



Section 48 Inspection

# Nanaksar Primary School

Springfield Road, Hayes, Middlesex, UB4 0LT

<b>Inspection date</b>	29.02.2016
<b>Overall effectiveness</b> Previous inspection:	Not applicable
This inspection:	Outstanding <b>1</b>

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Religious Education and Sikh Studies	Outstanding	1
Collective Worship and students' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development	Outstanding	1
Leadership, Management and Governance	Outstanding	1

## School context:

- Nanaksar Free School was opened in September 2013 by the Nanaksar Trust. Currently the school has 207 pupils in Year 1 and Year 2 classes. The school will continue to grow to the full primary age range, catering for pupils aged 4-11 years.
- The school is a part of multi- academy trust, which comprises Guru Nanak Academy – an all through primary and secondary school together with Nanaksar Primary. The board of directors of the trust oversees the work of both schools. The two schools have separate governing bodies. The majority of trustees are also members of the governing body.
- Senior leaders from both schools work closely to secure improvements in both schools. Classrooms are located on the same campus as Guru Nanak Academy. The school shares some of the academy's facilities, including the gurdwara for assemblies and the hall for lunches. The school has a separate playground and its own unique school uniform. The Year 2 classes are currently taught in temporary accommodation.
- Most pupils are of Indian heritage. A small minority of pupils come from other ethnic communities. Almost all are learning English as an additional language. Most pupils have Punjabi as their home language and some others have Arabic, Gujarati, Hindi and Nepalese. About half of the children are in the early stages of learning English when they entered Reception.
- The proportion of pupils who have disabilities or have special educational needs is well below average. The proportion of pupils who are known to be eligible for the pupil premium, which is an additional government funding provided for pupils known to be eligible for the free school meals and looked after children is well below average.

- It is a Sikh school, but teaches all other major faiths represented in the UK. Religious education (RE) is taught according to the Locally Agreed Syllabus. This meets the requirements of the inspection authority, the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO).

### **What does the school need to do to improve further?**

- Improve the quality of the curriculum so that it is not too challenging for those pupils who learn slowly.

### **Religious Education and Sikh Studies**

**outstanding**

- Teachers have high expectations of what pupils can achieve. They use information about different pupils' abilities to plan lessons that are challenging, and motivate pupils to make rapid gains in their learning. Pupils enjoy lessons and as a result, they make outstanding progress.
- Teachers are fully familiar with their pupils' starting points and this enables them to provide appropriate activities to meet their needs and interests. Teachers engage pupils in their learning so well that there is no disturbance in lessons.
- Teachers have excellent questioning skills that require students to think deeply, make links with their previous learning and find answers. For example, in a lesson in Year 2, pupils were learning about the values taught by the fifth to tenth Gurus. Skillful questioning helped them to understand the values of justice, mercy, purity, calmness and courage practiced by the Gurus. However, these were too many values for some of the pupils who learn little slowly to understand.
- Teachers plan activities that engage pupils extremely well. They learn about Sikhism and other religions and can relate their learning to their own experiences. During a lesson, pupils compared the suffering of Guru Arjan with Jesus Christ and understood some of the similarities with both religions. This help pupils to understand the diversity of faith and as a result develop high levels of respect for those of different faiths.
- Pupils know many stories from Sikh faith and other religions. For example they talked about Guru Hargobind practicing justice for all and linked this with Bandi Chorre Diwas story. They talked about Hindu story of Diwali and explained the victory of good over evil.
- Teachers have excellent subject knowledge not only of Sikhism but of other religions as well, as was seen in lessons and in pupils' books.
- Pupils are taught about all the major faiths represented in Great Britain. They celebrate festivals of Christmas, Diwali, Eid, Purim along with Vaisakhi and birthdays of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh. The class books of photographs, of celebrations, of all religious festivals and visits to places of worship are a pleasure to look at. Pupils not only enjoy remembering the events, but also use these books as good revision of previous learning.
- Teaching of other religions is very strong. Displays and scrutiny of pupils' work showed that they learn about all religions in both Year 1 and Year 2 classes. However, sometimes the curriculum content is too much for young pupils to fully understand.
- Sikh teachings of equality of all human beings are well explained through discussions in lessons and displays of quotes from the Guru Granth Sahib around the school. The Sikh values of nam japna, (remembering God), kirat karni (working hard to earn an honest living) and vand chhakna (seva- helping others) are well promoted through displays around

the school. Staff link these with the importance of Ten Commandments for Jews and Christians.

- Pupils understand the importance of practicing the Sikh values in their daily lives. In lessons, pupils are asked to give examples of how they would practice these values, thus reminding them that religion is to be practiced.
- Most pupils know the first five pauris of Japji Sahib by heart and recite them daily in the school gurdwara. Some know more than 15 pauris and are aiming to learn all the Japji Sahib.
- Pupils make outstanding progress in religious education (RE) and their literacy skills are highly advanced for their ages and stages of learning. This is because the Sikh ethos encourages them to be confident and ambitious learners.
- Assessment is robust. Pupils are given good verbal feedback in lessons and books are marked showing what they do well and what are the next steps. Pupils' literacy skills are outstanding. In lessons, even Year 1 pupils wrote two to three sentences about the values they were learning. Their work in books is well above what is expected of their age. All pupils have English as an additional language but their communication skills are high and all pupils can converse in English fluently.

