

Free Schools - Proposal Form

The Proposal Form asks you for details on the educational aims and objectives, parental demand and premises of the proposed Free School. It also asks questions about the suitability of the provider(s) involved. All new Free Schools will be opened with the same legal status as Academies, in a binding agreement with the Secretary of State.

Please note, all information provided in this form will be published on the Department for Education website.

INITIAL DETAILS

Name (Please specify if you are the nominated representative of an organisation that wishes to set up a Free School)

██████████. I am the nominated representative of the organisation that wishes to set up the Free School.

Alternates are: ██████████ and ██████████

Name of your organisation

I-Foundation

Address (of organisation or individual)

██████████, Leicester, ██████████

Email Contact

██████████

Telephone Number

██████████ or ██████████

Are you an existing independent school wanting to convert to a Free School?

No

If yes, please provide your 6-digit school unique reference number (URN)

If no, please confirm the nature of your organisation (educational group / charity / business / parent group etc)
Charity

Please confirm whether your organisation is incorporated i.e. set up as a Company which is registered at Companies House. If so, please provide the Company Registration Number, Company Address and details of the Directors and Secretary. If not, please indicate the approximate date by which it will be incorporated.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, our organisation is incorporated Company Registration Number: 05137350 Company Address: [REDACTED], London, [REDACTED] Details of Directors and Secretary: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] <input type="checkbox"/> No, our organisation is not yet incorporated Approximate date by which it will be incorporated:
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In which Local Authority area will the school be based? If you are near to a LA boundary, please include name of neighbouring LA(s)

Local Authority Leicester City Council Neighbouring LAs Leicestershire County Council
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Is your Local Authority aware of your intention to set up a Free School?

Yes

(If Y please give details of your discussions with them so far)
We've been in discussion with the City Council since 2006. In 2007 we ran a public consultation to prove demand for a state funded Hindu school. In 2008 we discussed various sites with the City Council. In 2009 we identified a suitable site, carried out a feasibility study for building a primary school and submitted a project plan to the City Council. This plan was based on following the voluntary aided route. Since the announcement of Free Schools, the City Council has asked that, whatever route we take, we maintain ongoing dialogue and collaboration.

In 2009 we also had talks with the County Council about establishing the school in the County. We held a meeting with the County in early June 2010 to discuss setting up the school in Oadby.

SUITABILITY OF PROVIDER

The Secretary of State will consider each proposal on its merits, and take into account all matters relevant to that proposal. Generally, he would expect that all proposals will comply with all aspects of the rigorous suitability and vetting tests throughout the application process, including due diligence and CRB checks and will reject any proposers who advocate violence, intolerance, hatred or whose ideology runs counter to the UK's democratic values.

Do any of the following apply to the organisation (or any consortium member), or to (any of) its director(s)/partners/proprietor(s) or individual applicants (select Y/N):	
Is in a state of bankruptcy, insolvency, compulsory winding up, receivership, composition with creditors (including any Individual Voluntary Arrangement), or subject to an Administration Order or any legal proceedings concerning their solvency?	No
Has been convicted of a criminal offence?	No
Is involved in any illegal activities?	No
Has not fulfilled obligations related to payment of taxes?	No
Is guilty of serious misrepresentation in supplying information?	No
Is not in possession of relevant licences or membership of an appropriate organisation where required by law?	No
Is barred from certain work with children as a result of being:	
[a] included in the list of those barred from Regulated Activity with children, kept by the Independent Safeguarding Authority? Or	No
[b] included in the list kept under section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1999(4) (list of those considered by the Secretary of State as unsuitable to work with children)? Or	No
[c] subject to a direction of the Secretary of State under section 142 of the Education Act 2002 (5) (or any other disqualification, prohibition or restriction which takes effect as if contained in such a direction)? Or	No

<p>[d] disqualified from working with children under sections 28, 29 or 29A of the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000(6)?</p> <p>For further information on [a], [b], [c] and [d], please contact the CRB www.crb.homeoffice.gov.uk.</p>	No
Is disqualified from registration under Part 10A of the Children Act 1989(7) for child minding or providing day care?	No
Is disqualified from registration under Part 3 of the Childcare Act 2006(8)?	No
Is a member, or has been a member in the past, of a proscribed organisation?	No
If the answer to any of these questions is "Yes" please give details below:	

EDUCATIONAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Briefly outline your reasons for wanting to set up a Free School. Max 200 words.

