



nishkamprimaryschool  
birmingham

# Prospectus



  
Ofsted  
Outstanding  
Provider

[nishkamschooltrust.org](http://nishkamschooltrust.org)



**A virtues led multi-faith school  
for 4-11 years**

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**Applications for Reception by  
15th Jan 2021**

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# Welcome to Nishkam Primary School

Dear Parent/ Guardian,  
A really warm welcome and thank you for  
considering Nishkam Primary School.

**Nishkam Primary School is a Sikh ethos, multi-faith school for boys and girls aged 4 to 11, part of the multi-academy Nishkam School Trust.**

We are delighted to welcome applicants to our school located at Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham. The staff and pupils have found it to be a stimulating and exciting educational environment.

It is our ambition to go beyond academic excellence and provide a faith-inspired, value-led experience to prepare our students to become the compassionate leaders of tomorrow. We believe in bringing together students, parents, teachers and the wider community to build an environment to enable pupils to flourish as well as recognise and realise their full potential.

We have a unique multi-faith ethos whereby we positively nurture children of all faiths and those of no faith. The 'Nishkam' ethos is to create a 'selfless' mind-set, to go beyond ourselves to serve others. We hope you find our vision inspiring.

We are now accepting admissions for students entering reception in September 2021. To apply please contact the admissions department at your local council. <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions> In addition to this please fill in the enclosed Supplementary Information Form if you are applying for a faith-based place and hand in to the school office.

In choosing the right school for your child, it is vital for you to be able to come and see us. However, this year we are very sorry this will not be possible during this COVID period; however we will be uploading videos and our prospectus to the website no later than the 11th November. We hope this will give you a good flavour of school life. <https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/npsb/page/?title=Open+events&pid=281>

Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school if you require any further information by calling 0121 647 6890 or emailing enquiries. [NPSB@nishkamschools.org](mailto:NPSB@nishkamschools.org)

“We believe in bringing together students, parents, teachers and the wider community to build an environment to enable pupils to flourish as well as recognise and realise their full potential.”

Yours faithfully,

Nishkam Primary School Team





# Nishkam Vision

## Faith-Inspired

Learning from the  
wisdom of religions

## Virtues-led

Nurturing compassionate,  
responsible humans

## Aspiring for Excellence

In all that we do

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.

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.

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.



# Introduction to the Nishkam Passport

**A personal copy of the 'Nishkam Passport' is given to all pupils across all our schools and nurseries.**

The aim of the Nishkam Passport is to help support the nurturing of virtues and the development of character in each child. It is a key document to help realise our Trust's vision:

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

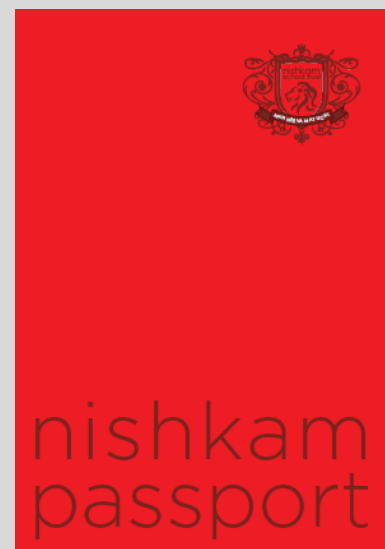
The Passport will help our children further understand our virtues and self assess how well they are doing.

The Nishkam virtues are based on teachings from many faiths, sacred texts and cultures to promote spiritual growth.

The virtues that we teach will help in a practical way as we travel and develop throughout our lives. They will be our guide during uncertain times, our support when making difficult decisions, and encouragement to be selfless, compassionate and ultimately see humankind and creation as one.

We ask parents to support the school virtues programme, modelling virtues at home and helping children to complete the Passport at home.

The Nishkam Passport contains 50 virtues, each virtue is explained with a definition and children are guided about how to live each virtue with 'signs of success'. There is an opportunity for children to record their 'Success Virtue' and a 'Growth Virtue' in their student planner. There are opportunities for reflection which encourage learners to record thoughts and ideas.



# NPSB judged Ofsted 'Outstanding' in all categories

## Key findings:

Rigorous checks on teaching by senior leaders have had a very positive impact in making sure that teaching has improved enormously over the last two years.

