



akaalprimaryschool
derby

Prospectus for entry September 2025



Contents

- 4 Welcome to Akaal Primary School
- 5 Nishkam Vision
- 6 Nishkam Passport
- 7 Senior Leadership Team
- 9 Curriculum
- 10 School Food
- 11 Example Lunch Menu
- 12 Uniform
- 13 Our School
- 14 Partnership with Parents
- 15 Example School Day
- 16 Summary of Application Process
- 18 Frequently Asked Questions



Welcome to Akaal Primary School

Akaal Primary School, Nishkam Schools Trust 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 Sunnyhill, Derby. 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, virtues-led experience to prepare our pupils 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 are sure that you will find our vision inspiring.

We are now accepting admissions for pupils entering reception in 2024/25.

To apply please contact Miss Hill on 01332 499011 or via email on: admissions.aps@nishkamschools.org

In choosing the right school for your child, it is vital for you to experience the school for yourself. We have a series of open days scheduled to be held with myself or another member of the Senior Leadership Team, please do contact the school so we can book an appointment for you.

We look forward to seeing you.

<https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/aps/open-events>

Yours faithfully,

Miss Zoe Parkes
Headteacher

“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.”



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".

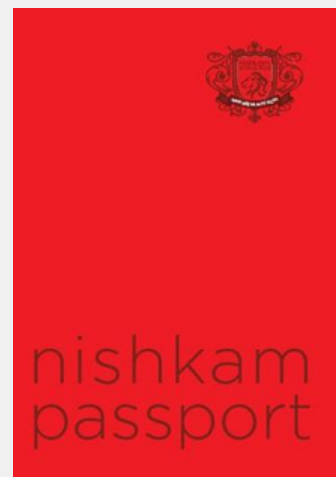
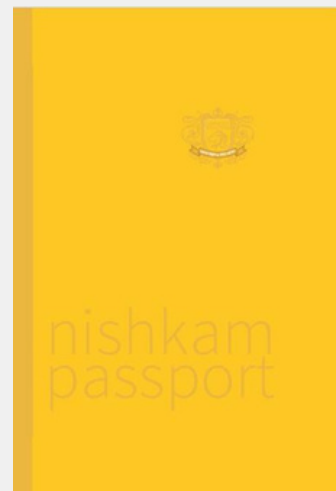
The Passport will help our children further understand our virtues and self-assess how well they are doing.

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 Value' in their student planner. There are opportunities for reflection which encourage learners to record thoughts and ideas.



Senior Leadership Team



Mr H S Dhanjal - Executive Headteacher Akaal Primary

Mr. H S Dhanjal is an experienced leader who has worked across all educational sectors which include Further Education, Secondary and Primary Education. This range of experience has enabled him to lead his team successfully to achieve not only excellent academic outcomes, but also preparing children in their next steps in their education journey and beyond.

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.'

There is a lovely African proverb: 'It takes a village to raise a child.' African culture recognises that parenting is a shared responsibility - a communal affair - not just the concern of parents or grandparents. Harmander is committed to the tri-part relationship with the school, child and parents to give the very best that children deserve. This parent partnership is very much a strength of the teams he leads.

Harmander is committed to the Nishkam Virtues, firstly learning from them himself, and then driving them through the school to nurture the very best human beings. As an active member of the community, Harmander also volunteers his time to school improvement as a governor. He is dedicated to high quality education and a solid foundation of values for all children.



Miss Z Parkes - Headteacher

Miss Z Parkes is an experienced practitioner for over 25 years in West Midlands, working within the Primary sector. She has been the lead teacher in a range of settings, including Private and Educational Nurseries and Primary Schools. As a successful leader, Zoe has working in a range of settings to secure excellent Ofsted outcomes, of which most recently was at Nishkam Primary School Wolverhampton under the current inspection framework.

Zoe is a firm believer that children need a solid foundation in order to flourish as they grow, the early years plays a vital role that aids development and progress. She is an expert in early reading and has successfully implemented the research driven 'language first' project in schools to close the 'word gap' in literacy.

Her expertise has led her to work across the Trust in a leadership role focusing on high quality teaching and learning. In this role she supports leaders and teachers in quality first teaching and achieving excellence. Zoe is child centered and leads by example to achieve the very best outcomes.

Zoe enthusiastically prides herself on successful parental partnerships and works closely with people within the local community. She was successful in achieving the prestigious Parent Partnership Award in one of her previous schools and more recently has embarked on the programme again at Nishkam. She has a robust action plan which enables parents to be an integral part of their child's educational journey. This has involved welcoming parents to school events and offering the opportunity to learn through workshops and visits.

'The best partnerships aren't dependent on a mere common goal but on a shared path of equality, desire, and no small amount of passion.' Sarah Mclean

Senior Leadership Team



Mrs Mandy Chahal Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. M Chahal has enjoyed a successful career in financial services before transitioning to the education sector in 2017. With a background in faith schools, she deeply understands how faith integrates with and enriches the learning experience. Her educational career has seen rapid growth, moving from Maths Lead to Assistant Head, and now serving as Deputy Headteacher. Mandy specialises in Key Stage 2 (KS2), where she has led her school to consistently achieve outstanding SATs results.

