

Meeting:	Harrow Admissions Forum
Date:	9 July 2008
Subject:	Krishna-Avanti School – Admission Arrangements
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	No
Responsible Officer:	Heather Clements, Director Schools and Children's Development
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Anjana Patel, Schools and Children's Development
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendices 1 and 2

### **Section 1: Summary**

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

### ***Recommendations:***

To consider the revised admission arrangements for the Krishna-Avanti School

### ***Reason: (For recommendation)***

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## SECTION 2 - REPORT

### Background

Following concern expressed by the Admissions Forum, the Governors of the Krishna-Avanti School have reviewed and amended their admission arrangements. The revised arrangements (Appendix 1) and Supplementary Information Form (Appendix 2) are in line with the comments made by members of the Forum at a meeting with Nitesh Gor from the Krishna-Avanti School on 15 April 2008.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### Performance Issues

There are no performance issues arising from this report.

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: John Stansfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 30 June 2008		
Name: Rosemarie Martin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 1 July 2008		

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Madeleine Hitchens, Manager Place Planning & Admissions – 020 8424 1398 [madeleine.hitchens@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:madeleine.hitchens@harrow.gov.uk)

Background Papers: N/A:



## **Admissions Policy for Krishna-Avanti Primary School & Nursery**

The Admissions Policy for the Krishna-Avanti Primary School & Nursery has been amended and proposed after consultation and as required under the Education Act 2002 and referral to the Harrow Admissions Forum. The policy will comply with the Code of Practice on Admissions.

The School is a Voluntary-Aided Hindu faith school and the Vision Statement of the School is reflective of this distinct character. As such, parents/guardians proposing to send children to the School will also be expected to comply with the ethos and values of the School.

The School is a one-form entry school and will admit 30 pupils per academic year. The School will open incrementally, starting with reception year.

Parents will need to apply for admission for a place in the reception class even if a child has been admitted to the nursery. Attendance at the nursery does not guarantee admission to the School.

The governing body is responsible for determining admissions to the School. The following criteria will be used when considering applications for admissions to the school whenever there are more applicants than places available, which are listed in order of priority:

- 1) Looked after children from Hindu families
- 2) Children with a statement of special educational needs where the School is named in the statement
- 3) Siblings<sup>1</sup>
- 4) Five nominations by Bhaktivedanta Manor, Hilfield Land, WD25 8EZ of practising<sup>2</sup> Hindu families for admissions in 2008, 2009, 2010
- 5) Children from practising Hindu families
- 6) Children from Hindu families who are broadly following<sup>3</sup> the tenets of Hinduism
- 7) Other looked after children
- 8) Families who are sympathetic to the Vision Statement<sup>4</sup> of the School
- 9) All other children

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<sup>1</sup> However, this will not apply when the older child will leave school before the younger one starts

<sup>2</sup> See definition within the Supplementary Information Form

<sup>3</sup> See definition under section 'Supplementary Information Form' below

<sup>4</sup> See description under section 'Vision Statement' below

The School is keen to encourage applications from other faith backgrounds; however, demand for places is expected to be heavily oversubscribed and opening admissions to non Hindu faith based applicants at this early stage has been viewed as inappropriate.

### **Tie-break**

In the event of there being insufficient vacancies to admit all applicants in any of the categories detailed above, priority will be given to children whose parents'/legal guardians' home address is the shortest distance from the main gates of the School when measured in a straight line regardless of ease of access. Where a child lives with parents with shared responsibility, each for part of a week, the home address will be taken as the one stated in the application form.

### **Other Definitions:**

#### *Applicant*

The parents and/or legal guardian submitting an application for a place on behalf of the child.

#### *Looked after Children*

Any child in the care of the Local Authority or in accommodation provided by them

#### *Family*

Those individuals who live at the residential address of the parents and/or legal guardians who are submitting an application for a place on behalf of a child

#### *Siblings*

All blood or adoptive brothers and sisters or half brothers and sisters

### **Admission Procedure**

Parents are encouraged to attend Open Days or to make an individual appointment to visit the School before applying.

Parents who wish to send their children to the school will need to complete Harrow's common application form which is obtainable from Harrow's Admissions Service and online at [www.harrow.gov.uk](http://www.harrow.gov.uk)

Applicants must also complete and return to the School the School's Supplementary Information Form, available from the School or online at [www.krishna-avanti.org.uk](http://www.krishna-avanti.org.uk)

#### *In-year applications*

Applicants must apply to the Admissions Secretary of the School. Application forms will be given with a copy of the admissions policy. If a place becomes available in the school, the admissions committee will review children waiting for a place alongside new applications in accordance with the above criteria. If there are no children waiting, places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

### **Supplementary Information Forms**

Applications submitted on the basis of Hindu faith should be accompanied by the completed Supplementary Information Form as described above. This Form will also need to be duly signed and supported by a local temple priest acting as referee. Definitions of 'practising' and 'broadly following' (as mentioned in the Admissions Policy priority list) are:

*Definition of 'Practising' as confirmed by the Supplementary Information Form –*

***Children who the Temple is confidently aware are from practising Hindu families and who regularly attend the Temple (i.e. follow all the key tenets of the faith and attend the Temple)***

*Definition of 'Broadly Following' as confirmed by the Supplementary Information Form –*

***Children who the Temple cannot confidently verify follow all the key tenets of the faith but who attend the Temple either regularly or irregularly***

**Vision Statement (fuller version available upon request)**

The Krishna-Avanti School helps children realise their spiritual, moral and academic potential in a welcoming, secure and supportive environment centred about loving service to Lord Krishna. The school enables pupils to enjoy learning, to develop character and competence, and to prepare for secondary education and the responsibilities of adult life in 21st Century Britain.

To fulfil this vision, the school promotes six ideals, namely:

***1. Academic Achievement***

Enabling students to become confident, articulate and motivated learners, thus laying solid foundations for their future vocation, economic well-being and self-fulfilment.

***2. Character Formation***

Nurturing character and conduct consistent with Vaishnava-Hindu virtues, most notably respect, empathy, honesty, self-esteem, self-discipline, thoughtfulness and appreciation of the divine.

***3. Healthy Mind & Body***

Promoting pupils' holistic health through the provision of a safe, caring environment, a balanced vegetarian diet and opportunities to practice yoga, meditation and the arts.

***4. Wholesome Sense of Identity***

Acknowledging the key roles of free choice, exemplary role-models, fidelity to tradition and - above all - a spiritual identity that unites all people and all creatures.

***5. Social and Community Cohesion***

Inviting all members of the school and broader community to share in its aims, and preparing students of all backgrounds to contribute to society as responsible citizens.

***6. Environmental Responsibility***

Helping students adopt conscientious lifestyles that help sustain our planet, particularly by setting a practical example, nurturing respect for all life, and maintaining a simple, clean and ecologically-friendly environment.

**Waiting lists**

Unsuccessful applicants may ask to be placed on a Waiting List.

**Final Decision**

An admissions committee composed of members of the governing body will make a final decision (based on the criteria set down) on all admissions to the school.

**Appeals**

Applicants who are not offered a place will have the right to appeal by writing to the appeals panel within a certain number of days from the date of the Governors' letter being sent.