

Prospectus







A virtues led multi-faith school for boys and girls aged 4-11

> Applications for Reception by 15th January 2021

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Welcome to Nishkam Primary School

We are delighted to welcome applicants to our school located at Great Brickkiln Street, Wolverhampton. 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, valueled experience to prepare our students to become the compassionate leaders of tomorrow. We believe in bringing together pupils, 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.

We also can accommodate in year admissions as and when places become available so please do register your interest by contacting Mrs Bahia on 01902 537 970 (option 3 or via email on enquiries.NPSW@ nishkamschools.org.

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/npsw/page/?title=Open+ev ents&pid=356 Alternatively, If you would like to come and see the school we can book individual appointments, so please do contact the school so we can book an appointment for you. We look forward to seeing you. "The 'Nishkam' ethos is to create a 'selfless' mind-set, to go beyond ourselves to serve others. We hope you find our vision inspiring. "

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.

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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.

nishkam passport



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 of 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

contact the teacher via a messaging service that we have in school, which allows direct communication between parent and teacher.

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. We have an open-door policy and endeavour to accommodate every child's needs.

Workshops

Parent workshops are held regularly to keep you informed and updated of what children learn in school. Workshops include literacy, mathematics, keeping children safe, faith & values, amongst many more.

We also have open mornings

where you have the opportunity to experience what your child is learning.

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.

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 Newsletter

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

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

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.



Mr H Singh Dhanjal -Headteacher

As an inspirational leader, Mr Dhanjal has led his team to achieve a fantastic Ofsted outcome in February 2020 where Leadership and Management was recognised as Outstanding. With over 20 years of experience in a variety of settings, across the full age range, Mr Dhanjal's experience has successfully raised pupil's academic achievements, led school teams, provided strategic leadership and introduced new curriculums. He is passionate about education and strongly believes that 'each child only has one chance to excel, it's our duty to provide outstanding education to bring out the very best from our children. One must see education from as many different perspectives as possible in order to fully appreciate the opportunities and challenges that exist.'

Over the years Harmander has lead teams successfully to achieve the best results in two schools. Working at a lead **Outstanding Academy** chain, Dixons, in West Yorkshire, Harmander led his team to achieve the best results in the school's history, a record that has been upheld since 2008. He has also excelled in leading the ICT department where he raised pupil achievement to a record high within the first twelve months. He demands ambitious targets and is committed to providing quality first teaching.

Having been part of a variety of Ofsted inspections across a range of schools, Harmander has taken opportunities to shadow Her Majesty's Inspectors in Ofsted inspections.

His commitment to education has also led him to work with the BAME community where he has delivered programmes of study on the Junior Windsor Fellowship Programme to raise aspirations and achievement of minority groups.

In his spare time, Mr Dhanjal volunteers his time in a range of projects which include feeding the homeless and speaking about faith, amongst others. His personal and professional life are closely aligned to the Nishkam vision.

Senior Leadership Team



Mr J Gomersall, Deputy Head Teacher, Mr Gomersall is an experienced and motivational leader with over fifteen-years of teaching pedigree at various state maintained and independent schools in the UK and mainland Europe. During this time, he has successfully led school improvement initiatives, introduced new curriculums, led a variety of subjects at outstanding schools. Prior to joining Nishkam in 2016 he worked as a Deputy Head at a highly successful Staffordshire independent pr eparatory school.

Justin spent his early teaching years working in state-maintained school in Oxfordshire predominantly as a phase leader alongside leading the Science, PE and Gifted and Talented provision. Strong links with the parent body and local institutions were key in raising the standards of these schools. He proceeded to take the tools he acquired to Switzerland. International schools are in their very nature allencompassing and multicultural, it was here that Justin developed a deeper appreciation of the lessons children from differing cultural roots can teach each other.

Prior to his four years at Nishkam Primary Wolverhampton, his most recent experience came at Chase Grammar School Cannock, working as Deputy Head of the Preparatory School. He was responsible for driving forward high achieving children to fulfil their potential and obtain the best academic results in the region. He worked closely alongside inspectors throughout his tenure, in order to gain a rounded insight into what makes an excellent school.



Mrs N Sangha - Assistant Headteacher is an

experienced and inspirational teacher recognised for her outstanding teaching by gaining 'Specialist Leader in Education' status in 2016. She is a highly committed and dedicated teacher and leader who strives to support others in reaching their potential. Nina is passionate about the lifelong experiences and opportunities for children.

In her previous role as Leader of English, Nina has a proven track record of successfully improving learning and teaching to continually sustain positive outcomes for students. She has implemented new curriculum programmes, supported whole school initiatives, implemented innovative teaching and learning strategies. This has impacted on results in Reading and Writing showing an upward trend over 3 years and a

significant number of pupils making better than expected progress. This was recognised on a national level with the school being in the top ten percent for progress.

As a Specialist Leader in Education, Nina was responsible for working with identified schools to raise standards and improve outcomes for the quality of learning and teaching in English. She supported senior leadership teams in developing curriculum plans, monitoring systems and teaching and learning strategies.

As a KS2 Lead Moderator, she acted as an external moderator for the DfE STA end of KS2 writing assessments for several schools in Sandwell. She supported schools in reviewing evidence and engaged teachers in a professional dialogue to establish their understanding and application of national curriculum assessment standards.

At Nishkam Primary School, Nina continues to raise standards and is elated with the recent 'good with outstanding features' judgement from Ofsted.

Curriculum

The education and curriculum offered at Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton 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 Wolverhampton 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. "

Our School

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

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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.

NPSW judged Ofsted "Good with outstanding features"

Key Findings

Pupils love to learn at this happy, caring school and typically told inspectors, 'We are loved here.' The school's values and virtues are well known by the pupils and are seen in everything that the school does.