Children get off to an excellent start in the extremely effective Reception classes and are prepared exceptionally well for their move into Year 1.

All groups of pupils at all ages make rapid progress. They achieve high standards in relation to their different starting points.

Class teachers and associate teachers (extra adult support in class) aim high and always want pupils to do their very best. They provide teaching of excellent quality, and set demanding work that stimulates pupils and moves them on quickly in their learning.

Adults make sure pupils become competent learners. They give pupils many opportunities to use and strengthen their learning skills.

Senior leaders and teachers check pupils' learning regularly and provide prompt support for any who are in danger of falling behind. However, assessment systems have not yet been updated for teachers to check pupils' progress through the new curriculum.

Pupils behave extremely well at all times. They are exceptionally polite and courteous to each other and to adults. This creates an environment that is highly conducive to effective learning.

Pupils are kept very safe at all times. They enjoy school and attendance is above average.

Members of the Board of Directors and the school's governors keep very close contact with the school and know it exceptionally well.

They have high expectations for all staff members, which they make clear through setting challenging targets for teachers' work. They play a central role in planning for the school's development and improvement



The full report can be found at <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspectionreport/provider/ELS/137492>



# Senior Leadership Team



## **Mrs D Westwood - Director of Primary Education**

Mrs Westwood is the Director of Primary Education for the Nishkam School Trust and Principal of both Nishkam Primary School Birmingham and Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton.

As an experienced Head Teacher and Senior Leader for the last 10 years Debbie has a track record of success with moving schools from requires improvement to outstanding and her passion lies in working with schools in challenging contexts on all areas of school improvement.

She has experience of leading more than one school on many occasions and has been a School Improvement Adviser for the last two years in another Multi-Academy Trust with 16 primary schools under her remit.

During her time as a Head Teacher her school was awarded the following;

SIAMS Inspection April 2016 – Outstanding  
OFSTED Inspection in November 2017 – Outstanding in all areas

SSAT Educational Outcomes National Awards for Closing the Gap for Disadvantaged Pupils, Children's Attainment in top 20%, Children's progress in top 10% for the last 3 years

Ranked top Primary School in the Birmingham Mail 2018

Platinum Status for the Sustainable Schools Programme in Birmingham

Shortlisted for TES Primary School of the Year 2018

Shortlisted for Head Teacher of the Year at the Birmingham Education Awards 2019

Won Primary School of the Year at the Birmingham Education Awards 2019

Received letters of congratulations from the Rt Hon Nick Gibb and Damian Hinds for excellent pupil progress – top 2% and top 3% in the last two years.

Mrs Westwood is thrilled to have joined the Nishkam Family and believes that when all parties come together we can achieve amazing things that will help to improve the life chances of children in our care.



## **Gurpreet Kaur, Interim Head Teacher, Nishkam Primary School, has 10 years of experience gained in schools in Scotland and the West Midlands.**

With a background as a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, Newly Qualified Teacher mentor, Mathematics Lead, Behaviour Lead and KS2 lead, she has developed and strengthened her skills and knowledge in teaching and learning and leadership.

As Assistant Head Teacher for 6 years, Gurpreet was instrumental to the school's success in its last Ofsted inspection. Specific mention was given to her effectiveness in 'improving the school a great deal in all areas of its work' since its previous inspection.

Gurpreet is passionate about teaching and learning and is constantly looking at ways to raise standards across the school. She believes it is up to us as educators to create a culture of high aspirations and expectations to bring out the best in all of our children.

She is a firm believer that everyone should strive for excellence in academia as well as personal and spiritual development. As a member of the Sikh faith, Gurpreet feels that the school's unique virtues approach is what sets us apart from other schools.

"We are consciously developing in our children, the tools they need to make better choices for the greater good."

Gurpreet has been with Nishkam Primary School since the very beginning of its journey and has watched the school go from strength to strength. She has built strong links with the community and is well known by children and families. She realises the school's potential to develop even further and looks forward to working with you all in partnership to achieve wonderful things for our children.



# Senior Leadership Team



**Carolyn Prior, Interim Deputy Headteacher**

Miss Prior has 13 years of experience gained in both faith and non-faith schools across the West Midlands.

