

Nishkam Primary School Birmingham - Determined Admissions Arrangements for Reception September 2024

School name	Nishkam Primary School Birmingham		
School address	3 -11 Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9SN		
Headteacher	Gurpreet Kaur	Tel no:	0121 647 6890
Contact for Admissions	Sandeep Riar	Tel no:	0121 647 6890
Admission Number	60		

Introduction

The Nishkam Primary School Birmingham (NPSB) is an exceptional state funded independent school. It is a non-selective, inclusive school for both boys and girls aged 4 - 11 years. NPSB is a Sikh ethos multi-faith school open to all. The school is a member of the multi-academy trust of schools known as the Nishkam School Trust (NST).

NST School Vision

To empower children with values to enable them to excel academically and spiritually, enabling them to serve humanity selflessly (*Nishkam*) with an abundance of love, compassion and forgiveness.

Sikh ethos

Encourages pupils to practice their own faith whilst learning about major world religions and supporting others to practice their respective faiths.

Multi-faith approach

Encourages and supports pupils of all faiths and none in a context of shared values.

At NPSB we believe that all pupils can succeed when given outstanding teaching, pastoral care and family support. We offer academic excellence with faith inspired values. The overall Nishkam approach to education can be summarised as: "More than Academic Excellence, More than a School, More than Self".

Faith Inspired - learning from the wisdom of religions

At Nishkam Schools, our pupils explore the divine context of humanity and wonder of all creation. They not only learn about, but also learn from, the wisdom of religions and in so doing explore the infinite human potential to do good unconditionally. We support pupils to develop aspects of their own religious, spiritual or human identities. They learn about serenity through prayer and humility in service and in so doing, they deepen their own respective faith, and respect the common purpose of all religious traditions, as well as respecting the beliefs of those with no faith tradition. They explore the unique divinity of the individual, and our common humanity.

Pupils are enabled to commit to and practise their faith/belief through knowledge, and experiential learning. Commitment in faith may be demonstrated by pupils through faith initiation (eg Baptism/Amritdhari) and regular faith practice (prayer, service and understanding elements of scripture).

Virtues Led - nurturing compassionate, responsible human beings

At Nishkam Schools, we believe that the fostering of human virtues forms the foundation of all goodness. Our curricula are carefully enriched to allow experiences where our pupils, teachers and parents alike learn to grow through a conscious focus on virtues. Our virtues-led education approach helps to provide guidance to enable pupils to understand their choices in order to help lead better lives. Our pupils become self-reflective and flourish: they are able to build strong, meaningful relationships and understand their responsibilities to the global family and all creation founded in faith.

Aspiring for Excellence - in all that we do

At Nishkam Schools, our pupils and staff alike aim to become the best human beings they can possibly be, in

all aspects of spiritual, social and academic life. We foster a school culture which inspires optimism and hope, as well as determination and confidence. for all to achieve their best possible. This is accomplished through a rich and challenging curriculum. along with excellent teaching to nurture awe and wonder. Pupils gain a breadth and depth of knowledge and a love of learning to achieve their full potential.

Background

Applications are welcome from pupils of all faiths and none. Offers will be made according to the oversubscription criteria set out below.

The Sikh *Dharam* (faith, religion) is emphatic about respecting all religions and beliefs, and does not seek to convert others.

The school has a strong Sikh ethos multi-faith approach, promoting respect for all religions and faiths. Further details of the School's ethos and values are available on the school website: www.NishkamSchoolTrust.org

Overview of Admissions Process

How to apply for Reception Year in September 2024

The NPSB admissions process is administered through the Birmingham "Local Authority Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme".

- **All** applicants must apply to the Local Authority (LA) in which the child lives by completing the Common Application Form (CAF), also known as the Local Authority Preference Form (LAPF).
- Applicants applying for any faith place must also complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return it to the school.

The appropriate form/s must be received on time by the local authority and school respectively. Late applications will be considered as 'In-Year Application'.

Full details and key dates are provided by each local authority. Many LAs only accept online applications. It's important to understand your LAs admissions guidance, which is available on their website (for example: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions) and in council offices.

How to make an In-Year application

Applications made outside the normal admissions round (called 'In-Year application') are made directly to the school(s) concerned. The local authority will provide an 'In-Year' application form for parents to complete on request but applications must be returned to the school, not to the local authority.

Applicants applying for any faith place must also complete the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and return it to the school.

If a place is available and there is no waiting list then the school will admit the new applicant. If more applications are received than there are places available then all applications on the waiting list will be ranked in accordance with the over-subscription criteria.

Children with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Under section 43 of the Children's and Families Act 2014, schools that are named in section I of a final EHCP must admit the child into their setting.

This gives such children overall priority for admission to the named school. This is not an over-subscription criterion.

Over subscription

Where the number of applications received is equal to or fewer than the published admissions number all applicants will be offered a place without being ranked.

Where the number of applications is greater than the published admission number, all applications will be ranked using the over-subscription criteria set out below.

When applying through the Faith category, if the Supplementary Information Form is incomplete, your application will automatically be placed under the Open category.

Over subscription Criteria

Where the number of applicants is greater than the published admission number, up to 50% of places will be offered to each of the following categories.

Category 1 – Faith based places

Faith based applicants will be ranked in the following order.

