

Response ID	Type of respondent	Are you in favour of the proposal?	Are you in favour of the proposal?
ANON-UWFX-DFZB-G	Parent	No	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZ8-6	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZM-U	Parent	No	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZD-J	Parent	No	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZU-3	Parent	Yes	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZ9-7	Parent	Yes	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZE-K	Parent	Yes	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZH-P	Parent	No	I wouldnt want to have the change to VC and prefer VA after looking at all the relevant information
ANON-UWFX-DFZK-S	Parent	Yes	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZV-4	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZS-1	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZC-H	Parent	No	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZP-X	Parent	No	While we appreciate that many of the things will stay the same, one primary problem with the proposal is the governance of the school. Given the current proportions of governing board, particularly with AFET having only two members with unlimited co-opted members, I don't think that the proposal will best protect the school ethos.
ANON-UWFX-DFZ2-Z	Parent	No	To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and would like Al Furqan to remain VA. Yours sincerely
ANON-UWFX-DFZ3-1	Parent	No	No comment

			<p>The Interim Executive Board (IEB) of Al-Furqan Primary School (hereafter referred to as the school) is consulting on a proposal to convert the school from its current Voluntary Aided (VA) status to Voluntary Controlled (VC). Al-Furqan Educational Trust (AFET), hereafter referred to as the Trust, has three key roles:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To hold the land and buildings on Reddings Lane/Formans Road in trust, for the purposes of Al-Furqan Primary School and masjid in accordance with the trust deed. 2. To uphold the ethos (including IQA and Salah in the Masjid) of the school in line with the Instrument of Government which is derived from the trust deed. This is done through governance, regular visits to support staff development, monitoring and celebration of pupil achievements. 3. To appoint Foundation governors who work with the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team to drive the strategic development of the school, raise standards of achievement and uphold the Instrument of Government. <p>The ability of the Trust to safeguard the ethos including IQA and Salah in Masjid at the school will be significantly diminished under Voluntary Control arrangements, as the balance of power shifts to the Local Authority. The IEB and the Local Authority (LA) have given assurances that the ethos within the Instrument of Government will remain in place without alteration and incorporated directly into a VC Instrument of Government. However it our understanding that under VC arrangements a future governing body could change the Instrument of Government, given that Foundation governors would make up a quarter of the board, this issue is of concern to the trust. We have had a number of discussions with colleagues in the LA, however have not yet come across a satisfactory solution to this issue.</p> <p>In the light of the changing education environment, there is an increasing expectation that those who involved in school provision will be held accountable for all the education provision within them. The Trust had in the past ceded the responsibility for the quality of education to the Local Authority and focused on the development of the distinctive character of the school. Recent experience has brought to the forefront the Trust's increasing responsibility for the quality of education within the school.</p> <p>The ethos of the school, including IQA and Salah has a fundamental role in achieving the highest possible standards of education. The Trust wants to continue to work in partnership with the Local Authority but needs to build resilience. It is meeting this challenge through a number of mechanisms including broadening the advice it receives, brokering consultants, expanding the development of school-to-school and peer-led improvement groups, harnessing the good and outstanding practice within Muslim VA schools and beyond through collaboration and partnership. The Trust aims to provide the critical friendship needed to ensure that the school is the very best it can be and build on the current Ofsted rating. For continued development of the school, high quality governance is essential. Sourcing governors with skills, experience, and expertise to provide strategic oversight and direction is essential. The trust is currently going through a process to recruit such governors.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFZT-2	Other, VA Trust for this school.	No	
ANON-UWFX-DFZ4-2	Staff Member	Yes	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZQ-Y	Staff Member	Yes	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZ5-3	Staff Member	Yes	It is the best decision for the future of the School
ANON-UWFX-DFZ6-4	Staff Member	Yes	It is the best thing for the school in order for it to continue being good, and move from strength to strength .
ANON-UWFX-DFZF-M	Staff Member	Yes	It is best thing for the school at this moment in time.
ANON-UWFX-DFZA-F	Parent	Neither/Don't know	Not happy that staff do not get priority for places. Also the islamic aspect must not change at all.