Studying Initial Teacher Training for 4 years at Newman University, Miss Prior gained a wealth of pedagogical understanding and practice. With her academic background in English and the arts, and her firm understanding of pedagogical practices, she began her early stages of her career being a creative and inspiring practitioner in Year 5 and Year 6.

With experience teaching across all key stages and a drive and passion for high quality teaching and education, Miss Prior naturally moved into leadership. As well as leading a range of subjects, such as science, art, maths and outdoor learning, Miss Prior also managed a team of staff as a Key Stage 2 Phase Leader. She is also a trained mentor for both Trainee Teachers and Newly Qualified Teachers – a role she thoroughly enjoys.

Throughout all these roles, she has successfully raised standards in teaching and learning across the school and implemented new initiatives effectively.

Alongside her previous and current role, Miss Prior is also a Specialist Leader of Education in mastery maths. Through this system leadership, she provides external training, support and consultancy work to other schools in the West Midlands.

Miss Prior believes that teaching is a vocation and a service to others. She believes that schools should have a holistic approach to education; where children should achieve and excel not only academically, but socially, personally and spiritually. A philosophy that she has held greatly throughout her career is: "When there is joy in what they are doing, they learn to love learning." Miss Prior believes children should enjoy their education and will reach excellence through this love of learning.



**Sophie Worthington, Assistant Headteacher**

Sophie started her journey as a class teacher in Leeds. As a consistently outstanding practitioner, she was used as a model of outstanding practice both within the school she was teaching and by other schools in the local area from as early as her NQT year. A year later Sophie relocated to Nottingham where she was appointed as a Year 6 Teacher, Key Stage Two Co-Ordinator and English Lead. In her role as Key Stage Two and English Lead, Sophie was a driving force when implementing the new National Curriculum objectives and with the design of the school assessment system and has a track record for improving the progress and attainment of pupils in Reading and Writing.

Shortly after starting, Sophie was asked to work within the local authority where she was able to introduce, share and support with the implementation of effective strategies to improve teaching and learning in not only her school, but other schools across Nottinghamshire.

As part of this role, Sophie was regularly observed by other professionals from within the local authority to share outstanding practice and support their development as teachers.

As a Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) Sophie continued to support various schools in developing their practice. In addition, Sophie was asked to speak at one of Nottinghamshire's largest teach meets – where over 30 primary schools attended – sharing her expertise on Assessment for learning (AFL) and questioning, feedback and marking and leaders of learning.

In addition to her SLE role, Sophie was lucky enough to be put forward as a knowledgeable teacher; delivering training through the Raising Achievement Network which specialised in marking and feedback. Sophie was observed by other practitioners regularly over the course of six months to help develop aspiring middle leaders.

As a reflective practitioner, Sophie strives to continually develop whilst facilitating and learning from others. Education is ever changing, and teachers need to lead from the front and not be afraid to take risks. Sophie believes that fostering a love of learning amongst children, and adults alike, is an essential part of her role and fundamental for the development of teaching and learning.

# Curriculum

The education and curriculum offered at Nishkam Primary School Birmingham is guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the National Curriculum.

We work to these guidelines whilst enriching the curriculum and extending the child's experience to achieve wholesome learning and foster children's 'Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.' Parents and families have vital roles to play and to support pupils. Learning from our heritage, history, religion, language and culture, these elements as well as enrichment activities such as sport, music and arts are incorporated into daily life at school.

The creative curriculum includes the subjects Geography, History, Art, DT, and ICT. Where possible we also link RE and Science to the topic. The children study six topics over the course of the year, one per half term. The children learn the core skills of each area and are taught to think and question in more depth with regard to each topic. The creative curriculum promote

independence, higher order thinking skills and resilience and enable the children to work individually with a partner or within a group.

We use 'Oxford Reading Tree' as our core reading scheme but this is supplemented with other books in a 'Book Banding' system in order to provide breadth, challenge and consolidation. Children are taught phonics using primarily 'Letters and Sounds' this provides them with a carefully structured, developmental approach to reading using synthetic phonics. Literacy skills are linked to and applied in all areas of the curriculum.

At Nishkam Primary School Birmingham we aim to provide our pupils with activities aimed at complementing their learning with a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to broaden their horizon and add breadth to their learning opportunities.

