



3rd July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff

Re: Rebrokerage of Seva School Update

On 18 March 2019, the Sevak Education Trust and a group of 34 parents brought a legal challenge to the decision made by the Secretary of State for Education on 21 February 2019 to appoint Nishkam Schools Trust (“Nishkam”) as the sponsor for the re-brokerage of Seva School. The proceedings were a last resort after the school and parents had been unsuccessful in their attempts to persuade the Department for Education to reconsider its decision.

On 28 June 2019, the parties reached an agreement and settled the proceedings after the Secretary of State accepted that he had failed to consider alternatives to Nishkam Schools Trust. The Secretary of State also agreed to pay the legal costs of the case.

The school looks forward to working closely with the Department moving forwards to ensure that any decisions about the future of the school made are with the best interests of the pupils, parents, staff and local Sikh community in mind.

The Trust would like to take this opportunity to say we are thankful and grateful to the parent group for their continued support, effort, dedication and commitment on this journey. We recognise the substantial financial support provided by them that has gone into this legal challenge and applaud that and thank them for agreeing to take upon themselves the financial costs of the legal case.

We are immensely grateful to the staff and leadership team at Seva School who continue to strive and provide a fantastic learning environment for the children. We are grateful to the parents who continue to support the school and can see the continuous improvements.

Most of all we would like to thank the children of Seva School who truly are beacons of light and continue to shine and remain positive, willing to learn and to flourish despite waiting for the much-needed sports facilities and the second building that the DfE have now agreed to start work on.

This has been an incredibly difficult time for all those associated with the school and it would not have been possible for us to challenge the decision without the prayers, best wishes and support of the community.

Yours faithfully

Board of Trustees - Sevak Education Trust