ANON-UWFX-DFZY-7	Staff Member	Yes	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFZN-V	Parent	Neither/Don't know	When this proposal first came about I was leaning towards VC but when I started to learn more about VA and VC schools I hoped that we could remain as VA if we were able to support AFET with more governors and resources. We tried to speak to AFET through various parent contacts unfortunately we only recieved an official letter from them with no email address or other real means of communication... they left us with a feeling of lack of responsibility from their behalf for the school. I believe the school management team should demand a meeting for parents with one of the AFET governors, this is to allow parents to make an informed decision on what is best for the school... We need to hear AFET speak to be able to truly gauge whether VA or VC is best for the school. If AFET then are unable meet the required standards, then naturally my vote would be for VC, but I then make that decision with a clear conscious. I attended the meetings a few months ago and decided this time to take a back seat and I have not attended any of the meetings... its not the IEB or the council that we need to hear from... they have kindly put all the information to us a few months ago... what we really need to make this a fair and informed process is to have a meeting with AFET to see what they believe they can offer the school. Once we have the two sides then we can vote with confidence and clarity. So kindly ask the reader to please arrange a virtual or face to face meeting with AFET before the proposal closing date.
ANON-UWFX-DFZI-R	Parent	No	I am not comfortable with the school becoming a VC school
ANON-UWFX-DFZ1-Y	Staff Member	Yes	The school is doing great and this is a wonderful opportunity for all the children and members of the Al Furqan family.
ANON-UWFX-DFZR-Z	Parent	No	I would like the school to stay voluntary aided as I do not agree with some aspects of the proposal change. I feel the school will over time lose it's founding Ethos and by lightening the criteria for school admission to all faiths, this will over time change the whole face of the school and it's principles. By leaving it in control of the Birmingham city council it is stripping the school of its own leadership. I feel over the years the school has improved it's ofsted to a good standard and children are happy and achieving well- above the national average mostly. All the school needs more than a change to VC, is some secure parent governors in place whom have a voice that can make a change. Also if it was to become VC, the governing body would be able to change the instrument of Governance that the school is built on, again changing its values. It is currently an over subscribed Muslim faith school as parents are keen for their children to be in an education environment that promotes excellence in academic studies but also dedicated Quran and salah times. It promotes teaching of the Muslim festivals and works alongside parents in easing the way for children to prosper in their faith and studies. I fear a change to VC would change this and the school would be no different to any other mainstream school, simple with a title of Muslim faith school.
ANON-UWFX-DFPZ-X	Staff Member	Yes	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFP8-V	Staff Member	Yes	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFPX-V	School Governor	Yes	The school has had an Interim Executive Board in place for a significant time and during that time the school has made excellent progress. However, it is now appropriate for the school to move forward and for a Governing Body to continue the work started by the I.E.B. with a Governing Body that includes representation from the community.
ANON-UWFX-DFPM-H	Staff Member	Yes	Birmingham City Council will support and respect the ethos and values of the school and the school can continue on its improvement journey.
ANON-UWFX-DFPD-8	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFPU-S	Pupil	No	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFP9-W	Staff Member	Yes	After talking with the council people and them giving us assurance that the islamic IQA will remain the same. The school became controlled will be nice for the school because when ever anything wants to be repaired or we need something new put in Birmingham CityCouncil will always be there to do this things for school.

			<p>Now IEB let us down as parents/community as whole.</p> <p>•IEB communication is absolutely not affective (broken down) we as parents are dissatisfied with how we're always turned down with our concerns.</p> <p>•No parent governors (we were denied voice) IEB didn't listen to parents.</p> <p>•Not consulting with the trustees AFET (information from the founders it's not coming to us as parents)</p> <p>•Alfurqan as a trustee school (is currently made up of AFET and IEB) This message could've easily being made clear to parents from the start so we are fully informed about our school's situation.</p> <p>•Language barrier (a lot of the people do not understand the change/ happening) this isn't fair. We, as parents have made this clear to the IEB at 1st consultation meeting, but our concern has been once again ignored.</p> <p>•Meetings just confused us more (the IEB wasn't transparent and said many conflicting things in the meetings) such as VA isn't an option and when the LA representative attended the 2nd meeting we were told VA still remains as an option.</p> <p>•Inconvenient time (deadlines rushed). We feel as parents and community that there could've been time given to us and opportunity to work with IEB to move forward with VA and not go backwards.</p> <p>•We were pushed to believe either VC or acadamy which is not an option for Alfurqan since it's rated good for its latest OFSTED report.</p> <p>•IEB overstayed (with no exit plan) with no tangible reason. By this time they should've explained to us their plan for handing over the office with overshadowed governing body who can take the work forward.</p> <p>•However, Alfurqan is something special because its admission oversubscription alone shows how our city celebrates diversity of faith and culture.</p> <p>•We as community cherish such opportunity and it's not fair to just dismiss our needs as residents of BCC.</p> <p>•Birmingham city council proudly aids other VA schools (14 or more schools) who are doing good, why not allow the first and only Islamic school which is government funded to stand as beaming example for other Muslims to follow.</p> <p>•Lastly, the IEB is able to appoint new trustees as shadowing governing body which doesn't need to be from AFET. The IEB should do this to help our community maintain VA.</p> <p>•Staff</p> <p>•Low IQA staff means our children are not progressing in their Islamic knowledges</p> <p>•Under VC: There is direct link between staff employment and keeping the character of the school (Islamic ethos). For instance, staff from none Islamic background would not be able to guide or assist our children in the way that a Muslim staff would ie a Muslim dinner lady would remind/help the pupils read (dua/prayer) before eating or during congregational prayer assist pupils how they should perform the prayer etc. (read arabic).</p> <p>•RE:</p> <p>•The faith (Islam) teaching reduces under VC. Under VA we now have more opportunities to celebrate our faith (pupils doing assemblies about the prophets, charity fundraising etc).</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFPE-9	Parent	No	