“The creative curriculum promote independence, higher order thinking skills and resilience and enable the children to work individually with a partner or within a group. “





# School Food

**healthy made daily well balanced  
delicious fresh ingredients**

## 2-week rotation menu

- All meals are vegetarian
- All meals will be nut free and egg free
- All meals freshly prepared
- No harmful additives or hydrogenated fats are used
- Products containing GM Foods are not knowingly used

There will be a daily salad bar that includes: Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Red Onion, Pickles, Chillies, Sweet Corn, Omega 3 seeds, Cheese,

Children will have the option of selecting one main dish (option 1 or 2) accompanied with vegetables/ salad and a dessert.

## The vegetarian diet

It is widely recognised that a well-balanced vegetarian diet can provide all the nutrients your body needs, and there is much scientific evidence to indicate that vegetarians may be healthier than meat-eaters.

A vegetarian diet is healthy because it is typically low in saturated and total fat, high in dietary fibre and complex carbohydrate, and high in the minerals and vitamins present in fresh fruit and vegetables.

## A healthy diet for children

Childhood nutrition has a significant influence on health and development throughout life. As children grow, their nutritional needs are proportionally much greater than those of adults, and the consequences of a poor diet will be long lasting. A good diet protects against everyday illness and ensures the development of strong bones and teeth, firm muscles and healthy tissues.

In 2000, the 'Healthy School Lunches...' publications made the following recommendations concerning a healthy diet for children aged five years and over:

- The diet should be balanced, with plenty of variety and enough energy for growth and development
- Plenty of fibre-rich starchy foods such as bread, rice, pasta, potatoes and yams should be included in the diet
- Plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit should be included
- Children should not eat too many fatty foods, especially foods containing saturated fat
- The diet should contain moderate amounts of dairy products
- Children should not have sugary foods and drinks too often.



# Example Lunch Menu



	Week 1	Week 2
<b>MONDAY</b>	Brown lentils/chapati Tofu Noodles/Salad Fruit salad/yoghurt/ Chocolate cake and custard	Chickpea lentils/chapati Quiche/Diced potatoes Beans/Salad Chocolate krispies/fruit salad/yoghurt
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Chickpea curry/Naan Lasagne/Corn on the cob/Salad Semian/fruit/yogurt/	Mattar Paneer/Naan Spaghetti with tomato basil sauce Garlic bread/Salad Vanilla sponge cake and custard/fruit/yoghurt
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Mattar Paneer/Rice/Jacket potatoes Chilli/cheese/beans/Salad Fruit/apple crumble/yoghurt	Brown lentils Mixed veg sabji with plain yoghurt Roti/Jacket potatoes Chilli/cheese/beans/Salad Fruit/yoghurt/fruit custard
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Yellow lentils/chapatti/Pizza Beans/salad Angel delight/fruit/ Yoghurt	Soya chunks/Sabji Roti/Pizza/Chips Salad Angel delight/fruit/yoghurt
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Potato curry/chapati Vegi burger Corn on the cob/salad Kheer/fruit/yoghurt	Chickpea curry/Bhatore Sausages Mash made with fresh potatoes Carrots and gravy/Salad Ice cream/fruit/yoghurt



# Uniform

Nishkam School pupils are ambassadors of the school and all schools in the trust. We believe our uniform fosters a sense of belonging, pride and identity. It sets high standards for students and makes an important contribution to a positive and purposeful working environment. We ask that parents support us with the uniform policy and ensure pupils come to school with smart, clean uniform on every day.

The schools uniform supplier is My Uniform Hub

Please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's name; this is very important as we cannot take responsibility for unnamed items.

UNIFORM		Items available from My Uniform Hub	Available from other retail outlets e.g. supermarkets
GIRLS			
Compulsory	School regulation blazer (mid grey, red trim and school crest)	•	
	School tie	•	
	School regulation jumper/cardigan (red with school crest)	•	
	Grey pinafore/trousers (mid grey)	•	•
	Chunni (head scarf) for Sikh students during prayers (mid grey)	•	
	Blouse (white)	•	•
	Tights/socks (mid grey)	•	•
	Shoes (black)		•
	Reading bag	•	
	Red gingham dress	•	•
Summer Uniform:	White tights	•	•
BOYS			
Compulsory	School regulation blazer (mid grey, red trim and school crest)	•	
	School tie	•	
	School regulation jumper ( red with school crest)	•	
	Dastar/ Patka for Sikh students/ All head coverings (mid grey)	•	
	Shirt (white)	•	•
	Trousers (mid grey)	•	•
	Shoes (black)		•
	Reading bag	•	
BOYS/GIRLS PE; Compulsory	White Polo t-shirt with logo	•	
	Black sports shorts	•	•
	Black track suit bottoms	•	•
	Slip on pumps (indoor only)	•	•
	PE bag with logo	•	
	Trainers (outdoor only)		•

# Our School

NPSB brings together the school, family and community to form a lifelong bond.

