

Nishkam High School – Determined Admissions Arrangements for Sixth Form September 2026

School name	Nishkam High School and Sixth Form		
School address	Great King Street North, Birmingham B19 2LF		
Co-Principal	Mrs Emma Wilks Mr Chris Deeks	Tel no.:	0121 348 7660
Contact for Admissions	Jyoti Chauhan	Tel no.:	0121 348 7660
Admission Number	140 (70 in each year group)		

Introduction

The Nishkam High School Birmingham (NHSB) is an exceptional state funded free school. It is a non-selective inclusive school for both boys and girls aged 11 – 19 years. NHSB is a Sikh ethos multi-faith school open to all. The school is a member of the multi-academy trust of schools known as the Nishkam Schools Multi-Academy Trust (NSMAT).

NSMAT School Vision

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

Sikh ethos

Encourages pupils to practice their own faith whilst learning about major world religions and supporting others to practice their respective faiths.

Multi-faith approach

Encourages and supports pupils of all faiths and none in a context of shared values.

At NHSB we believe that all pupils can succeed when given outstanding teaching, pastoral care and family support. We offer academic excellence with faith inspired values. The overall Nishkam approach to education can be summarised as: “More than Academic Excellence, More than a School, More than Self”.

Faith Inspired - learning from the wisdom of religions

At Nishkam Schools, our pupils explore the divine context of humanity and wonder of all creation. They not only learn about, but also learn from, the wisdom of religions and in so doing explore the infinite human potential to do good unconditionally. We support pupils to develop aspects of their own religious, spiritual or human identities. They learn about serenity through prayer and humility in service and in so doing, they deepen their own respective faith, and respect the common purpose of all religious traditions, as well as respecting the beliefs of those with no faith tradition. They explore the unique divinity of the individual, and our common humanity.

Pupils are enabled to commit to and practise their faith/belief through knowledge, and experiential learning. Commitment in faith maybe demonstrated by pupils through faith initiation (eg Baptism/Amritdhari) and regular faith practice (prayer, service and understanding elements of scripture).

Virtues Led- nurturing compassionate, responsible human beings

At Nishkam Schools, we believe that the fostering of human virtues forms the foundation of all goodness. Our curricula are carefully enriched to allow experiences where our pupils, teachers and parents alike learn to grow through a conscious focus on virtues. Our virtues-led education approach helps to provide guidance to enable pupils to understand their choices in order to help lead better lives. Our pupils become self-reflective and flourish; they are able to build strong, meaningful relationships and understand their responsibilities to the global family and all creation founded in faith.

Aspiring for Excellence- in all that we do

At Nishkam Schools, our pupils and staff alike aim to become the best human beings they can possibly be,

in all aspects of spiritual, social and academic life. We foster a school culture which inspires optimism and hope, as well as determination and confidence so that all of our pupils can, and will, achieve. This is accomplished through a rich and challenging curriculum, along with excellent teaching to nurture awe and wonder. Pupils gain a breadth and depth of knowledge and a love of learning to achieve their full potential.

Background

Applications are welcome from pupils of all faiths and none. Offers will be made according to the oversubscription criteria set out below.

The Sikh *Dharam* (faith, religion) is emphatic about respecting all religions and beliefs, and does not seek to convert others.

The School has a strong Sikh ethos multi-faith approach, promoting respect for all religions and faiths. Further details of the School's ethos and values are available on the School website: www.NishkamSchoolTrust.org

Overview of Admissions Process

Applications for the Sixth Form must be made directly to the school. All applicants will need to complete an application form and those applying for a faith-based place will also need to complete a Supplementary Information Form (SIF). Both forms are available from the School or School website.

Admission into Year 12 will be based on academic attainment and suitability of the courses to meet individual student needs.

All admissions will be determined by use of the criteria detailed below.

Method of Application

Prospectuses and application forms will be published during the Autumn Term each year. All current Nishkam students will be invited to an Open Evening, and the event will be marketed locally and on the school website. The Sixth Form prospectus and application form will be specifically issued to:

- All current Year 11 students at Nishkam High School
- Students visiting from other education establishments
- Those making specific requests by contacting the school.

Information, advice and guidance meetings are set up for every prospective Sixth Form student, with their parents, to provide expert professional support at a critical time of decision.

The admission number for external applications is a minimum of fifteen.

Entry requirements.

Students wishing to join the sixth form will need a Grade 6 at GCSE in both Maths and English Language in order to study any A Levels. Further subject specific criteria will also apply and they can be found in Appendix A. Students wishing to join the sixth form to study Applied courses will need a Grade 4 GCSE in Maths and English Language. Further subject specific criteria will also apply and they can be found in Appendix A.

Nishkam takes a holistic approach to every application to determine whether an applicant should receive an offer. Where an applicant may be qualified to study at the Sixth Form and has information relating to their attendance record, behaviour, attitude to study or any other information that is outside of Nishkam's 'expected parameters', this will be used to assess whether an offer will be made. At Nishkam Sixth Form we don't offer the facility for students to resit Maths and English if they have not gained a 4 at GCSE.

Typically, we expect Sixth Form applicants to be applying directly from Year 11 and to have sat their GCSE exams in the summer immediately prior to admission.

We are unable to accept applications from students looking to transfer or re-sit their sixth form studies. However, applicants who are applying 'out of year' due to exceptional circumstances may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Over-subscription

Where the number of eligible applications received is fewer than the admissions number all applicants will be offered a place without being ranked.

