

# **The Wilaya Trust**

*Education in Community*

# Mission Statement

The Wilaya Trust is a charity dedicated to the development of holistic, community-based education. Based in Oxford, England, the trust aims to cultivate an approach to education in which the cognitive, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of individuals is addressed through the art of living and learning in community. The spiritual perspective of the Wilaya Trust is that of Islam, and the trust draws upon timeless Islamic traditions of education to collaborate with others who similarly wish to uphold and spread ethical and responsible cultures of beauty.

## Wilaya House

The Wilaya Trust aims to realise this mission by establishing a new model of community-based education — a model that can be adopted by any community anywhere in the world, and adapted for their own local requirements.

The first, model centre is to be based in Oxford, and named ‘Wilaya House’. Wilaya House serves:

1. as an **educational research centre and consultancy**, developing research-based and bespoke solutions for community-based, holistic, and Islamic education;
2. as a **community college**, providing a range of educational classes and resources that tie together the intelligences of the mind, the hand, and the heart;
3. and as a **meeting house**, creating a beautiful and welcoming space for young and old to meet and to gather, to learn and to teach, and to cultivate commitments and friendships that are rooted in community.

The centre is financially supported by an endowment — a portfolio of local business, properties, and investments that ensures its longevity and financial independence.

## **I. AN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE AND CONSULTANCY**

The Wilaya House serves as the home of a research centre and consultancy for holistic, community-based, and Islamic education. Researchers work with academics, educators, and communities to develop educational models for the educative needs of today, and prepare studies and resources to shape the education of tomorrow.

The research centre serves:

- to pursue original research into holistic and community-based education, with reference especially but not exclusively to Muslim minority and majority contexts;
- to serve as a consultancy in this field, working with communities throughout the UK and internationally to develop frameworks, curricula, and materials needed to launch sustainable educational projects appropriate to their local requirements;
- to organise conferences, seminars, and workshops that bring together educationalists and practitioners who work in holistic, community-based, and Islamic education;
- to publish a journal dedicated to speculative, theoretical, and practical questions in holistic and community-based education. Uniquely, the journal aims to empower Muslim scholars and educators by instrumentalising the relevant contributions of academic history, educational studies, philosophy, and social science towards these ends.

Situated in Oxford, one of the world's preeminent cities of higher learning, and in close proximity to institutes of education in London, Cambridge, and beyond, the Wilaya House's research centre is uniquely placed to contribute to the development of holistic, community-based educational solutions. Wilaya House collaborates with any individual or institution dedicated to community-based and holistic education, as well as working with specifically Muslim partners concerned to cultivate such an educational approach for contemporary Muslim societies and communities.

## **2. A COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Wilaya House also serves as a community college, providing a range of educational classes and resources that tie together the intelligences of the mind, the hand, and the heart. Here, parents and children, students and life-long learners, can find books, materials, and professional advice on how best to pursue the next leg of their educational journeys. Lectures, seminars, craft workshops, and physical education are offered, alongside a learning resource centre and library on education. Courses are taught by local scholars, health specialists, and craftsmen, thus encouraging self-responsible and resilient communities..

## **Educational Programmes**

The community college provides educational programmes in a welcoming and non-judgmental environment. Subjects covered include:

- religious education: e.g. Qur'an memorisation, theology, spirituality;
- history, ethics, and literature;
- languages: e.g. Arabic and French;
- book clubs for children, youth, and adults;
- social well-being: e.g. child-raising, marriage;
- physical well-being: e.g. ju jitsu, kettlebell clubs;
- productive crafts: e.g. bookbinding, woodworking, textiles, stone masonry, agriculture, and animal husbandry, held on-site or in co-operation with other institutions (such as Oxford Brookes and Willowbrook Farm).