Priority Faith-based places

- i. LAC Looked After Children, PLAC Previously Looked-After Children or IAPLAC Internationally adopted previously looked after children¹.
– applying for a faith place.
- ii. Siblings² – applying for a faith place.
- iii. Children of staff³ – applying for a faith place.

Remaining Faith-based places will be allocated in the following order.

- iv. Child (and/or parent/s or guardian/s) is/are Amritdhari⁴ (formally initiated) Sikhs.
- v. Keshdhari Sikh child (has uncut hair).
- vi. Child (and/or parent/guardian) is/are baptised (or formally initiated) in their respective religion.

All applicants applying under the Faith category will need to provide confirmation of religious initiation or practice by completing the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and ensuring sections B or C are countersigned by an appropriate religious official or authorised signatory from an appropriate place of worship. The SIF can be obtained from the school or the school website.

Category 2 – Open Places

Open place applicants will be ranked in the following order.

Priority Open places

- vii. LAC Looked After Children, PLAC Previously Looked-After Children or IAPLAC Internationally adopted previously looked after children¹.
- viii. Siblings².
- ix. Children of staff³.

All other open place applicants will be ranked by proximity to the School using the distance data supplied by the Local Authority.

Under- subscription and over-subscription within a category

The following process will be followed when the 'faith' and/or 'open' place categories are undersubscribed or oversubscribed.

a. Under-subscription within a category

If the school is undersubscribed within a category additional offers will be made to children from the other category until the admission number of 60 is met or all applicants have been offered a place.

b. Over-subscription within a category or sub-category

Where the number of applications is greater than the admission number, all applications will be ranked using the oversubscription criteria set out above. Thereafter, all other applications will be ranked using proximity to the school based on the distance data provided by Birmingham Local Authority.

Tie-break

If a tie-break is necessary due to applicants living equidistant from the school, the relevant applicants will be ranked using a computerised random number generator programme.

Waiting list

The school will maintain a waiting list in the year of transfer until the end of the first academic term of the year. Places will be allocated in priority order of the oversubscription criteria. Each added child will require the list to be ranked again in line with the oversubscription criteria.

Appeals

Appeals against a decision not to offer you a school place are administered by the School Admissions and Pupil Placements Service, Birmingham City Council. Full details are available on the following link:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/207/appeal_against_a_decision_to_refuse_your_child_a_school_place

Summary of compulsory school age⁵ and options for starting school.

All parents must apply to enter the Reception Class in September after the child's fourth birthday. Although most children start school at this age the School Admissions Code provides some flexibility for parents who feel their child is not ready to start school in September following their fourth birthday. However, all children must start school when they have reached compulsory school age⁵ after their fifth birthday. The options and procedures for deferring or delaying admission are summarised below.

After receiving an offer to start school full time from the September after a child's fourth birthday parents may then write to the Headteacher to request to defer or delay the start, or to request to start on a part-time basis. The criteria and procedure for the various options are given below.

Deferring entry to Reception Year - options

Option 1: Defer starting Reception Year up until the child reaches compulsory school age⁵ (the first day of term following the child's fifth birthday). After a school place has been offered parents will need to write to the Headteacher to arrange the deferred start date. The school place will then be held until the first day of the spring or summer term as appropriate.

Option 2: Start part time until the child reaches compulsory school age⁵. After a school place has been offered parents will need to write to the Headteacher to request a part time start. The Headteacher will plan how to fit the part time admission into the organisation of the school.

Option 3: Defer entry until after the compulsory school age⁵, so as to start school in September after the fifth birthday. Once a school place has been offered parents will need to write to the Headteacher to request the deferred start date. However, the school place would not be held open for them for a whole year. Parents would need to make a new application for a place in the following September's intake. This would be for a Year One place; late applications will be considered as 'In Year Application' because their child would have missed the Reception Year.

If such parents believe that their child should start in the Reception Year instead, a year later than the child was due to start, this is called a delayed start. The procedure for requesting a delayed start is described in the

section below.

Delaying Reception Year admission or educating children outside their chronological age group.

Parents may request that their child is held back from joining the correct year group for their age and start Reception class a year later.

Such parents should still apply for a school place for the September following their child's fourth birthday. After receiving an offer of a school place parents would request their child to be educated outside their normal age group and be admitted to the Reception Class a year later. Parents would need to outline the reasons for making the request. However, parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted late. Each application will be considered on its own merits by the school and the decision confirmed to the parents.

A statutory right of appeal will be given upon refusal if no place has been offered in any school year.

Definitions

IA 'looked after child' or a child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, child arrangements, or special guardianship order including those who appear [to the admission authority] to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

² "Sibling". Where a child has a brother/sister, half brother/sister (where the children share one common parent), step brother/step sister or fostered/adopted sibling living at the same home address (i.e. the genuine *principal place of residence where they normally and regularly live*) and who will be still attending Nishkam Primary School Birmingham in September 2024.

(Where parents have a shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week (i.e. three out of the five days). Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes).

³Staff. Children of all teaching and non-teaching staff who have been employed at the school for at least two years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or a member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

⁴ Amritdhari (formally initiated) Sikh is defined in these arrangements as those who have undergone the *Khanda-ki-Pahul Amrit Sanchar* initiation.

⁵ 'Compulsory school age' is reached on the first day of term after a child's fifth birthday (or on the child's fifth birthday if it falls on the first day of term).

* A Supplementary Information Form is used by the Nishkam Primary School.