**We value all our parents, staff and community members to making a difference in the lives of all our children. Our children are dressed, well behaved, proud and yet humble to be part of the Nishkam family.**

Virtues and Faith Development (FD) is taught in Nishkam schools as a discrete aspect of RE in all years. FD is focused on the values, virtues, dispositions, practice and impact of faith. It is about learning what it is to be human and the values that inspire the highest aspirations of humanity. FD is best promoted through inspirational teaching that motivates pupils' interest and commitment.

We have regular parent Workshops, which are designed to help parents understand the teaching methods used in school.





# Partnership with Parents

The school believes that working in partnership with parents is vital for pupils to progress and to enhance their well-being. We communicate with parents regularly in the following ways:

## **Reporting and Feedback**

Each term during the school year you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher to talk about his or her progress. These meetings are also a chance for you to ask questions, and tell your child's teacher about his or her life outside school.

You can bring your child with you to these meetings. Teachers encourage the children to come along and join in the discussion about their progress at school. At the end of the school year you will be sent a written report that gives details about your child's progress. You can always see your child's teacher if you have any concerns about their life at school. It can be difficult for teachers to make time at the beginning and end of the day as they need to ensure pupil safety without distraction from individual parents. You can phone the school to make an appointment or you can also make an appointment to see the Head Teacher if you prefer.

## **School Reports**

You will receive an annual written report on your child's attainment and progress for the academic year they have just completed/about to complete. You will have the opportunity to discuss the report with the class teacher at the parents' evening held in July. There are also parent/teacher consultations held in October and February.

## **Children's Progress**

Through a series of workshops and assemblies, parents and carers will have the opportunity to see how their child is doing at school.

## **Workshops**

We will hold parent workshops regularly. Parents/carers are invited to come to Nishkam Primary and spend an afternoon working with their child. This is a special time where we want to give parents the opportunity to focus completely on their child, enjoying creative activities and helping them to learn the basic literacy and numeracy. If parents are unable to attend, we would be delighted to welcome grandparents.

## **Class Assemblies**

These will be held regularly and you will be invited through the school newsletter. These occasions will present an excellent insight into the work of the school and there will also be special events and faith based assemblies which we hope you will be able to attend. Nishkam Primary School want to ensure the privacy and protection of its pupils and so videos and other recording devices are not permitted at school events. We feel that young children can be easily distracted when performing for parents.

## **The Curriculum**

Each term teachers will send the parent/carer details of the curriculum programme for each year group. This also includes details of homework and how you can support your child.

## **School Newsletters**

You will receive our regular school newsletters, which will inform you of useful dates, and curriculum developments. Regularly news will be added to our website as well as useful links for parents to gain a better understanding of their child's

# Example school day

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>8:40-8.50</b>	SoDA (start of day activity) Independent reading/ Name Writing	SoDA (start of day activity) Independent reading/ Name Writing	SoDA (start of day activity) Independent reading/ Name Writing	SoDA (start of day activity) Independent reading/ Name Writing	SoDA (start of day activity) Independent reading/ Name Writing
<b>8.50-9.15</b>	Nurture groups	Nurture groups	Nurture groups	Nurture groups	Nurture groups
<b>9.15-10.35</b>	Literacy	Literacy	PE	Literacy	Literacy
<b>10.35-11.00</b>	Break Time (Milk & Fruit)				
<b>11:00-11:30</b>	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	Lunch (with Prayer)				
<b>12:30-13:40</b>	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
<b>13:40-14:00</b>	Break & Snack time				
<b>14:00-15:00</b>	Topic	Faith Development/ Punjabi	Topic	Topic	Topic
<b>15:00-15:20</b>	Collective Worship	Story time	Story time	Story time	Celebration Assembly
<b>15:25</b>	Reflection and end of school day				



# Summary of application process for Reception 2021

Pupil admissions will open for Reception on 1st October 2020.