ANON-UWFX-DFPK-F	Other, please specify	No	<p>Limiting IQA to 2 days and pupils praying in school instead of mosque are not acceptable. IQA should be running throughout the week just like other subjects. The very reason we have this school and my children go there is to know and understand their faith which shouldn't not be taken away from them. Thank you</p> <p>I am a new parent at the school with my daughter due to start reception class in September 2022.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFPV-T	Parent	No	I have only just heard from another parent about this and do not feel we have been given enough time or information about exactly what is going on. Nor do we see it as fair as we have put our children down to enter this school the way it currently is with the Islamic ethos and do not feel like you have assured us or given us enough guarantee that this will stay the same should the school change to VC.
ANON-UWFX-DFPS-Q	Staff Member	Yes	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFPP-M	Parent	No	<p>I oppose the proposal for changing the status of the school to Voluntary Controlled as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As a parent, I have not any direct communication with Al- Furqan Educational Trust (AFET) to confirm or deny the IEB's statement that AFET would not be able to continue the school's improvement journey. Nor has the IEB produced any evidence of their statement about AFET. This does not help me in understanding why remaining a VA school would not be a preferred option. 2. The draft Instrument of Government by the IEB presumably is replacing the existing Instrument of Government (IOG). The IEB has not provided the existing IOG for me to compare if the proposed changes ensure all the vital elements of the Islamic ethos still remain. 3. I agree the IEB has improved the school's National Curriculum standards. However, there have not been any checks done on Religious provision especially when there has been a severe shortage of the IQA staff in the school which have left my son without a suitable place to pray his Dhuhr Salah and my daughter without an IQA teacher for half a term. If the IQA teaching standards have already been compromised under the IEB, what certainty do I have that they may not continue to be compromised? 4. The meetings that the IEB have had with parents have heavily focussed on the main option for the school changing to Voluntary Controlled. The IEB have not fully disclosed the other options available in order for me to make a more informed choice. When questioned about this, the IEB members have said 'we would have to explore other options,' leaving me unclear about the other suitable options available. 5. The IEB has not opened the doors for any parent representation during their 9 year stay at the school. This has prevented any parent's voice in key decision-making for the school. This has caused a lot of frustration and loss of confidence with the IEB making good choices for the school. This proposal for me has increased the anxiety with the governing of the school. 6. The Part 2 stage of the proposal has been timed inconveniently (July period) for parents who have several children going through school transition periods, parents' assessment of reports, holiday planning, Eid celebrations, attendance at Sports days, assemblies and Parent-School meetings. It is unfair to expect parents to be able to devote a proportionate time to decipher the proposal during this extremely busy period. 7. Additionally, a large proportion of the parent community like my husband has not been able to access the proposal due to language barriers. The proposal should have been made available in different languages, but the IEB did not do this. <p>I conclude that the IEB has not made matters very clear for their proposal and uncertainty (as stated above) remains as to the benefits of changing over to Voluntary Controlled status.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFPC-7	Parent	No	<p>I would like the school to remain Voluntary Aided. There has been a lot of confusion about whether VA was even an option. More time is required to investigate if voluntary aided status can be maintained. This whole proposal has been thrust upon us and many parents believed AFET would suggest a proposal, but since they haven't more time is needed to see if VA is an option and how this could be achieved.</p> <p>The community are very anxious about the changes and there is a clear desire to keep the school VA as can be seen in the petition attached with 800 signatures:</p> <p>https://www.change.org/p/help-us-protect-al-furqan-primary-school-s-voluntary-aided-va-status</p> <p>The timing of this second stage has been terrible as school winds down and staff, students and parents are particularly busy with end of year trips, transition between schools, assessments not to mention the intense heatwave of late. The community feel this process has heard but not truly listened to our concerns.</p> <p>The Muslim community in Birmingham seem to be ignored by the LA/IEB at every turn. Individuals have been told to pass on contact details for specific questions to be answered by LA/IEB but this has not happened. Why are we so easily fobbed off? Why don't we deserve all the information promised in the first stage?</p> <p>I do not believe a full Equality Impact assessment has been done for this change. The impact will slowly but surely change the identity of the school.</p> <p>Even with other Islamic schools in the area, Al Furqan is still oversubscribed due to its unique place in the community. Change to VC may not immediately change this but will not strive to protect it the way VA status allows.</p> <p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school. 2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents. 3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1. 4) No access to AFET through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency? 5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children. 6) *Staff recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models. 7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC faith-based learning would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum. <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFP3-Q	Parent	No	
ANON-UWFX-DFPT-R	Parent	No	I want Al furqan to continue as faith school.