There are three drivers pushing for this school:

1. Currently, there are only 30 Hindu places in the UK for state funded faith education even though Hindus make up the third largest faith grouping in the UK. These places are in London. Leicester, with the second largest concentration of Hindus in the UK, has none. Hindu parents in the city are therefore denied the choice available to followers of any of the other main religions in the UK, to send their children to a school based on their faith. This school will offer that choice.

'There is a great need of a Hindu school in Leicester where a large number of Hindus live and play a great role in the development of the city.' (██████████, ██████████, Leicester)

'Education is something that everyone needs and we should be entitled to choose. However, if facilities are not available then how can this be?'

(██████████, ██████████, Hamilton, Leicester)

2. The I-Foundation have empirically captured the demand and ascertained the sustainability of its proposed schools. Through the public consultation in Leicester, research with community groups and temples, and input from community leaders, the demand is indeed genuine and growing not only within the city of Leicester but also across the county of Leicestershire.

3. The Hindu community is reaching a turning point with respect to its position within British society. Many young Hindus are losing touch with their culture. We believe that inclusive, outward-looking faith-based schooling, in line with the proposed 50-50 criteria for faith based admissions, could help address this issue as well as supporting community cohesion by increasing the community's self-confidence. We believe in balancing the academic needs of children with a firm grounding in spiritual and cultural values.

'This school will not only benefit our children but will also help the Hindu community at large.' (██████████, ██████████, ██████████, Leicester)

Please set out the Free School's aims and objectives. You should also describe:

- the teaching methods that will be used and whether the Free School will follow a particular philosophy (eg Montessori);
- the outline of the Free School's proposed curriculum, including any religious ethos;
- how the Free School will improve pupil learning and ensure strong discipline;

Max 2000 words.

The I-Foundation Hindu Primary School is one which aims to help children realise and fulfil their spiritual, moral and academic potential in a secure, welcoming and supportive environment centred on loving service to Lord Krishna.

It will draw heavily for its ethos, curriculum, teaching and management practices on the success of its sister school, the voluntary aided Krishna-Avanti Primary School (KAPS) in Harrow, with which it shares a sponsor and faith partner.

Having opened in September 2008, KAPS was recognised as "good with many outstanding features" in its first Ofsted report conducted earlier this year (possibly the highest grade achievable at this stage of a school's development). What's more, the inspectors said that school's capacity for sustained improvement was "outstanding" adding that the school is "most capably led", its pupils' attainment is "above average" and their behaviour "first rate".

The report also praises pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development as "outstanding". It says: "Their joy in coming to school is very evident" and the school's Hindu traditions "support fully the ethos of a 21st century British primary where academic excellence is as important as religious aura."

Building on these experiences and learning from the practice and approach of its sister school, the proposed new I-Foundation Hindu primary School will enable pupils to enjoy learning, develop character and competence, and prepare for the responsibilities of adult life in contemporary Britain.

To fulfil this vision, the School will promote:

1. Academic Achievement

- The School will provide an academic education that fulfils both the requirements of the national curriculum and the educational ideals of the faith advisor. The School will value pupils as active participants in a challenging and enjoyable educational process, helping them to mature into independent, responsible, lifelong learners.

- Pupils will be encouraged honestly to express their own views and feelings, engage in constructive dialogue, and become reflective, philosophical and broad-minded thinkers.

- By implementing a 'multiple-intelligence' approach to learning, the School will recognise the importance of pupils developing naturally, according to their individual propensities.

- The School will offer unique opportunities for pupils to engage their creativity through the mediums of devotional art, dance, music and drama.

- The School will provide a supportive environment for teachers, with ample opportunities for their continuing professional development.

- Teachers will be expected to be 'exemplary learners', to have pupils' interests at heart, and to engage reflectively in professional discussion on pedagogical issues.