Leaders have high expectations of the pupils' behaviour and learning. Pupils are rarely absent or late. Pupils behave very well and have positive attitudes. They are polite, respectful and caring of everyone. This results in the school being an extremely positive and inclusive place to learn.

Pupils appreciate the range of exciting activities they are offered at school. They talk with enthusiasm about clubs such as sitar, wrestling and 'Parkour'. Leaders provide a vast selection of opportunities for pupils to develop as individuals and to learn about the lives of others.

The school is inclusive and welcoming, and adults work hard to do what is best for every child. Teachers are passionate about what they teach and inspire pupils to learn. Leaders and governors have relentlessly focused their attention on the quality of education provided by the school. They are passionate about providing the best for all pupils. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are supported well. The support and training that leaders offer staff is exceptional and highly effective. Staff feel valued at Nishkam Primary School and report that leaders always consider their well-being.

Leaders at all levels have thought very carefully about every aspect of the school curriculum to make sure that pupils build on their learning from one year to the next. The values and virtues of the school run through everything the school does. For instance, pupils talk about the need to have 'humility, persistence and patience' when talking about how to improve their work.

The teaching of early reading is a strength of the school. Leaders have been highly effective in planning the way reading is taught. The books that pupils take home are very well matched to the sounds and letters pupils know. Children throughout the school enjoy their teachers reading to them.

The English and mathematics curriculums are strengths. Teachers plan and deliver lessons which are engaging for pupils. Teachers know how well pupils are doing and offer guidance quickly to ensure that pupils improve. Children have lots of chances to talk through their thinking and their ideas, and do so with confidence.

Leaders and staff want all pupils to achieve their best in all subjects. Staff have good subject knowledge and enthusiasm for the subjects they lead. They receive lots of training opportunities and provide very effective support for their colleagues.

The indoor space is an environment full of language, and this is helping children to broaden their vocabulary from the day they start school. Similarly, reading is a priority from day one at the school.

Example School Day

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
8.45 - 9.15	Register, morning report and Start of the day Activity: Name writing, Letter formation, High frequency, Tricky words, Once upon a story					
9.15 – 9.45		PE Changing books Reading group				
9.45 – 10.15						
10.15 – 11.00	Communication and language Indoor/ deck Tidy Literacy focus	Communication and language Indoor/ deck Tidy			Fruit/ outside	
11.00 – 11.20		Торіс	Write Dance Language Intervention	Write Dance Language Intervention	Phonics Phase 2/3 and handwriting Words/ captions/ sentences	
11.20 – 11.45	Story Toilet Prayer					
11.45 - 12.45	Lunch					
12.45 - 13.30	Registration, Meditation Number formation, Maths					
13.30 - 13.50	Music/ instruments Communication and Language Maths Focus Team Games Nurture/ behaviour				Forest Friday Communication and language Change of books Reading group	
13.50 – 15.00	Com					
15.00-15.20	Milk, Show and Tell, Prayer	Assembly	Milk, Show and Tell, Prayer	Assembly	Milk, Show and Tell, Prayer	
15.30	Home Time					

School Food

healthy, made daily, well balanced,

delicious fresh ingredients

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.

At Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton children have a well-balanced menu of options available to select. Each day children can choose from two hot options

and a sandwich/wrap option, accompanied by freshly cut fruit and a salad bar. The menu is run on a 3-week cycle starting with Week 1 through to Week 3.

All our meals are:

- Vegetarian
- Nut free and egg free
- Freshly prepared on site
- No harmful additives or hydrogenated fats are used
- Products containing GM
 Foods are not knowingly used

We are able to cater for medically diagnosed food allergies and intolerances.

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.



Example School Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Lasagne with Herby Potatoes and Garlic Bread	Yellow Lentil Dhal and Vegetable Rice	Sausage, Mash Carrots, Peas and Gravy	Chickpeas And Naan	
Option 2	Jacket Potatoes with Baked Beans and Cheese	Penne Pasta with freshly made Vegetable and Tomato Sauce served with Cheese	Five Beans Tacos served with rice and Sweetcorn	Vegetable Burgers in a Bun with Cheese and Wedges	Pizza Pockets, Beans and Oven Chips
Option 3	Selection of freshly made wraps and sandwiches available everyday				
Side	Salad Bar				
Desserts	Fruit and Ice cream	Chocolate Cake	Carrot Cake and Custard	Cornflake Cakes	Fruit Salad
	Yoghurt	Fruit/ Yoghurt	Yoghurt	Fruit/ Yoghurt	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.

		ltems 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)		•
	Any religious head covering to be of a mid-grey colour	•	•
	White blouse		•
	Grey tights/socks		•
	Black shoes		•
	Reading bag	•	
Summer Uniform:	Red gingham dress	•	•
	White tights	•	•
BOYS Compulsory	School regulation blazer (mid grey, red trim and school crest)		
	School tie	•	
	School regulation jumper (red with school crest)	•	
	Any religious head covering to be of a mid-grey colour	•	•
	White shirt		•
	Mid grey trousers		•
	Black shoes		•
	Reading bag	•	
BOYS/GIRLS PE; Compulsory	White Polo t-shirt with logo	•	
	Black jumper (school crest)	•	
	Black track suit bottoms/shorts		•
	Slip on pumps		•
	PE bag with logo	•	

Summary of application process for Reception 2021

Pupil admissions will open for Reception on 10th November 2020.

You may choose to apply either through a:

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:

Wolverhampton: <u>https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions/school-admissions-applications</u>

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 15th January 2021.

Please download and complete the Nishkam School's <u>Supplementary Information Form (SIF)</u>. 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 <u>https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NSPWSIF</u>, 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/NSPWSIF.

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. <u>Admissions</u>

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: <u>Appeals</u>

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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