			<p>https://www.change.org/p/help-us-protect-al-furqan-primary-school-s-voluntary-aided-va-status</p> <p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change .</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFPW-U	Parent	No	
ANON-UWFX-DFP4-R	Parent	No	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFPQ-N	Pupil	No	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFP5-S	Parent	No	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFP6-T	Parent	No	Reading through the proposal I see inconsistency in what is written compared to what was claimed in the meetings. I am convinced that our IQA will be less. And that's the main reason to why parents choose the school.
ANON-UWFX-DFPF-A	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFPA-5	Parent	No	<p>Very concerned about the following</p> <p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change .</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFPY-W	Not Answered	No	<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change .</p>
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ANON-UWFX-DFPJ-E	Parent	No	No Comment
ANON-UWFX-DFP1-N	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFPR-P	Other, Governance Professional	Yes	I fully support the conversion of AFPS IEB to become a Voluntary Controlled School to ensure that the school continues to improve.

			<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGB-W	Parent	No	I don't want the school to change from being a VA school.
ANON-UWFX-DFGZ-N	Parent	No	There is currently no parent representative, we have not been given no feedback. I feel the proposal has been rushed and the parents have not been listened to.
ANON-UWFX-DFG8-K	Parent	No	No comment
			<p>We do not feel reassured by the first stage of the proposal. Parents have not been given feedback on issues they were told they would get back to us on e.g. staff recruitment, measures taken to try to maintain vA status and open communication with afet and parents.</p> <p>Denying parent representation in school over the years means we feel this process has not been transparent and has not fully considered the needs of the local BAME community. We appreciate the progress made by the school but do not understand why no attempt was made to set up a shadow governing body over the decade. Why do the IEB have no faith in the school community to maintain progress if they could coach a team to do so as a VA school?</p> <p>Petition below reflects the deep anxiety felt by the local community. Not all can access the online survey so a petition was set up.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGX-K	Parent	No	https://www.change.org/p/help-us-protect-al-furqan-primary-school-s-voluntary-aided-va-status
ANON-UWFX-DFGM-8	Local Resident	Neither/Don't know	<p>I do not understand the need. How have the school shown they cannot continue the good progress set up by the IEB? What evidence is this based on? What have the school community/AFET done that is so bad that in 9 years they were not given a chance to try to work with IEB?</p> <p>Feels like the Muslim community is not trusted and being ignored and victimised by LA...</p>
			<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGD-Y	Local Resident	No	
ANON-UWFX-DFG9-M	Parent	Neither/Don't know	As long as the faith elements of the school remain infinitely legally binding and sealed without the chances of future amendments by a quorum and parents have a part in the governance, the proposal can be considered acceptable.
ANON-UWFX-DFG7-J	Parent	Yes	No comment
			Al Furqan is a unique school which caters to a vast Muslim population. It is a much needed school in Birmingham as it truly celebrates the Muslim faith throughout the day. The children have access to a mosque and daily worship is encouraged throughout the day with prayers and the teaching of good manners.
ANON-UWFX-DFGE-Z	Local Resident	No	I believe that as it is a unique school the council should do all it can to preserve its VA status. It's a better option than homeschooling for a lot of parents and should continue as it is.
ANON-UWFX-DFGH-3	Staff Member	Yes	I am happy for the school to become VC as I believe it will be a good choice for the future of our school.