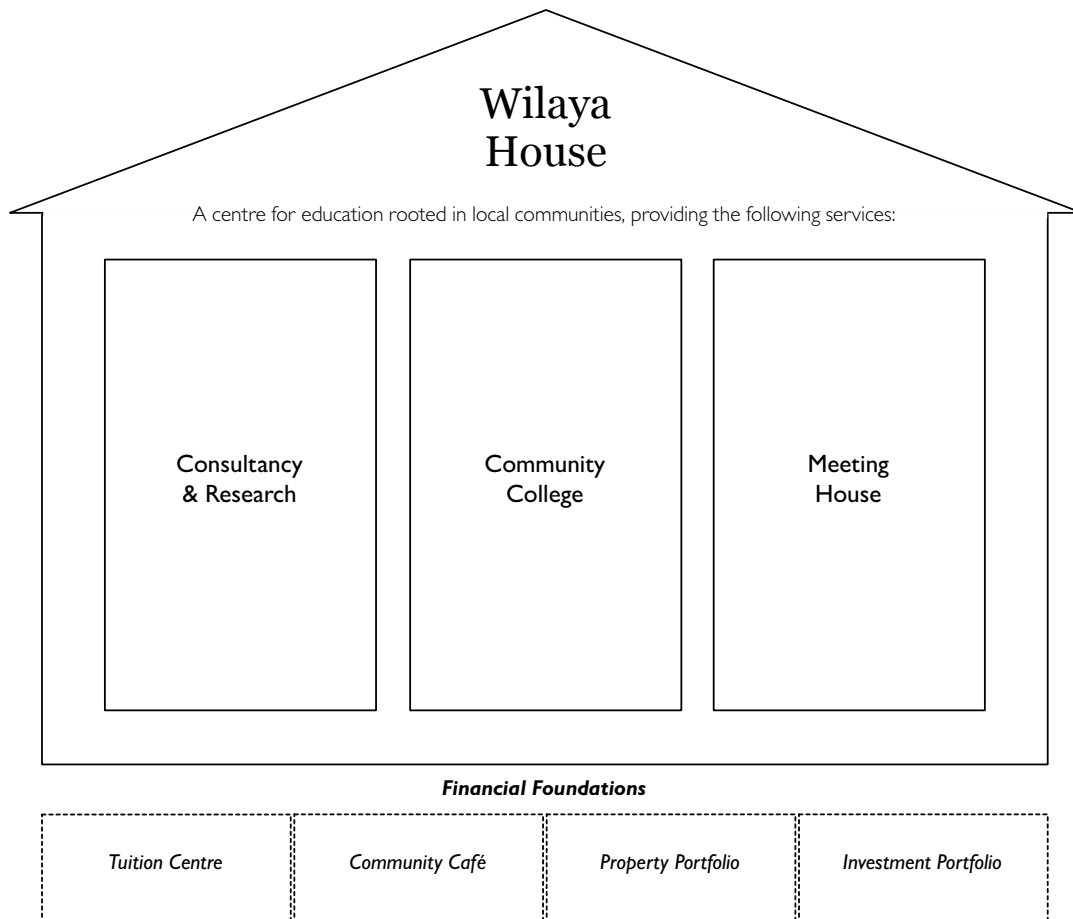
## **Learning Resource Centre**

The community college also provides a library, materials, and workshops that aim to empower individuals and families to take charge of and responsibility for their own education. It offers seminars and consultations on educational and career development, entrepreneurship and community enterprise, examination boards (such as GCSEs, International Baccalaureate, and A-Levels), UCAS, and homeschooling.

**Digital Learning Platform:** By collaborating with existing online learning platforms, many provisions of the community college will also be available internationally online. This will provide remote access to consultants and to seminars and lectures, expanding the global reach of the educational provisions.

## **3. A MEETING HOUSE**

Learning does not happen only in the classroom. A strong community, with a real stake in its members' well-being, is necessary for the educational development of an intellectually and emotionally whole person. This is why the centre also serves as a meeting house. It provides a beautiful and welcoming space for local community to meet, hold events, develop friendships, and discover ways of helping one another, personally and professionally. Parents can sip a quiet tea as their children learn crafts and make friends, and families can gather with others who share their own intellectual and moral commitments in occasions of devotion and a setting of tranquility. The centre will also encourage and facilitate the creation of new social enterprises by the community, for the community, with the support and expertise of the Wilaya Trust's team.



## Financial Foundations: The Endowment

In order to secure its financial stability and long-term independence, the Wilaya Trust is establishing an endowment portfolio of businesses, properties, and investments. It is our plan that by 2027 all of the Trust’s activities will be financially self-sustaining, requiring no further fundraising thereafter. This will be achieved by building a portfolio of enterprises such as the aforementioned consultancy, a tuition centre, and a community café attached to Wilaya House, and by returns on a portfolio of properties and investments donated to the Trust during its present fundraising efforts.

The Tuition Centre will be the first such enterprise. It will provide individual and group tuition in subjects including English, Arabic, Maths, Religious Studies and Philosophy, History, and Science. Tuition will be provided for a number of British and international examination boards, and may be delivered individually, in classes, or online via web conferencing. In addition to generating revenue for the Trust, the Tuition Centre will also help fulfil the Trust’s objectives by facilitating the educational opportunities needed for the social and cultural advancement of our future generations.

# Project Stages & Fundraising

The activities of the Wilaya Trust will be built up over three stages:

In the **Seed Stage** (2017–2019), the Wilaya Trust fundraises and purchases a premises for the Wilaya House, establishes its main services (the educational programmes, the learning resource centre, and the consultancy and research centre), launches the income-generating tuition centre, and begins laying the groundwork for the rest of its endowment portfolio.

In **Stage One** (2020–2022), the Trust's services are scaled up, all remaining aspects of the endowment are now established (the café, the property portfolio, and an investment portfolio), and the loans begin to be repaid, further securing the property.

In **Stage Two** (2023–2027), all of the Trust's planned activities are now fully functional, all loans are paid off, and the Wilaya House is now fully secured as a freehold property of the Trust, with an endowment robust enough to ensure that the Trust is self-sustaining in perpetuity.

# Financial Plan: Seed Stage (2017–2019)

## BUILDING & FIXED COSTS

Secure a premises for the Wilaya House, and hire two personnel.

Overheads	-£30,000
Building & CapEx	-£1,602,000
Personnel	-£64,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-£1,696,000</b>

## CONSULTANCY & RESEARCH

Produce two textbook series and a manual of home education, with attention to the needs of the growing Muslim homeschooling community.

