



13th December 2018

Dear Parent or Carer,

Re: Update about rebrokerage of Seva School to Nishkam School Trust

The Department for Education planned termination date for Sevak Education Trust of 31st December 2018 has been proposed to be moved to 28th February 2019, to allow extra time to consider the most recent representations made by Sevak Education Trust. Therefore, it is our understanding that Nishkam School Trust will start on 1st March 2019.

In addition, we write to provide further details of the faith curriculum which was first outlined in our first letter and FAQs dated 19th November 2018. The following details have also been shared with the Trustees and representatives of the Parent of Seva School Action Group during face-to-face meetings and in writing.

The current NST curriculum offer and our commitment to Sikh pupils in terms of the development of the Sikh identity as Sikh people and Sikhi as a faith can be summarised in the following way.

We are an established Trust with a track record of raising educational attainment and the holistic development of the children. We take pride in being a Sikh faith schools Trust that also positively accommodates children of other faiths. One aspect of our ethos is to promote understanding and respect of others to prepare pupils for the modern world whilst being strong within one's own faith and identity. This is particularly so for the Sikh pupils.

There will be a *Diwan* Hall (prayer hall dedicated to Sikh prayers). We are aspiring to further enhance this provision with a new building and with appropriate facilities for the enthronement of *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji* (subject to resources - which we are confident about securing). The *Nishaan Sahib* will remain alongside associated *Seva* (service / protocols). The existing provision for Punjabi and Religious Education (incorporating Sikh studies) throughout the school, including GCSE provision, will be maintained and enhanced. The school's overall provisions will include *Kirtan* and *Santhia* (Study of *Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji*). We are proposing to employ a suitably qualified person/s as required Sikh celebrations will have a leading focus. Subject to suitable staff resources and volunteers being available.

We support the holistic development of pupils through our thematic weeks based on *ghun* (virtues). These include *daya* (compassion and forgiveness), *sat* (truthfulness), *santokh* (contentment; devoid of yearning of more and more), *nimarta* (humility), *prem* (love), *wand chako* (benevolence and sharing with others), *sewa* (service) *simran*, *kirat karo* (earning an honest living whilst remembering God Almighty), *nir vair* (without enemy), *nir bhau* (without fear) and many more.

As in all of our schools, we encourage two parent representatives on the governing body through the governing body process and setting up of a parent support group. The parent support group can help support volunteering and fundraising activity for example to support after school provision; holiday activities such as *Sikhi Gurmat* camp; and *Gurpurab* commemorations.

We will continue the Sikh collective worship currently offered in the Seva school. If this is not currently daily, the aim will be to increase this to daily Sikh collective worship assemblies, with a meaningful alternative for non-Sikhs. Multi-faith collective worship will occur once a month; parents will retain their legal right of withdrawal from the multi-faith collective worship as is the case in all schools. If the parental request is to discontinue with the monthly multi-faith prayers, then this will be considered.

Most national Sikh organisations have highlighted the excellent reputation of the Nishkam organisations in promoting authentic Sikh practices and the unprecedented number of *Kar Sewa* projects completed (restoration of Sikh shrines in India).

We very much look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Brinder Singh Mahon
Chief Executive Officer

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