ANON-UWFX-DFGV-H	Other, Former Student	No	<p>I did my early years of education in this school and I found that it strengthened my identity in my faith. The IQA element of the school increased my knowledge profoundly which I have benefited from. The mosque helped me to expand my understanding of prayer which I appreciate. If all of this changes I feel that the students won't get the same opportunities as I did which helped me a lot in my life. Under the new proposal I still feel uncertain that the children will receive exactly the same provisions that I did.</p> <p>I am in favour as no other viable option has been made available. The choice of staying as VA doesn't seem to be on the table as AFET have not communicated their plans (if any) with parents. In fact there has been no communication with parents by AFET at all which has been very disheartening. I'd like to emphasise the concerns that myself and other parents have in terms of protecting the Islamic Ethos of the school. We do not, in any way want this to be eroded in the future. I would like a guarantee that the IQA part of the curriculum and Arabic as a language are protected as part of the curriculum now and in the future. My children have benefited a great deal from the IQA and have been super proud when they have achieved the trophies. The need for KS2 to pray in their lunch hour should remain an integral part of their school day. The discipline and self care element are only a small part of the advantages this brings to the children from a young age.</p> <p>The faith element should also be kept as integral across the curriculum as it is now, and not just limited to an hour or two a week.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGS-E	Parent	Yes	My two elder children who are now at grammar schools, have benefited greatly from the teaching and ethos at Al Furqan and my younger two are currently benefiting greatly. They are growing up to be confident young Muslims that take great pride in being students of Al Furqan Primary.
ANON-UWFX-DFGP-B	Parent	Neither/Don't know	No comment
			<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGC-X	Parent	No	

			<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for "all" of KS2 to pray "Salah" in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site "Masjid" which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not "translated" into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) "No" "feedback" from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) "No" "access" "to" "AFET" through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no "parent" "representative" after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) "Staff" "recruitment" under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC "faith" - "based" "learning" would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGG-2	Local Resident	No	
ANON-UWFX-DFG2-D	Other, Family member of student	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFGT-F	Other, Former Student	No	As a former student of the school, I experienced the extreme changeover during the introduction of the IEB. The proposal highlights changes in the admission criteria and the staffing requirements and I feel that this will affect the Islamic education that the children will receive. I believe in the long run that this will bring negative and drastic changes to the children's Islamic culture and faith. I would not want any child to go through what I did when the IEB took charge of the school.
ANON-UWFX-DFGW-J	Local Resident	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFG4-F	Local Resident	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFGQ-C	Other, please specify	No	My niece will be moving to this school in September from another Islamic school I don't feel the Islamic ethos will be upheld properly. I would like her to receive the same Islamic education she has received in her previous school and don't feel she will receive this with the new proposal.
ANON-UWFX-DFG5-G	Parent	No	<p>As a caring parent I respectfully disagree with the proposal and think it's not in the best interest of the community due to the following:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for "all" of KS2 to pray "Salah" in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site "Masjid" which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) "Shahada" "certificate" not a component of admissions criteria. A fundamental requirement to maintain and protect the ethos will go.</p> <p>3) Proposal not "translated" into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>4) "No" "feedback" from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>5) "No" "access" "to" "AFET" through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>6) We still have no "parent" "representative" after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>7) "Staff" "recruitment" under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>8) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC "faith" - "based" "learning" would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFG6-H	Other, Former Student	No	<p>My brother who is 3 could possibly be joining the school in the future and I hope the school will be able to give him and other future children a good education it is currently known for.</p> <p>As a former student in this school I enjoyed my time there as me and my friend's got a good education and learned more about our religion in IQA. Also we had good teachers who enjoyed teaching us and helped us to learn the Quran.</p> <p>Since I have left, I believe the school has dropped in quality. I know this as my sister is currently in Yr 3 going to Yr 4. She has learnt a decent amount of Quran but the teachers let her off with many mistakes and it is not good quality. When I used to go to school the IQA department was quite good and I learned the Quran as a person should.</p> <p>As you can see I am an expert on writing this as I was well taught by my teachers from this very school. I hope you put my letter into consideration and identify the problems and fix them rather than making a new policy.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGF-1	Other, Director of Educational Institute	No	There has been no evidence presented by IEB to show the inadequacy of AFET to govern and manage the school here onwards. Further there is no statistical evidence to support how and if the LA religious syllabus will achieve the desired ethos of the school. It is a failure on behalf of the LA to take over a well established, successfully emerging school which has been set up to cater the majority Muslim community in and around the area.
