Nishkam Primary School Birmingham – ~~Determined~~ Proposed Admissions Arrangements for Reception September 202~~7~~8

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	Su~~a~~ndeep Riar	Tel no:	0121 647 6890
Admission Number	60		

School Statement

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

NSMAT 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.

The Sikh Dharam (Religion)

Encourages pupils to practise their own faith while learning about major world religions and supporting others to practise theirs.

Multi-faith approach

Encourages and supports pupils of all faiths and none through a framework of shared virtues.

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 virtues. The overall Nishkam approach to education can be summarised as: "Faith-Inspired, Virtues-Led, Aspiring for Excellence".

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, is 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 maybe 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 welcomed from pupils of all faiths and none. Offers are made according to the oversubscription criteria below.

The Sikh Dharam respects all religions and beliefs and does not seek to convert others.

Further details are available on the school website: www.NishkamSchoolTrust.org

Overview of Admissions Process

How to apply for Reception Year in September 2028~~7~~
The NPSB admissions process is administered through the Birmingham "Local Authority Co-ordinated Admissions Scheme".

1. Complete the Common Application Form (CAF) for the Local Authority where the child lives – and return to the LA by their given date. Information will be available on their website.

2. Applicants applying for a **faith place** must also complete and submit **both** Step 1 and Step 2 of the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) by ~~by~~ **15th January 2028~~7~~**

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

For Step 1 of t~~T~~he Supplementary Information Form (SIF), Place of Worship form can be downloaded from the school website and printed or a paper copy can be obtained from the school. Once this form is completed by a priest or secretary at your place of worship, the form will need to be **uploaded** to the school website under Admissions > How to Apply > SIF f~~F~~orm~~s~~ and other d~~D~~ocuments.

Late applications will only be considered after all on-time applications have been processed.

Full details and key dates are provided by each local authority. Please visit https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

How to make an In-Year application
For applications made outside the normal admissions round:

- Obtain an "In-Year Application Form" from the Local Authority.
- Return the completed form directly to the school.
- Applicants for faith places must also submit the in-year SIF on the school website.

If a place is available and no waiting list exists, the school will admit the applicant. Where more applications are received than available places, they will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria.

Children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs

Any child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school will be admitted. This takes priority and is not an oversubscription criterion.

Oversubscription Criteria

If there are more applicants than places, 50% of places will be allocated to the Faith-based places and 50% to Open places.

Category 1 – Faith-based places

Faith Places will be prioritised in the following order:

i. Looked After Children, Previously Looked-After Children or Internationally adopted previously looked after children[1]

~~ii. Siblings[2] of students at Nishkam Primary School Birmingham.~~

~~iii.~~ii. Children of staff[3]

~~iv.~~iii. Children and/or parents/guardians who is/are **Amritdhari**[4] (formally initiated) Sikhs.

iv. **Keshdhari** Sikh children (those with uncut hair)

v. Siblings[2] of students at Nishkam Primary School Birmingham

vi. Children and/or parents/guardians baptised or formally initiated in their respective faith.

Applicants under this category must submit **both** Step 1 and Step 2 of the **Supplementary Information Form (SIF)** on the school website.

Category 2 – Open Places

Open place applicants will be prioritised in the following order:

i. Looked After Children, Previously Looked-After Children or Internationally adopted previously looked after children[1]

ii. Siblings[2] of students at Nishkam Primary School Birmingham

iii. Children of Staff[3]

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

Undersubscription and Oversubscription within a category

- **Undersubscription:** If the Faith category has fewer applicants, remaining places will be offered to Open category applicants.
- **Oversubscription:** If applications exceed available places, oversubscription criteria set out above will be applied.

Tie-break

If two applicants in the same category live the same distance from school, random allocation will be used.

Waiting list

A waiting list will be maintained until the end of the first academic term. Applicants will be ranked according to the oversubscription criteria each time a child is added.

Fair Access Protocol

The school participates in LA's Fair Access Protocol. Pupils admitted under this protocol take priority over those on the waiting list. The school will notify the LA if it is able to accept.

Appeals

Appeals are managed by the School Admissions and Pupil Placement Service, Birmingham City Council. Parents wishing to appeal should visit:
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/207/appeal_against_a_decision_to_refuse_your_child_a_school_place
Appeals are handled by an independent appeals panel.

Summary of compulsory school age[5] and options for starting school.

Parents must apply for Reception entry in the September following their child's ~~fourth~~ 4th birthday. While most children start school at this point, the School Admissions Code allows flexibility for those who feel their child is not ready. However, all children must begin school by the term after their fifth birthday, when they reach compulsory school age[5].

After receiving an offer for full-time entry in September, parents may write to the Headteacher to request one of the following:

- A deferred start within the same academic year
- A part-time start
- A delayed start for summer-born children (to the following academic year)

Criteria and procedures for each option are outlined below.

Deferring entry to Reception Year – options

Option 1: Deferred Start

Parents can delay their child's start in Reception until they reach compulsory school age[5] (term after their 5th birthday). After a place is offered, they must write to the Headteacher to arrange this. The place will be held until the spring or summer term.

Option 2: Part-Time Start

Children can attend Reception part-time until compulsory school age[5]. Parents must write to the Headteacher to request this, and the school will plan accordingly.

Option 3: Entry After Compulsory School Age[5]

Parents may choose to start school the September after their child turns 5. They must reapply for a Year 1 place, as the Reception place won't be held.

If parents wish for their child to start Reception a year later than usual, this is called a delayed start. Details on how to request this are provided below.

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

Parents of summer born children (born between 1st April and 31st August) may not want their child to start school until the September following their fifth birthday. However, these applications will be considered for Year 1 not Reception. If parents want their child to start in Reception, they must request that their child is admitted outside their normal age group.

A separate written request must be made at the same time as making the online application for the child's actual age group. Supporting documentation can be uploaded if you wish to do so.

Parents are encouraged to discuss how their child's needs can be met in the Reception class at age 4 with the Headteacher. They should also read the Department for Education's advice for parents.

Children can access their reception year in any setting that is registered with Ofsted and meets the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework statutory requirements. This can be a childminder, pre-school, day nursery, or school reception class.

Process for delaying Reception Year admission

The admission authority for each school will decide based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child. Requests must include reasons and relevant evidence, which may cover:

- the parents' views
- recent information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- recent medical history and the views of a medical professional
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely

The views of the Headteacher will be an important part of this consideration. We may also gather information from any professionals involved with the child e.g. nursery education provider, educational psychologists, to consider whether any of the following apply:

- whether the child shows significant delay in intellectual development/education skills, across all subject area, to an extent that curriculum differentiation (with appropriate SEN resources) is not reasonable.
- whether the child's physical maturity places them in a position of being developmentally different from their peer group.
- whether the child shows an equivalent delay in emotional development and social skills, appropriate for a younger peer group.

What happens if a delayed admission is agreed?

- The current application will be withdrawn.
- A new application must be submitted for the following September.
- A place cannot be reserved for the next year, so there is no guarantee of a place at the same school—it depends on the number of applicants.

What happens if a delayed admission is not agreed?

- Parents can accept the place offered in the child's normal age group.
- Or they can refuse it and apply for Year 1 place in the September after the child's fifth birthday.

Parents have a statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if the child is offered a place at the school, but it is not in the preferred age group.

Definitions

[1]"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 202~~7~~8.

(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).

[3] 'Staff'. 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 Nishkam Primary School Birmingham.