2. Character Formation

- The School will aim to nurture within pupils exemplary character and conduct, congruent with those virtues recommended by the faith advisor and

within the National Curriculum.

- The School will aim to foster happy, creative and articulate pupils, preparing them to become moral, active and well-grounded citizens.
- The School will prepare pupils to become considerate adults who will:
 - o empathise with other people and all living creatures
 - o offer appropriate respect
 - o demonstrate self-esteem, courage and confidence
 - o develop honesty and integrity
 - o practice self-restraint, moderation and cleanliness
 - o exercise thoughtfulness and foresight
 - o appreciate the presence of the divine
 - o practically exhibit a mood of service to God, human society and the entire creation.
- As a means towards developing these virtues, the School will train pupils in self-discipline, whilst staff offer positive reinforcement and set inspiring examples.
- The School will recognise that the character and values (of both learner and teacher) play key roles in the pupils' development of knowledge, understanding and skills.
- The School will foster the importance of a trusting guru-pupil relationship, engendering in pupils respect for appropriate authority, and in teachers a prime concern for their own integrity and trustworthiness.
- All staff members, and other stakeholders, are expected to support the School's values and principles and be role models for the pupils in all aspects of their lives.

3. Healthy Body and Mind

- The School will acknowledge the human body as a valuable vehicle towards material and spiritual fulfilment, and will promote pupils' all-round health: spiritual, mental, social, emotional and physical.
- The School will provide a balanced lacto-vegetarian diet, consistent with the standards of the faith advisor.
- The School will provide good facilities for exercise and physical activity, and will augment the sporting requirements of the National Curriculum with traditional yoga practices.
- The School will stress the importance of the arts, particularly as a means towards nurturing pupils' creativity, imagination, and emotional and spiritual well-being.
- The School will train pupils in cleanliness and personal hygiene, consistent with the teachings of the faith tradition.
- The School will lay solid foundations for pupils' vocational and economic well-being, nurturing the appropriate attitudes towards wealth, possessions and the earth's resources.
- The School will help children integrate into school life, through a vibrant team spirit and healthy relationships with staff and other pupils.
- The School will cater for pupils' spiritual needs, whatever their faith or non-faith backgrounds, acknowledging the need for incremental development according to individual disposition and respect for all.
- Drawing largely from the heritage of its faith advisor, the School will offer opportunity for sadhana (spiritual practice), including worship, meditation and scriptural study.

- The School is aware of and takes seriously its responsibilities for pupils special educational needs. Our business plan will make appropriate provision for the adaptation of our buildings to ensure access in full compliance with legislation. Our sister school, KAPS, partners with Woodlands Special School in Harrow with pupils regularly moving between the two schools. This is a model we would look to replicate in Leicester.

- The School will create an atmosphere where all pupils feel secure and nourished in all respects, though suitably challenged to develop resolve, confidence and essential life-skills.

4. Whole Sense of Identity

- The School, falling under the broad umbrella of Hinduism, will be guided by the teachings of [REDACTED], the [REDACTED] of ISKCON, the [REDACTED].

- Drawing on the teachings of the faith advisor, the School will nurture pupils' wholesome sense of belonging, acknowledging the important roles of choice, exemplary role models, loyalty to tradition and, above all, the notion of a spiritual identify that unites all people and all creatures.

- To achieve this, the School aims to:

o Teach the faith advisor's enduring and universal principles in a manner relevant and accessible to all pupils, whatever their faith or non-faith backgrounds, and in a way that nurtures commensurate values and conduct.

o Provide pupils with a positive experience of faith, particularly through inspiration, caring relationships and examples they are comfortable to follow.

o Enhance pupil's esteem in their own tradition, and their ability to confidently apply and articulate its teachings, while encouraging them to respect other spiritual traditions and enter into meaningful dialogue with people of other world views, including fellow pupils.

o Engender within pupils a predominant sense of spiritual identify, transcending age, race, gender, faith affiliation, ability, and so on.

o Encourage pupils to develop their loving relationship with God (and his natural representatives), specifically through his form as Krishna and with emphasis on God as the shared friend of all living beings.

o Nurture pupils to become responsible British citizens, and to recognise the positive contributions made by the country's religious and cultural heritages.

o Teach its specific faith views, including those at variance with other stances (no matter how popular), in a manner that promotes honest and constructive dialogue, allowing pupils to recognise a range of opinions and preparing them to make up their own minds on issues of faith and belonging (religious and otherwise).