ANON-UWFX-DFGA-V	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFGN-9	Local Resident	No	<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <p>1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for "all" of KS2 to pray "Salah" in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site "Masjid" which is a vital part of the school.</p> <p>2) Proposal not "translated" into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents.</p> <p>3) "No" "feedback" from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1.</p> <p>4) "No" "access" "to" "AFET" through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency?</p> <p>5) We still have no "parent" "representative" after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children.</p> <p>6) "Staff" "recruitment" under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models.</p> <p>7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC "faith" - "based" "learning" would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum.</p> <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGY-M	Local Resident	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFG1-C	Other, please specify	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DF4B-A	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFGR-D	Parent	No	No comment
ANON-UWFX-DFGJ-5	Parent	No	I would like the school to remain Voluntary Aided. For many years the parents have had little or no input. There have been no parent governors for many years now. Parents would like to have a say and an opportunity to explore if Voluntary Aided status can be maintained. The IEB have helped the school to get an ofsted good, which is fantastic. If the IEB worked with a new governing body and helped them to maintain standards then I believe VA is viable. Unfortunately my understanding is that the IEB can't stay any longer. So my problem is that if the IEB knew they could only stay for a limited time why didn't they start preparing by helping a new governing body to take over and support them ensuring standards would remain? Instead of the IEB saying, now we have to leave and the school must become Voluntary controlled or an academy. Looks like communication has broken down again.

ANON-UWFX-DFP2-P	Parent	No	<p>I believe that it is very difficult to get a place at Al Furqan School because it is unique and the only one of its kind that encourages children to confidently follow their Muslim customs and also teaches them the National Curriculum.</p> <p>There are no other schools in the wider area that can be as accepting of the Muslim traditions and way of life, under VC the school's faith based teaching and environment will suffer. It is a necessity for the community that the IEB is gradually and sensibly replaced with a workable governing body, as a VA, and I would like the council to try it's very best and make this happen.</p> <p>There are several successful Muslim charities and organisations in Birmingham. Islamic Relief, Green Lane Mosque, Al-Muath Trust, As-Suffa Institution, Birmingham Central Mosque, Sultan Bahu Trust to name a few. Also nationally such as the Muslim Council of Britain.</p> <p>I think it's reasonable to expect that these organisations are considerably better equipped than afet and are capable of overseeing our school's journey. This will mean much needed improvements in IQA whilst continuing to teach the full National Curriculum for Religious Education and other changes that have already been integrated into the day.</p> <p>The main point is that considering how the muslims of the city are considerable in number and undoubtedly follow the very specific tenets of Islam in terms of diet, dress and prayer, it makes sense to keep the school as VA as this is able to incorporate Islam through many daily activities and rituals and not just IQA and collective worship.</p> <p>I know that lots of other schools struggle to accommodate for Muslim pupils and this is to be expected, although adapted provision is made as far as possible. Nevertheless many parents choose to homeschool and this is not the best option as schools provide a more wholesome and social education. Al Furqan is like a home away from home for our children as the environment is in keeping with the way we wish to raise our children.</p> <p>Therefore, when especially in Birmingham we have had many challenges as a city, it makes sense to formulate solutions together. Al Furqan has great leadership and I feel that we can envisage out of the box thinking that works for the Local Authority and caters for the Muslim community's specific needs.</p> <p>I would like to reiterate that the uniqueness of the school can only be maintained under VA. The standard of Islamic education provided is commendable and this is due to the staff having knowledge of the faith and the ability to pronounce the supplications, read Arabic, offer prayers and so on with the children throughout the day. VC would inevitably change this over time, with staff turnover and therefore I do not agree with the proposal.</p> <p>I feel that despite all the meetings and parents asking for clarity we have had a lot of time given to us but no answers nor clarity as to why other options have not been explored. We have not even been given access to afet whom we've never met but are expected to trust that they will work with the school to uphold the ethos. We have never been given access to afet at all, even when facing challenges with IQA or in IQA parents evenings and workshops.</p> <p>The proposal with afer is not acceptable as despite our concerns the revised document is more of the same. The changes in category will have an obvious affect on admissions, staffing and religious education.</p> <p>If at present perhaps this proposal seems to solve management or financial issues then this is not a good enough reason to accept it. I feel that at then end of the day it's the children that matter and their education in a holistic environment that celebrates their identity as British Muslims.</p> <p>As parents we have been needlessly and unjustly denied any representation on the governing body. At this stage once again if parental concerns are ignored and made light of then that will be unacceptable when we have tried our best to support the IEB, repeatedly over the years we have asked for parent governors and now we have engaged with the consultation process.</p> <p>My children have really benefited from the setup of the school and from having Muslim role models, access to the mosque and daily Islamic stories, music and multimedia aside from IQA. I feel it's important to maintain this and would like to request that the respected decision makers can find sustainable and novel solutions so that staffing, admissions and faith based education can continue under the VA model.