

# Advice note for pre-registration inspections of all types of academies and free schools/studio schools/university technical colleges (UTC)

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School name	Nishkam High School
DfE registration number	999/1271
Unique reference number (URN)	1271
Inspection number	403991
Inspection dates	25 July 2012
Reporting inspector	David Rzeznik

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## Context of the school

The proposed Nishkam Free School is located in Newtown, Birmingham. The school is not yet open but intends to do so on 3 September 2012. The premises and accommodation are in a converted warehouse that is currently being refurbished for educational use. The school plans to admit up to 700 boys and girls, aged between 11 and 19 years. The school will admit students with disabilities and special educational needs, but not those with moderate, severe or profound learning difficulties. The school plans to make provision for students who speak English as an additional language and for those who are looked after by Birmingham local authority.

The intake of the school will be staggered. It is proposed that the school will admit 150 Year 7, and 50 Year 12 students, in September 2012. The same number will be admitted into these year groups in subsequent years. The sponsor is Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha, a registered non-profit making charity, that also oversees the education provided in Nishkam Primary Free School. The school will admit students from all faiths and also those who have no faith. The school aims to provide a holistic education that is of high quality, based on the Nishkam philosophy of selflessness and respect for others' beliefs.

## **Compliance with the regulations**

### **Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils**

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The school's policy for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development makes a commitment to 'the practice of faith inspired values, high achievement and inspired leadership, grounded in humility.' It sets out an expectation that the curriculum will promote good citizenship and that the provision will encourage the development of students' personal qualities, particularly their self-knowledge and self-worth. Curriculum documentation makes clear that students will gain an understanding of public institutions and services, both locally and nationally.

Behaviour and anti-bullying policies set out suitable frameworks within which students will be encouraged to develop an understanding of right and wrong. At the heart of the school's work is the teaching of values, such as respect and tolerance and the development of community spirit, in order that students make a positive contribution to the school and wider community and help to improve community cohesion. The planned religious education programme intends to nurture and encourage spirituality and help students to develop a personal faith, as well as building inter-faith understanding. Provision will ensure that students gain an awareness of British culture and of lifestyles different from their own.

### **Welfare, health and safety of pupils**

Documentary evidence indicates that all regulations are likely to be met but implementation could not be seen. The school has a suitable recruitment policy and the associate headteacher has been trained in safer recruitment. All of the required checks, including medical fitness, identity and written references have been completed for those employed. The child protection policy is satisfactory and the designated person for child protection is attending higher level safeguarding training on 20 August 2012. All staff will undergo child protection training on the same date so that requirements will be met. Behaviour, anti-bullying, health and safety procedures, including for educational visits, pay due regard to national guidance. Policies provide clear frameworks to ensure that students are kept safe, secure and are free from harassment.

A fire safety strategy has been devised to ensure that Department for Education (DfE) requirements are met. The local fire officer has scrutinised the fire safety planning and has raised no concerns. The fire officer intends to visit the site in August to ensure that fire safety regulatory requirements are met before the school opens. A fire risk assessment pro-forma is in place, along with a fire-log which will record fire drills, emergency lighting and fire alarm checks and fire-fighting equipment maintenance checks. There are suitable arrangements for the management and recording of all aspects of first aid, and appropriately trained first aiders have been appointed. A suitable admission register pro-forma and serious incident log are in place and will be used as from September 2012. A commercial electronic attendance registration system will be used and this will ensure

registration requirements are met. The school fulfils its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010.

### **Suitability of staff, supply staff, and proprietors**

All regulations are likely to be met. All of the required recruitment and staff vetting checks have been carried out on those staff who have already been appointed by the free school. All members of the proprietorial body, including the chairperson, have been vetted by the DfE to confirm their suitability to work with students. Suitable procedures for the vetting of supply staff, contractors and volunteers are in place. The single central register contains all of the required information.

### **Premises of and accommodation at the school**

All regulations are likely to be met. The school is to be located in a refurbished and extended warehouse that will accommodate 200 students, as from September 2012. Additional new premises and accommodation will be built on the same site during 2013, to enable the school to admit 700 students in total. Scrutiny of the building plans, and discussions with the project manager, confirm that there will be sufficient classrooms, offices, washrooms and toilets, kitchen and dining facilities for the anticipated number on roll. There are suitable facilities for those whose are ill. The amount of outdoor space is adequate for safe play and the school plans to use local sports facilities and parks for sports and physical activities.

Most of the school's external walls and roof are in place; however, internal accommodation is at an early stage of preparation and there is much to do to ensure that all school facilities are completed by 3 September 2012, when the school is scheduled to open. The project manager states that the premises will be completed by the end of August 2012, and the building contract specification indicates that building work must be completed by 1 September 2012. The work is being overseen by the department's delivery agent, the Education Funding Agency. The department will need to continue monitoring building progress directly with the agency.

A suitable contingency plan exists in the event that the accommodation is not ready. Fifty Year 12 students will be located at the Nishkam School Trust site and 150 Year 7 students will be housed in Nishkam Primary School. The premises will provide suitable accommodation and sufficient facilities for up to 200 secondary aged students.

### **Provision of information**

The provision meets all regulations.

### **Manner in which complaints are to be handled**

The provision meets all regulations.

## Recommendation to the Department for Education

### Registration

Is registration recommended?

- **YES. This school is likely to meet all regulations when it opens and is recommended for registration.**

*If registration is recommended, please state:*

Recommended number of day pupils: 700

Recommended number of boarders or residential pupils (if applicable): N/A

Recommended age range: 11-19 years

Recommended gender of pupils: Mixed

Recommended type of special educational needs: N/A.