You may choose to apply either through:

1. A **Faith category place** (50% of all places). If you are a practising member of a religion you may choose to apply through this category. Please complete Steps 1 and 2.
2. An **Open place** (the remaining 50% of places). If you are not a practising member of a faith please complete Step 1 only.

Please see [admissions Criteria](#)



# Summary of application process for Reception 2021

## STEP 1 - For all applicants

**All applicants must complete the Preference/Application Form for school's admissions from your Local Authority, where you live, before 15th January 2021.**

The Local Authority Preference/Application full guidance and form for school admissions may be found on the following websites (depending on where you live), for example:

**Birmingham:**

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school\\_admissions/1786/apply\\_for\\_reception\\_primary\\_school](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20119/school_admissions/1786/apply_for_reception_primary_school)

Please ensure if you are applying under the staff or sibling category this is stated when completing your preferences.

## STEP 2 - For Faith category places only

If you are applying for a place based on faith, (50% of all places), please kindly complete this application by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Please download and complete the Nishkam School's [Supplementary Information Form \(SIF\)](#). Please ensure it is also countersigned by the appropriate religious authority by obtaining the signature and stamp from your place of worship. Complete the online form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NPSBSIF>, on which you will be requested to upload the countersigned section.

**If your place of worship is inaccessible due to COVID-19**, and therefore you are unable to obtain a signature from your place of worship, please instead make a self-declaration with your own signature on this form. In this case, the entire form can be completed on the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NPSBSIF>.

Please note any incorrect or incomplete Supplementary forms, or forms received beyond the relevant deadlines, will unfortunately have to be legally rejected and the place will automatically be ranked within the open category.

## STEP 3

Your Local Authority in which you live will notify you of which school your child has gained a place in on National Offer Day, 16th April for Primary Schools.



# Frequently Asked Questions

***Can I still apply to school if I live in a different local authority to that of the school?***

Yes. All applicants are processed in the same way regardless of the Local Authority. Applications for school places can only be made through the LA where the child lives permanently and not through the LA where the school is based.

***Where can I find the criteria used to assess applications for Faith places?***

These criteria are given in the Nishkam School's Admissions Criteria document, available from the school office or from the school website. Admissions

***How is the faith criteria determined? What if I supply additional information on the SIF form?***

Guidance from the national School Admissions Code is used in creating objective and transparent faith admissions criteria. The School can only consider information in the SIF and the School Admissions criteria. Admissions

***Does the distance I live away from the school matter?***

If you are applying under the Open (Non-Faith) category the applications will be ranked by the distance you live from the school. If you are applying through the Faith category, distance away from the school is only used in 'tie-brake' circumstances.

***If your child does not meet the criteria of the faith category, is it better to apply through the Open criteria?***

It is your decision regarding which category you choose to apply under and depends on the distance you live from the school. It is possible your child may be placed on a lower ranking under the faith category than if you applied directly through the open category if you live nearer the school.

***Can I appeal?*** Appeals against a decision not to offer you a school place are administered by the School Appeals Team Full details are available on the following link: Appeals

***Where can I get more information about how the admissions process works?***

The local authority also provides information on how the process works through booklets, via the Local Authority website and through advisors/officers within the admissions teams.

***Does it make a difference when I apply for the school?***

No. All applications are collated by the local authority and given to the school at the same time.

***Does putting only one preference mean I'm more likely to get in?***

No. All schools are allocated on how your child meets the admissions criteria and the number of school places available. If you do not get a place in your only preference the local authority will offer you a place at a school that still has places. This may be a long way from your home. Therefore it is really important to request as many schools as possible, so you maximise your chances of getting a school of your choice.

***How does the school check the Supplementary Information provided?***

The Admissions Team checks all forms carefully and looks out for any false information. The team makes extra checks if notified about a fraudulent application. If someone is found to have provided false information to get a place at a certain school, then the offer of a place may be withdrawn, and the place offered to another child. If there is not sufficient information on the Supplementary Information Form it will be rejected and the application will be added to the open category.

***Am I in the catchment area?***

The admissions criteria does not use catchment areas to decide on whether a pupil receives a place.



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