</p> <p>Thank you for your time</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGU-G	Parent	No	<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school. 2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents. 3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1. 4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency? 5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children. 6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models. 7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum. <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DF4Z-2	Parent	No	<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for *all* of KS2 to pray *Salah* in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site *Masjid* which is a vital part of the school. 2) Proposal not *translated* into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents. 3) *No* *feedback* from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1. 4) *No* *access* *to* *AFET* through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency? 5) We still have no *parent* *representative* after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children. 6) *Staff* *recruitment* under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models. 7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC *faith* - *based* *learning* would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum. <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>

			<p>There are no other schools in the wider area that can be as accepting of the Muslim traditions and way of life, under VC the school's faith based teaching and environment will suffer. It is a necessity for the community that the IEB is gradually and sensibly replaced with a workable governing body, as a VA, and I would like the council to try it's very best and make this happen.</p> <p>There are several successful Muslim charities and organisations in Birmingham. Islamic Relief, Green Lane Mosque, Al-Muath Trust, As-Suffa Institution, Birmingham Central Mosque, Sultan Bahu Trust to name a few. Also nationally such as the Muslim Council of Britain.</p> <p>I think it's reasonable to expect that these organisations are considerably better equipped than afet and are capable of overseeing our school's journey. This will mean much needed improvements in IQA whilst continuing to teach the full National Curriculum for Religious Education and other changes that have already been integrated into the day.</p> <p>The main point is that considering how the muslims of the city are considerable in number and undoubtedly follow the very specific tenets of Islam in terms of diet, dress and prayer, it makes sense to keep the school as VA as this is able to incorporate Islam through many daily activities and rituals and not just IQA and collective worship.</p> <p>I know that lots of other schools struggle to accommodate for Muslim pupils and this is to be expected, although adapted provision is made as far as possible. Nevertheless many parents choose to homeschool and this is not the best option as schools provide a more wholesome and social education. Al Furqan is like a home away from home for our children as the environment is in keeping with the way we wish to raise our children.</p> <p>Therefore, when especially in Birmingham we have had many challenges as a city, it makes sense to formulate solutions together. Al Furqan has great leadership and I feel that we can envisage out of the box thinking that works for the Local Authority and caters for the Muslim community's specific needs.</p> <p>I would like to reiterate that the uniqueness of the school can only be maintained under VA. The standard of Islamic education provided is commendable and this is due to the staff having knowledge of the faith and the ability to pronounce the supplications, read Arabic, offer prayers and so on with the children throughout the day. VC would inevitably change this over time, with staff turnover and therefore I do not agree with the proposal.</p> <p>I feel that despite all the meetings and parents asking for clarity we have had a lot of time given to us but no answers nor clarity as to why other options have not been explored. We have not even been given access to afet whom we've never met but are expected to trust that they will work with the school to uphold the ethos. We have never been given access to afet at all, even when facing challenges with IQA or in IQA parents evenings and workshops.</p> <p>The proposal with afet is not acceptable as despite our concerns the revised document is more of the same. The changes in category will have an obvious affect on admissions, staffing and religious education.</p> <p>If at present perhaps this proposal seems to solve management or financial issues then this is not a good enough reason to accept it. I feel that at the end of the day it's the children that matter and their education in a holistic environment that celebrates their identity as British Muslims.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DF48-Z	Parent	No	As parents we have been needlessly and unjustly denied any representation on the governing body. At this stage once again if parental concerns are ignored and made light of then that will be unacceptable when we have tried our best to support the IEB, repeatedly over the years we have asked for parent governors and
ANON-UWFX-DF4X-Z	Local Resident	No	No comment
			<p>Unresolved issues following stage 1 of VC proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The newly proposed Instrument of Government does not state the need for "all*" of KS2 to pray "Salah*" in congregation. It also does not state the need to use the on-site "Masjid*" which is a vital part of the school. 2) Proposal not "translated*" into language for non-native speakers after being promised, denying access to many parents. 3) "No*" "feedback*" from IEB about fully exploring retaining VA status which again was promised in stage 1. 4) "No*" "access*" "to*" "AFET*" through the school to discuss IQA issues eg. trophy deadlines nevermind the proposal itself. How can we be reassured that the religious element is in safe hands with this lack of communication and transparency? 5) We still have no "parent*" "representative*" after almost a decade. The IEB have denied us this for no clear reason and to the detriment of the school community and children. Parents feel disheartened year in year out. Therefore this proposal does not represent what we feel is best for our school or community. We still have no clarity as to why such a big change needs to happen causing anxiety for parents and children. 6) "Staff*" "recruitment*" under VC means they do not have to be of the faith (Muslim). Over time this will mean the faith element becomes diminished. Children will not have consistency in staff who are able to educate them both academically and spiritually through their inherent knowledge and etiquettes as Muslim role models. 7) Currently: assemblies, PSHE, enrichment activities are examples of how the curriculum is taught from a faith perspective. Under VC "faith*" - "based*" "learning*" would be limited to 2 specific hours of learning in the week. The faith element will not necessarily be interwoven into the curriculum. <p>All these points in isolation may seem minor but when happening simultaneously, the identity of the school will inevitably change.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DF4M-N	Local Resident	No	
