors were concerned that the original proposal was vague in detail and about the costs of sharing the building and the long-term prospects of a possible merger. JSL highlighted that it was governing bodies who would determine if schools should merge and pupil numbers in the district would be falling for the next five years.
- Lambeth Council's view was that the KA site had the capacity and footprint to share up to two (and probably three) one form entry schools. It was confirmed by JSL that there were no other viable local physical locations to accommodate Iqra.

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- There was an acknowledgement by KA governors that the KA school was approaching a crisis point in terms of funding and pupil numbers which presented a significant strategic challenge when Ofsted undertook its next inspection.
- Some KA governors had concerns that the disruption arising from sharing the KA site would have a negative impact on behaviour and quality of education at KA. These areas had improved in the past two years and this was critical to the school achieving a Good or Outstanding assessment.
- The Heads of Term for leasing the building had been exchanged between both schools but a detailed measurement survey had not yet been undertaken in light of KA recently deciding not to take the site-sharing proposal further. It was noted that both headteachers had recently undertaken a joint risk assessment of sharing the building from a staff and pupil perspective.
- Lambeth Council highlighted that the KA school would need to set out how it intended to address its financial position without sharing its estate and in the face of falling pupil numbers.
- Iqra School required an urgent decision about the proposal and there was a need for more certainty for both schools in terms of funding and securing their futures.

Iqra School governors left the meeting at 8.25pm to allow KA governors a confidential discussion with Lambeth Council officers (as outlined in Part B of the minutes).

### 5. Next Steps

Arising from the above item (and the confidential discussion) it was **agreed** that:

- The measurement survey would proceed to confirm future income arising from sharing the running costs of the building. It was noted that Lambeth Council had agreed to pay for the survey.
- The governing body would convene an emergency meeting on 21 June to decide if the proposal to share the building with Iqra School should be approved.

### 6. Date of Future Meetings

Monday, 21 June 2021 at 6.30pm (Extraordinary Meeting)  
Monday, 12 July 2021 at 6.00pm

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