Where the number of eligible applications is greater than the admission number, all applications will be ranked using the oversubscription criteria set out below.

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

Over-subscription Criteria

Where the number of applicants is greater than the published admission number, up to 50% of places will be offered to each of the following two categories.

Category 1 – Faith-based places

Eligible faith-based applicants will be ranked in the following order.

Priority Faith-based places

- i. LAC Looked After Children, PLAC Previously Looked-After Children or IAPLAC Internationally adopted previously looked after children I – applying for a faith place.
- ii. Siblings² – applying for a faith place.
- iii. Children of staff³ – applying for a faith place.
- iv. Students in Nishkam High School - applying for a faith place.

Remaining Faith-based places will be allocated in the following order.

- v. Student (and/or parent/s or guardian/s) is/are *Amritdhari*⁴ (formally initiated) Sikhs.
- vi. *Keshadhari* Sikh student (has uncut hair).
- vii. Student (and/or parent/s or guardian/s) is/are baptised (or formally initiated) in their respective religion.

All applicants applying under the Faith category will need to provide confirmation of religious initiation or practice by completing the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and ensuring sections B or C are countersigned by an appropriate religious official or authorised signatory from an appropriate place of worship. The SIF can be obtained from the school or the school website.

If there is one place available and two or more children next in order of priority or next on the waiting list meet the appropriate criterion equally, the place will be allocated using the distance criterion. Distance is measured using a computerised system by the local authority. These are calculated as a straight-line measurement, between the pupil's home address and a point in the main school building.

Category 2 – Open places

Open place applicants will be ranked in the following order.

Priority Open places

- viii. LAC Looked After Children, PLAC Previously Looked-After Children or IAPLAC Internationally adopted previously looked after children I.
- ix. Siblings².
- x. Children of staff³.
- xi. Students in Nishkam High School.

All other open place All other open place applicants will be ranked by Random allocation. In order to ensure fairness, the School Admissions Team will administer the random allocation system overseen by an independent adjudicator in accordance with the random allocation procedure.

Under- subscription and over-subscription within a category

The following process will be followed when the 'faith' and/or 'open' place categories are

undersubscribed or oversubscribed.

a. Undersubscription within a category

If the school is undersubscribed within the Faith category, additional offers will be made to students from the Open category until the admission number of 100 is met or all applicants have been offered a place. All applicants for the Faith category who are not offered a place under that category will automatically be considered within the open category.

Oversubscription within a category

Where the number of applications is greater than the admission number, all applications will be ranked using the oversubscription criteria set out above. Thereafter, all other applications will be ranked by Random allocation. In order to ensure fairness, the School Admissions Team will administer the random allocation procedure overseen by an independent adjudicator in accordance with the random allocation procedure.

All applicants applying under the Faith category will need to provide confirmation of religious initiation by completing the Supplementary Information Form (SIF) and ensuring sections B or C are countersigned by an appropriate authorised person at the appropriate place of worship.

The SIF can be obtained from the school or the school website.

Tie-break

Random allocation will be used as a tie-break to decide who has highest priority for admission if the distance between two children's homes and the school is the same. This process will be independently verified. If a tie-break is required in earlier categories to decide who has priority for admission between two children, distance from the school will be used to decide as measured above.

Waiting list

The school will maintain a waiting list in the year of transfer until the end of the first academic term of the year. Places will be allocated in priority order of the oversubscription criteria. Each added student will require the list to be ranked again using the oversubscription criteria.

Fair Access Protocol

The school will participate in the LA's Fair Access Protocol. Children included in the Fair Access Protocol will take precedence over those held on the waiting list. Once a child has been identified for admission to the school under the Fair Access Protocol, the school will notify the local authority of the decision to accept or refuse the child's admission.

Appeals

Appeals are administered by the Local Authority for this school. Parents who wish to appeal against the decision to refuse their child admission should visit: www.birmingham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

Appeals are considered by an independent appeals panel.

Definitions

'looked after children and all previously looked after children including those who appear (to the admission authority) to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as a result of being adopted. A looked after child is a child who is (a) in the care of a local authority, or (b) being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions (see the definition in Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989).

An adoption order is an order under the Adoption Act 1976 (see Section 12 adoption orders) and children who were adopted under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 (see Section 46 adoption orders). A 'child arrangements order' is an order settling the arrangements to be made as to the person with whom the child is to live under Section 8 of the Children Act 1989 as amended by Section 14 of the Children and Families Act 2014. Section 14A of the Children Act 1989 defines a 'special guardianship

order' as an order appointing one or more individuals to be a child's special guardian (or special guardians).

²'Sibling'. Where a child has a brother/sister, half-brother/sister (where the children share one common parent), step brother/step sister or fostered/adopted sibling living at the same home address (i.e. the genuine principal place of residence where they normally and regularly live) and who will be still attending Nishkam High School in September 2026.

(Where parents have a shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week [i.e. three out of the five days]. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes).

³Staff. Children of all teaching and non-teaching staff who have been employed at the school or Nishkam School Trust for at least two years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, or a member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage.

⁴Amritdhari (formally initiated) Sikh is defined in these arrangements as those who have undergone the *Khanda-ki-Pahul Amrit Sanchar* initiation.

*A supplementary information form is used by Nishkam High School Birmingham.