Revenue	£90,000
Costs	-£78,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£12,000</b>

## EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

Establish programmes in Arabic & Islamic disciplines, Social Well-being, and Physical Well-being, and hire two part-time instructors.

Revenue	£27,000
Costs	-£92,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>-£65,000</b>

## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Establish the library, monthly seminars, and consultation services.

Revenue	£8,000
Costs	-£6,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,000</b>

## ENDOWMENT FUND

Establish the endowment fund, investing this initial capital into a seed portfolio of revenue-generating enterprises (average 4-5% annual returns).

<b>Total</b>	<b>£250,000</b>
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**TOTAL  
FUNDRAISING GOAL  
FOR SEED STAGE**

**£2 MILLION**

# Executive Team

The Wilaya Trust management brings together professionals with diverse yet complimentary backgrounds and skills, including scholars, academics, educationalists, entrepreneurs, project managers, and technology experts.

## TRUSTEES

Dr. Muhammad Isa Waley, MA (Cantab) PhD (London)  
Curator of Persian Manuscripts (Retired), British Library

Dr. Afifi al-Akiti, MA DPhil (Oxon)  
Lecturer in Theology, University of Oxford

Dr. Talal Al-Azem, MA DPhil (Oxon)  
Research Fellow in Islamic History, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### **Talal Al-Azem (Managing Director)**

Dr. Talal Al-Azem, MA DPhil (Oxon), is a historian at the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Oxford. His academic work focuses on Islamic law and education, and he has served as a consultant and academic advisor to a number of scholarly publishers and research foundations internationally.

### **Neamul Mohsin (Finance Manager)**

Neamul Mohsin is an associate director on the investment team for Oxford University's £2bn endowment, where he helps manage a multi-asset class investment approach to investing and growing the endowment. Prior to this, he worked in a similar capacity at a \$2bn family office in London and started his career in the corporate finance and consulting divisions of Arthur Andersen, Deloitte, and Price Waterhouse Coopers.

### **Shehzad Najib (Project Manager)**

Shehzad Najib is a co-founder of Kinteract, a company producing software applications which serve as real-time digital records for a child's development in primary and secondary schools. He has over a decade of experience in the educational and financial sectors for companies such as Pearson's and Barclays.

### **Caroline O'Connor (Operations Manager)**

Caroline O'Connor is a qualified and experienced primary teacher, with an MSc in Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise. She has been involved in establishing numerous projects in Oxford and serves on the governing body of a number of schools in South East England. Caroline is also the founder of a successful homeschooling collective in Oxford.



# Ways to Support

- One-off donations (sadaqa)
- Zakat
- Standing orders / pledges
- Legacy / bequests
- Donate real estate properties
- Donate investment shares
- Interest-free loans (qard hasana)
- Provide expertise as a health specialist, educationalist, craftsman, or other professional

## JUSTGIVING

<https://www.justgiving.com/otkf/donate> (please specify 'Wilaya Trust')

## PAYPAL

Log in to <http://paypal.com>, and send your donation to [info@wilayatrust.org](mailto:info@wilayatrust.org).

## BANK TRANSFER

**Bank Address:** The Co-operative Bank PLC  
1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

**Account Name:** Wilaya Trust

**Account Number:** 65379336

**Sort Code:** 08-92-99

**IBAN:** GB 02 CP BK 0892 9965 3793 36

**SWIFT:** CP BK GB 22

## STANDING ORDER

A. Instruct your bank to set up a standing order, online or by going in to your branch, by providing the trust's bank information as provided to the left.

B. Fill in the standing order, and post it directly to your bank or send to:  
Wilaya Trust, 150 Headley Way, Oxford OX3 7SZ.

## GIFTAID

Your donation — whether made via JustGiving, PayPal, or your bank — is eligible for Gift Aid, which allows the charity to claim 28% more at no additional cost to you. Simply inform us in writing or via email ([info@wilayatrust.org](mailto:info@wilayatrust.org)) that you are a UK taxpayer, and that you would like us to collect Gift Aid on your behalf.

## GIVE AS YOU EARN

With Give As You Earn, your donation is taken from your pre-tax salary, meaning that part of your donation comes from money that would have otherwise gone to HMRC. Donating this way allows you give even more to your favourite charity and to ensure it receives regular financial support. You can use this scheme to give to any charity recognised by HMRC for tax purposes. For more information, see <https://www.cafonline.org/my-personal-giving/plan-your-giving/caf-give-as-you-earn>.

To discuss how you can contribute to the Wilaya Trust or to arrange a meeting, please contact us at [info@wilayatrust.org](mailto:info@wilayatrust.org), or call Neamul Mohsin at +44 (0)7908 529165.

## **Wilaya** (Ar.):

- (a) friendship, closeness, and proximity;
- (b) the quality of being the object of someone else's concern and support;
- (c) God's concern for those whom He loves, and for those who love Him.

The Wilaya Trust is a registered charity, no. 1137354.

[www.wilayatrust.org](http://www.wilayatrust.org)