### **The quality of Collective Worship and the development of students' Spiritual, social, moral and cultural development**

**outstanding**

- Pupils say that they 'love going to the school gurdwara for assemblies'. Pupils use the main gurdwara situated in the Guru Nanak Academy. This collective worship establishes an outstanding ethos in the school.
- Pupils lead the whole act of worship confidently and with great reverence in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib with little support from the staff. Pupils recite the first five pauris of the Japji Sahib from memory. They do kirtan with the harmonium and the tabla, and say the Ardas. It is a spiritually uplifting experience to see Year 1 & Year 2 taking the service with super efficiency and competency. A member of the staff takes the hukamnama (the message of the day) to complete the Sikh Service.
- The behavior of those listening to the kirtan is impeccable. They show a great respect for the gurbani (readings from the Guru Granth Sahib), join in with the words they know. They sing the school song that explains the key contributions of the ten Gurus to the Sikh society.
- Pupils are reminded of the school sublime values of S.H.A.R.E –S for service to others, H for humility, A for achievement, R for respect, E for equality, which are linked to Sikh teachings. Pupils have excellent opportunities to discuss how they will be implementing these values in all subjects. Pupils are reminded the importance of 'doing good deeds and remembering God.
- Pupils are keen to help those who are less fortunate than themselves. They raise funds for a range of charities for both within the country and abroad. They raised funds for Children in Need, Mcmillan Nurses and SWAT- a Sikh charity who provides food for homeless and economically disadvantaged people in UK. Pupils relished reliving the experience of dancing to raise funds for charities.
- The school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development exceptionally well. Pupils have an excellent understanding of fundamental British values because these are integral to Sikh teachings. Understanding of democracy and the rule of law, acceptance

of people of different religions and cultures is the norm. Pupils elect their School Council by voting for their favourite candidates, they demonstrate outstanding behaviour as they obey the school rules. Pupils visit places of worship of all major faiths represented in the country and learn about respecting people of different faiths and cultures. Pupils are very well prepared for life in modern Britain.

- Pupils behave exceptionally well. The staff sets the highest expectations for behaviour and, as a result pupils know what is expected of them and respond extremely positively. They treat each other and adults with humility and respect. They take responsibility for their own behaviour and disruptions to lessons 'never happens' as one pupil exclaimed. As a result, there is a calm and peaceful atmosphere in the school. This has a strong impact on their ability to achieve high standards.

### **Leadership and management**

### **outstanding**

- Leadership and management of RE are outstanding. The Principal of Guru Nanak Academy provides excellent guidance to the deputy headteacher and the RE co-ordinator to teach pupils the Sikh way of life. The whole school staff are united in their commitment to expressing a clear vision built upon Sikh values. All leaders understand their roles towards achieving the best outcomes for pupils.
- Pupils flourish because leaders are entirely focussed on maintaining high standards and supporting all pupils to make the best possible progress. The staff and pupils are extremely proud of the school's Sikh ethos and demonstrate this through their excellent relationships and impeccable behaviour.
- The leaders are highly ambitious for excellence for a Sikh school that prepares students for the multi faith and multi-cultural British society. All pupils and staff are proud of their ethos of equality and respect for diversity.
- The school has developed and implemented an effective curriculum that helps teachers to maintain continuity and progression in pupils' learning and links well to other subjects.
- The governors regularly visit the school and support the staff in realizing their vision of care, tolerance, discipline and hard work. They attend celebrations such as Guru Nanak's Birthday, and the annual 'Parkash' gathering. The school is highly successful in teaching about all faiths in a safe and stimulating environment.
- There is a strong partnership with Guru Nanak Academy and this is a great benefit to the school in both curriculum guidance and use of resources. This has ensured that RE is taught to the highest standard and the outstanding promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development permeates throughout the life of the school.

### Reporting Inspector:

Lady Kanwaljit Kaur-Singh OBE

Deputy Director Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO)

### Network of Sikh Organisations Statutory Inspection of Sikh Schools Report

This inspection of the school was carried out under section 48 of the Education Act 2005 and guidance from the Guru Granth Sahib and the Sikh Rehat Maryada.

### School details

Type of school	Primary
School category	Free school
Age range of pupils	4-11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	207
Appropriate authority	The governing body
Chair	Sant Baba Amar Singh
Headteacher	Rajinder Singh Sandhu
Date of previous school inspection	N/A
Telephone number	020 8551 6318
Email address	<a href="mailto:rajinder.sandhu@gnsa.co.uk">rajinder.sandhu@gnsa.co.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://gurunanakschools.org.uk">gurunanakschools.org.uk</a>