Passionate about teaching, Mandy is committed to fostering both academic excellence and personal development in her students. She believes that every child has one chance to receive the best education and aims to nurture them into confident individuals with a love for lifelong learning. Her goal is to equip students with the self-motivation and courage needed to succeed, while empowering them with a broad set of skills for their future.

Mandy holds that children's development and well-being should be at the heart of all educational decisions. She advocates for a broad, balanced curriculum tailored to meet each child's unique needs. Her focus is on inspiring students to seize every opportunity and grow into responsible, resilient adults. Mandy is dedicated to ensuring that every child embraces core values and reaches their full potential.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."
— Nelson Mandela



Mrs S Wallis, SENDCo, Akaal Primary School, Derby,

Mrs S Wallis an experienced practitioner with over 22 years of experience working in inner-city schools in Nottingham and Derby in the Primary Sector. She has taught across both Key Stages and is a Standards and Testing Agency and Local Authority Moderator for Key Stage 1. This has led to her moderating a range of schools in Derby. As an experienced teacher she has led on a wide range of subjects including Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and Music and is now leading on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Akaal.

As a SENDCo, Sonia firmly believes all children have a right to a full and well-rounded education, and she has a passion for supporting pupils with special educational needs. Working closely with staff, parents and other appropriate professionals, applying her leadership skills to guide other teachers with delivering a provision to raise education achievements for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Sonia has completed her NASENCO Award with Nottingham Trent University and is proud to say that she was awarded a Commendation for her coursework.

Sonia leads by example, setting the highest of standards in her classroom and through her inclusive practices encourages all students to achieve their full potential. She has also worked closely with local universities to mentor teaching students on a range of programmes including PGCE and SCITT students.

Her determination to ensure every child achieves their very best is interwoven with her passion for developing a well-rounded citizen, through the language of virtues, nurture and inclusivity ensuring that this is at the heart of everything she does.

"It shouldn't matter how slowly a child learns. What matters is that we encourage them to never stop trying."
— Robert John Meehan

Curriculum

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

At APS, we are committed to ensuring that our children receive a broad and balanced curriculum that maintains the integrity of each individual subject discipline. These subjects include: Writing, Reading, Maths, Science, Faith and RE, History, Geography, Art & Design, Design & Technology, PE, Music, Computing, Spanish and PSHCE and RHE.

Each subject has been designed to ensure that knowledge and skills are progressively taught from EYFS through to Year 6 and children have opportunities to regularly practice their retrieval knowledge.

Giving them the most secure start to their education. We have ensured that our curriculum is varied and representative of all children who attend our school. By doing this, they are able to relate learning to themselves and gain a deeper understanding of primary school knowledge. It is our intention that no child is disadvantaged and all children receive equal opportunities through learning.

The children that join us in EYFS, promptly receive a high-quality early reading offer through the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised phonics scheme. This is integral to their learning journey and by making exemplary progress in their early reading, they are able to unlock the doors to the entirety of the curriculum.

Additionally, we ensure that children are able to practise enrichment activities throughout the year that are directly linked to our curriculum intent. These opportunities are unique and incredibly important for the consolidation and application of knowledge and skills. Each child who attends our school also has the opportunity to attend purposefully planned trips and visits that further support their learning across the curriculum.

At Akaal Primary School Derby 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.

“Our Golden Threads are interwoven throughout the fabric of our curriculum. This ensures that our children receive an enhanced education that is fit for purpose and promotes a deeper understanding of the qualities of a good human being.”

School Food:

Healthy, made daily, with well-balanced delicious fresh ingredients, made fresh on site daily with our own catering team.

All meals are vegetarian

- All meals are nut free and egg free
- We aim to ensure a well balanced diet ensuring protein is on offer
- 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 and fruit bar.

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	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	Available Daily	Dessert	Available Daily
MONDAY	Quorn Fillet Carrots & Peas Roast Potatoes Gravy	Vegan Sausage Beans Waffles	Fresh Salad: Tomatoes Cucumbers Peppers Celery	Ice Cream Or Yogurt	Fresh Fruit Melody
TUESDAY	Cheese & Tomato Pizza Beans Wedges	Quorn Tikka Wrap Herby Potatoes Salad Sticks	Fresh Salad: Tomatoes Cucumbers Peppers Celery	Jelly	Fresh Fruit Melody
WEDNESDAY	Kidney Bean Curry Basmati Rice	Jacket Potato: Cheese Beans	Fresh Salad: Tomatoes Cucumbers Peppers Celery	Cheese Cake	Fresh Fruit Melody
THURSDAY	Enchiladas Spicy Sweetcorn Vegetable Rice	Tomato & Herb Pasta Broccoli Garlic Bread	Fresh Salad: Tomatoes Cucumbers Peppers Celery	Flap Jack	Fresh Fruit Melody
FRIDAY	Cheese & Tomato Panini Beans Chips	Chip Mix Beans Cheese Mushy Peas Bread Roll	Fresh Salad: Tomatoes Cucumbers Peppers Celery	Chocolate Chip Cookie	Fresh Fruit Melody



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 parents support us with the uniform policy and ensure pupils come to school everyday wearing a smart, clean uniform. The school's 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 return lost property if they are unnamed. We will hold regular pop up shop, Uniform Hub days on site at Akaal.

