



Section 48 School Report

SEVA School

Link House

Eden Road, Walsgrave Triangle

Coventry, CV2 2TB

Inspection date:	31 st January 2024
Overall effectiveness: Previous inspection:	Good
This inspection:	Outstanding

Religious Education and Sikh Studies	1
Collective Worship and the development of Pupils' Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)	1
Leadership, Management and Governance	1

School context:

- Seva school is a Sikh faith free school situated in Coventry and is part of the Sevak Education Trust run by the board of Trustees. It is an all-through school with a pupil intake from Reception to Year 11, with 694 pupils on roll. The pupil numbers are rising, and the school is to have a new additional building for secondary pupils. The building work has now commenced and is to be completed by September 2025 to include a full refurbishment of the current build.
- The school has 83% of pupils from Sikh faith who have Indian heritage and others are from other minority ethnic backgrounds. A total of 61% are pupils who are learning English as an additional language. There are many different languages spoken across the school.
- Seva is a Sikh faith school, but teaches all major faiths represented in the UK. Religious Education (RE) is taught per Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus. This meets the requirements of the inspection authority, the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO).
- The school has a strong culture based on the school's standards of Selfless Service, Excellence, Virtues and Aspiration, with their named virtues being kindness, courage, honesty, tolerance, respect and responsibility. These are embedded throughout the school and displayed in each classroom.

- The school was inspected by Ofsted in November 2022 and received a rating of Good.

What does the school need to do to improve further?

Leaders to ensure that:

- Teachers to provide further extended learning opportunities for more able pupils as occasionally they complete their set work and then wait for others.

Religious Education and Sikh Studies

Outstanding

- Since the last inspection, the Principal has provided strong leadership and has driven on raising standards in Religious Education (RE) and the faith curriculum. Teachers of RE and Seva Studies are very well trained, and they have excellent subject knowledge and build upon pupils' prior learning extremely well. They have a strong understanding of the Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus and know how to implement the curriculum effectively.
- Teachers plan lessons well, taking account of the school's Effective Formative Feedback (EFF) project. The learning journey in books is evident and follow the curriculum plans created by leaders.
- As a result of excellent teaching, pupils make strong progress which is evident in their books and the lessons. Teachers know their well pupils and plan the lessons effectively in order to meet their needs. Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behaviour and conduct in lessons. In turn, pupils respond extremely well and attitudes towards learning are excellent. Pupils are confident and able to articulate their learning over time, including key vocabulary.
- The curriculum for Seva studies (Sikh studies) is clearly planned and maintains progression from EYFS to Year 11. Since the last inspection the curriculum has been refined to include Sikh history, teaching of Guru Granth Sahib Ji and Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural development. There are no pupils who are withdrawn from Seva studies (Sikh studies) or Collective Worship.
- Pupils are taught both Sikhism and Christianity in RE lessons at KS4 and they all take GCSE examination. Pupils in the rest of the school learn six world religions according to the locally agreed syllabus. Teachers are highly skilled in their ability to link learning to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji, as well as Sakhis (stories) and other religions such as Christianity and in turn, pupils have a deeper understanding of the lesson topics.
- The virtue boards are displayed in every classroom and referred to by teachers, embedding them in their lessons. Pupils are reflective of the virtue for the half term which currently is honesty and apply this to their learning. However, not all displays around the school are reflective of the outstanding learning that is happening.

The quality of Collective Worship and the development of pupils' spiritual, social, moral and cultural development

Outstanding

- All staff and pupils from different faiths and backgrounds, take part in the act of Collective Worship (CW) in the school's Darbar Sahib (Gurdwara). Pupils actively take part in the religious assembly and lead on the Guru Granth Sahib Ji seva with guidance from their teachers.
- Pupils in the assembly were learning about the Sakhi (story) relating to honest earning (Kirat Karni) and how it transformed the attitude of the dishonest man. This story of Guru Nanak Sahib was well linked to the teachings from the Guru Granth Sahib Ji and the school's virtues and principles. Pupils were attentive, extremely well behaved and responded to their learning experience, being able to express their own opinions and beliefs.
- Pupils demonstrate excellent behaviour and values in lessons and around the school. They are confident and enjoy school and are able to articulate that they feel safe. If bullying does happen, they can identify staff members who they can approach. Pupils also know that they can seek help and guidance from their "Seva Buddies" who are identifiable by their high visibility jackets.
- Pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development is outstanding. The school virtues and Collective Worship provides a strong foundation for all pupils.
- The Co-Chair of Coventry and Warwickshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) articulated the strength of Seva school within the city of Coventry. The school leaders' contributions to the RE curriculum by writing schemes of work and lesson plans was highly appreciated. Consultation on the Sikh content in the Agreed Syllabus has also been discussed with leaders at Seva school for accuracy.
- Pupils have a clear sense of responsibility, empathy and charity. They raise funds for many charities such as Khalsa Aid. They have worked on the soup kitchen initiative with other schools and charity organisations.
- Seva school supports other schools in the city, to develop their staffs and pupils' knowledge of Sikhism. The school actively participates in city wide initiatives such as Peace Poetry, the Peace Orchard Picnic and won the Lord Mayor's Peace and Reconciliation Award 2021 – 24. Students took part in the Coventry City of Culture and Royal Shakespeare Company collaboration project, where they researched and made a short film based on the experiences of Sikhs in Coventry through the generations. Pupils also perform kirtan in the local Gurdwaras during key religious celebrations.
- Pupils have a clear understand of British values through the learning that takes place within Seva studies (Sikh studies), CW and RE. The virtues of the school are aligned with British values and pupils are able to articulate these well. Pupils are taught to treat all equally and respect other faiths and religions. Pupils are being developed to have a well-rounded learning experience that will set them up to become responsible British citizens in their adult life.

Leadership and management

Outstanding

- The Principal and Senior Leadership Team provide very strong leadership for Sikh Studies, RE and Collective Worship. The Principal sets high expectations of the leadership and management teams to develop and embed outstanding practice.
- The primary and secondary RE leaders are very knowledgeable about the Sikh religion and know how to accurately link learning to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The curriculum is well planned to ensure that the requirements of the Coventry and Warwickshire Agreed Syllabus are met. The teachers use this curriculum effectively to plan and teach their lessons.
- Leaders monitor teaching and learning of pupils well, and this assessment is used effectively to plan for next sequence in learning.
- Leaders have ensured the revised curriculum compliments the strong foundation of Sikhism that pupils are taught at home and challenges them further by linking learning to the Guru Granth Sahib Ji.
- Leaders have ensured the continuity of the RE and Sikh studies curriculum from primary to secondary and have ensured that the wider development and enrichment opportunities compliment their learning.
- The Trustees are highly ambitious for the school and provide effective challenge and support to ensure the school is inclusive. They ensure pupils have access to opportunities inside and outside of school to develop them as good human beings. Their ambition for excellence for their Sikh school is evident, as the pupils at Seva are well prepared for multi-faith and multi-cultural British society.

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	All Through
School category	Academy free school
Age range of pupils	4-16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	694
Appropriate authority	Board of Trustees
Chair	Amarjit Basra
Principal	Sukhjinder Sanghera
Date of previous school inspection	25 th November 2019
Telephone number	02477987619
Website	sevaleducationtrust.org
Email address	principal@seva.coventry.sch.uk