5. Social and Community Cohesion

- By inviting all members of the community to share in its aims and values, the School will promote community cohesion and strives to make a lasting contribution to society.

- This will be reflected in the school's admissions criteria. 50 percent of the places at the school will be allocated on the basis of faith criteria, using a point system similar to that deployed at the Krishna-Avanti Primary School (available on its website). Other places will be allocated on the basis of

distance from the school using Leicester City Council's measurement system, These places will be allocated regardless of the faith practice of the applicant. In case of oversubscription, places will be allocated alternately to parents applying under each set of criteria.

- The School will actively work with families in deprived areas. The proposed school site neighbours Spinny Hill and Coleman wards, both of which are in the top ten deprived wards in the City. Of the wards that have a predominant Hindu population, Belgrave (over 50% Hindu) is also within the top ten deprived wards.
- The School will prepare pupils of whatever faith or ethnic background, to integrate into society, to make a positive contribution, and to eschew ghettoism, religious exclusivism and other forms of antisocial behaviour.
- The School will teach pupils about all the major faiths included in the national curriculum and promote respect for all faiths - in line with the teachings of Hinduism.
- The School will help build and maintain social stability, particularly through promoting family values and teaching pupils to love and respect their parents
- The School will value its partnership with parents and will work closely with them in the education of their pupils and the general community life of the School.
- The School will strive for a healthy, co-operative relationship with the local community, proactively serving community initiatives and establishing working relationships with other local faith and community schools.
- The School will prepare pupils to become active and responsible citizens of Britain and, indeed, of the world.

6. Environmental Responsibility

- Drawing upon the teachings of the faith advisor, the School will aim to produce socially aware citizens who adopt responsible lifestyles that help sustain our planet.
- The School will encourage pupils to:
 - o revere life, nature and the earth's resources as sacred gifts from God
 - o develop their sense of environmental stewardship
 - o perceive the equality of all people, and all forms of life
- The School will provide a simple, safe, clean and ecologically friendly environment, modelling good practice based on ecological principles, drawn from both sacred scripture and sound empirical evidence.

What are your organisation's core areas of work / aims? Max 500 words.

I-Foundation is the promoter of Hindu state education in the UK. We work with Government, local authorities, national and local community groups, and Hindu organisations in order to promote and represent Hindu interests in statutory education. We were the promoters of the UK's first, and so far, only Hindu state school, the Krishna-Avanti Primary School, in Edgware, North West London. We are currently working on plans for further primary and secondary schools across North London, East London and in Leicester. Our aim is to help children realise their spiritual, moral and academic potential in a welcoming, secure and supportive environment centred on loving service to Lord Krishna. We hope to enable pupils to enjoy learning, develop character and competence, and prepare for the responsibilities of adult life in contemporary Britain regardless of their faith or non-faith backgrounds. We are a UK registered charity.

What capacity and capability do you have (or have access to) in order to deliver the educational vision set out above? Please indicate the resources, experience and expertise (educational and legal) that you have or have access to. Max 500 words.

The I-Foundation's Hindu Primary School in Leicester will build on the experience of the successful set up of the Krishna Avanti Primary School in Harrow.

There will be a close relationship between the two schools and both the Directors of the I-Foundation and the Board of Governors of the Krishna Avanti Primary School will provide strategic direction.

I-Foundation Directors:

[REDACTED]: (Also [REDACTED])
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]:

[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] is [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED], with a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] operates a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

Krishna Avanti's Board of Governors includes:

[REDACTED] ([REDACTED]):
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] is the [REDACTED]. She has been a [REDACTED] for [REDACTED].
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] for Krishna-Avanti
Primary School.