Website:	www.myuniformhub.com
Address:	70b Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 9BH
Telephone:	0121 551 7719
Opening Hours:	Monday to Friday 10am – 5.00pm Saturday 10.00am – 4.00pm (extended hours on Saturdays over the summer period) Sunday's Closed Please do go on the website for the latest information.

GIRLS		Items available from My Uniform Hub	Available from other retailer outlets eg. supermarkets
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 mid-grey colour	•	
	Shirt (white)	•	•
	Tights/socks (mid grey)	•	•
	Shoes (black)		•
	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 mid-grey colour	•	
	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 or trainers (must be Black)		•

Our School

APS 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 well dressed, well behaved, proud and yet humble to be part of the Nishkam family. Faith Development and RE is taught in Nishkam schools in all years. It is focused on the values, virtues, dispositions, practice and impact of faith. It is about learning what it is to be a good human and the values that inspire the highest aspirations of humanity. Faith Development and RE 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 education and curriculum offered at Akaal Primary, Derby is guided by the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and the National Curriculum.

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, if you do wish to speak please wait patiently for the dismissal of all pupils first. You can phone the school to make an appointment or leave a message should 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. There are also parent/teacher consultations held in the Autumn and Spring term. Parents and carers will have the opportunity to see how their child is doing at school.

Workshops

We will hold parent workshops regularly where parents/carers are invited to come to Akaal to spend time and work 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 basic literacy and numeracy. If parents are unable to attend, we would be delighted to welcome grandparents or other family members.

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 Newsletters

You will receive our regular school newsletters, which will inform you of useful dates, and curriculum developments. News will regularly be added to our website along with useful links for parents to gain a better understanding of their child.

Example School Day

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:30 - 8:40	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
8:40 - 9:00	Faith Groups	Faith Groups	Faith Groups	Faith Groups	Faith Groups
9:00 - 9:20	Collective Worship: Singing	Passport Lesson: Virtues	Collective Worship: Singing	Passport Lesson: Vice	Assembly Celebration
9:20 - 9:35	Reading Independent Activity	Reading Independent Activity	Reading Independent Activity	Reading Independent Activity	Reading Independent Activity
9:35 - 10:35	English - SPaG	English	English	English	English
10:35 - 10:50	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
10:50 - 11:50	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
11:50 - 12:15	Teach Reading	Teach Reading	Teach Reading	Teach Reading	Teach Reading
12:15 - 13:05	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
13:05 - 13:20	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling	Spelling
13:20 - 13:40	Reading Aloud	Reading Aloud	Reading Aloud	Reading Aloud	Reading Aloud
13:40 - 15:20	Wider Curriculum	Wider Curriculum	Wider Curriculum	Wider Curriculum	Wider Curriculum
15:20 - 15:30	DEAR (AR)	DEAR (AR)	DEAR (AR)	DEAR (AR)	DEAR (AR)

Summary of Application Process

Pupil admissions will open for Reception on 10th November 2024

You may choose to apply either through:

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.

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 for full guidance about the process. For Primary Schools the admissions deadline is on 15th January 2025.

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 2025.

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: Derby: [Apply for a reception or junior place for September 2025 - Derby City Council](#)

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 2025.

Please download and complete the Nishkam School's Supplementary Information Form (SIF) from the website [Akaal Primary School - SIF form in additional languages \(nishkamschooltrust.org\)](#). Please ensure it is also countersigned by the appropriate religious authority by obtaining the signature and stamp from your place of worship.

Please email this to: admissions.aps@nishkamschools.org Please note any incorrect or incomplete Supplementary Information Form received beyond the relevant deadline, will unfortunately have to be legally rejected and the place will automatically be ranked within the open category.

STEP 3 - Notification

On National Offer Day (16th April 2025), your Local Authority (in which you live), will notify you of the school your child has successfully gained a place at.



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.

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.

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: [6E21B3E0A8E167269A9B9D7B817870C5.pdf](https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org/6E21B3E0A8E167269A9B9D7B817870C5.pdf) ([nishkamschooltrust.org](https://www.nishkamschooltrust.org))

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.



to empower
children
with **virtues**,
to enable them to
excel academically
& spiritually,
enabling them to
serve **humanity**
selflessly, with an abundance of
love, compassion, & forgiveness

Please contact us on 01332 499 011 or

via e-mail admissions.aps@nishkamschools.org

Our address is: Grange Avenue, Derby, DE23 8DG

www.nishkamschooltrust.org