			<p>I have a parent at Al Furqan for a long time and found it be a good nurturing school for my children. The Islamic provision sets the school apart from other schools in the area and undoubtedly the reason for sending my children here. The proposal made by the IEB to turn the school into a VC school will draw away from what sets the school apart (Islamic ethos). I understand that as a VC school Al Furqan will remain an Islamic school but feel that the ethos will not be as strong as it is under VA. For example the recruitment of staff under VC will change and have a direct impact on the Islamic provision, with only some reserve teachers appointed to teach the faith element. Not all staff will be employed to uphold the Islamic ethos. This will have a direct impact on the Islamic education the school is able to provide. Currently staff are great role models for children and are able to deliver Islamic education through out the day in the form of daily supplications, assemblies, cross curriculum links, Arabic and much more. Islam is not only taught as a stand alone subject but rather a way of life. This can only be done if staff are equipped with the right knowledge of the Quran and hadith. If under VC there will only be a few reserve teachers to teach Islam the children will not get the same quality nor quantity. Will there be a cap on how many reserve teachers there will be? What happens if some leave?</p> <p>The proposal also states only two hours of faith based learning. This will limit teachers to how much they can teach.</p> <p>Lastly the draft instrument of governance does not mention salah/prayer for all of KS2 which has been the case for the school for many years. There is no mention of the mosque which is an important part of the school and something to be celebrated.</p> <p>For the reasons above I am not satisfied that VC is the best route for Al Furqan. It is about time the parents are given the opportunity to govern the school along with able community members. The IEB have made some improvements to the school but have failed to give parents any say in their decisions.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DFGK-6	Parent	No	
			<p>I'm a parent at Al- Furqan Primary school. I have several children registered at the school. I'm writing to object to the current VC proposal proposed by the IEB. I'm objecting to the proposal due to several reasons in which I believe would lead to the school to gradually lose its Muslim identity.</p> <p>I object to the school becoming VC because of the following proposed reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation process- Most of the parents at the school do not speak English as their first language. Most of these parents have not received translation or interpretation services despite their repeated requests in Part 1, and as a result, they are unable to access the proposal. They have not been fully consulted and therefore have been denied the right to make an informed decision. • Admission arrangement- The only VA Islamic school in Birmingham at the moment is Al Furqan Primary School, which is similarly oversubscribed. There is a critical lack of VA Islamic schools like Al Furqan in Birmingham. Despite this, under the proposed oversubscription criteria candidates are not given preference based on their religious beliefs. • Changes in RE syllabus- The RE syllabus has undergone significant changes during the IEB'S term period. In VA schools, RE must be taught according to the trust agreement and the teachings of the school's designated faith. Al Furqan, however, is the only VA school where RE is taught in accordance with the LA-approved syllabus. Since making these changes, the IEB has not notified parents of the changes to the RE curriculum, preventing them from making plans to pull their kids out of class. The IEB's present proposal would keep teaching RE in accordance with the LA agreed syllabus which is against the parents' choice of taking their children to a faith school. • Changes in IQA teaching – IQA employees will be designated in the current proposal as "Reserved Teachers" who will only be accessible upon request. This means that they won't be readily available to lead the kids during constructive classroom instruction and communal prayers. The practises and sense of community that the kids need to participate in their group worship will be hampered by this. The Islamic faith depends on the ongoing instruction and monitoring of young children, which is impossible if IQA professionals are only available upon request.
ANON-UWFX-DF4D-C	Parent	No	
			<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA.</p> <p>Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others.</p> <p>VA is an option allow it to be just that, shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it.</p> <p>So as a parent I object to such a change and I request Al Furqan to remain VA.</p>
ANON-UWFX-DF4U-W	Parent	No	

ANON-UWFX-Email001	Parent	No	<p>To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that, shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and I request Al Furqan to remain VA.</p>
ANON-UWFX-Email002	Parent	No	<p>To whom it may concern, I object the proposal I am for Al Furqan Primary school to remain VA. Preserving our Islamic ethos at Al Furqan Primary allowing new trustees to be appointed based on their merits, integrity and a drive to make Al Furqan an even greater a model school for others. VA is an option allow it to be just that, shadowing an outstanding school that can work in partnership with Al Furqan primary. All options should be given rather than having to accept what is given to become of Al Furqan Primary which will inevitably change the face of Al Furqan as we know it. So as a parent I object to such a change and I request Al Furqan to remain VA.</p>