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] is the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:
[REDACTED] is the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] is a [REDACTED], [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Do you have plans to work with a 3rd party organisation? If so, please include their details below and set out the intended nature of that relationship (for example, a contract, co-sponsorship arrangement, informal partnership).

No

Please name the key individuals / trustees involved in setting up the Free School (if available). Please also indicate whether trustees have been chosen and their roles confirmed. Please provide details of employment of these individuals and any conflicts of interest you believe might arise.

The Directors of the I-Foundation have already delivered a successful school project. They will lead on this project through the appointment of a local project team, consisting of Leicester based business people:

- [REDACTED] – I-Foundation [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – [REDACTED]

The I-Foundation will also appoint a full time project manager to support the work of the Directors and the local team. The project will also employ key advisors such as [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

Further support locally has been offered by the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], [REDACTED].

EVIDENCE OF DEMAND

What evidence of local parental demand do you have? For example, a petition or a declaration from interested parents or pupil number projections for the area. Max 200 words.

We carried out a public consultation in Leicester in 2007 during which over 2000 Hindu families declared their support and expressed their need for a state funded Hindu school.

This level of support translates into over 900 children whose parents say they would choose a Hindu school, if that choice was available.

This further translates into 100 children who would be ready to enter a reception class in September 2011.

Where will these children come from?

While clearly the majority of movement would be within Leicester LA schools, 1,811 primary school children currently living in Leicester go to LA schools outside the City, with a further 1,520 attending private schools. Overall, the LEA is a net exporter of nearly 5% (4.8%) of its primary school children.

There is strong anecdotal evidence that Hindu children are significantly over-represented amongst those not attending Leicester LEA schools perhaps as a result of the community's traditional willingness to invest heavily in education, either financially or in terms of travel times.

Combined with the results of the public consultation exercise, this suggests that our school would attract back into the local area a significant number of children whose needs are not currently being met within the local state-funded sector.

What is the proposed capacity (number of pupils)? Max 200 words.

A primary school with 420 pupils, rising to 840 over time. It will have 60 pupils in each year group rising to 120.

This will be a two-form entry school to begin with, although we would like to retain the option to extend this to four forms as demand is demonstrated.

What is the proposed age range of the Free School? Please include details of planned pupil numbers in each year group.

Reception to Year 7. Pupil numbers have been given above.

When do you hope the Free School will start operating (for your first set of pupils)?

September 2011

PREMISES

What steps have you taken to identify a potential site? Please include details of the geographical area the school seeks to serve; a list of any sites you have considered; and any discussions you have had to identify a suitable site. If known, please include the proposed location, premises and postcode of the Free School.

Our proposed site is [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Leicester which is the former home of [REDACTED]. The current buildings on site are fit for occupation although some refurbishment will be required.

[REDACTED] occupies a 5 acres site and is currently be marketed at £1.75million. There are 6 acres of playing fields behind the school which have been brought by [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

[REDACTED] is a major supporter of KAPS. it will be approached to purchase the building, thus saving the Government this initial outlay, and then to grant the I-Foundation Hindu Primary School a long lease.

The school will then rent back the building.

We would look for capital support to cover this expense and that of the required refurbishment.

Detail of the property are provided by the [REDACTED]:

[REDACTED]

Further information

Please note, all information provided on this form will be published on the Department for Education website. Information that you supply on this form may be shared with (a) the New Schools Network and (b) the Local Authority in which you wish to set up the Free School. Information about the New Schools Network can be found at [REDACTED].

Submission of this form will be treated as consent, from both you and anyone else whose personal data is contained on this form, to the sharing of this information as set out above.

In addition, information that you provide on this form, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes, primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Data Protection Act 1998.

Next Steps

Please email completed Proposal Form to
[REDACTED]

You will hear back from a named official at the Department for Education within two weeks, who will offer you advice on how best to progress your application. The Secretary of State will make a judgement on the potential of the project based on criteria relating to educational aims and objectives, evidence of demand, potential premises, suitability of provider and any other relevant considerations to decide whether the proposed Free School project should move into stage 3, namely that of drawing up a business case and plan.