



## Section 48 School report

# SEVA School

Address

Eden Park, Coventry, CV2 2TB

### Inspection date

25 November 2019

### Overall effectiveness Previous inspection:

Not Previously inspected

This inspection:

Good

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Religious Education and Sikh Studies	2
Collective Worship and Pupils' Moral, Social and Cultural Development (SMSC)	2
Leadership, Management and Governance	2

### School context:

- Seva is a Sikh Faith free school opened in September 2014. It is run by the Sevak Education Trust through the board of trustees. Currently it has pupils from Reception Year to Year 11. The school is continuing to grow and currently has 545 pupils. Current Year 11 pupils will be the first cohort from the school to sit GCSE examinations.
- Pupils are mainly of Sikh faith and of Indian heritage with some belonging to other minority ethnic groups. The school requires to keep 50% places to be made available to non-Sikh pupils should they wish to attend.
- Seva is a Sikh faith school, but teaches all other major faiths represented in the UK. Religious education (RE) is taught per Coventry Agreed Syllabus. This meets the requirements of the inspection authority, the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO).
- The school aims to foster an ethos of respect and honest living where pupils of all faiths and those who identify having no faith are valued and supported through the Sikh teachings of 'Truth is high; but higher is truthful living' (Guru Nanak Sahib).
- The Department of Education (DfE), in September 2016 issued an academy order, requiring the school to become a sponsored academy. Trustees and the DfE have not reached agreement over the choice of sponsor. The date of conversion to academy status has not yet been decided.

- The school is currently situated in a business park on the outskirts of Coventry. Trustees have acquired a second building and a substantial plot of land on the same business park. The school has plans to extend the curriculum offer.

### **What does the school need to do to improve further?**

Leaders to ensure that:

- The curriculum for the teaching of Sikhism clearly maintains progression and continuity from primary to secondary phase;
- The curriculum is refined to ensure that Sikhism is taught at greater depth in all year groups with learning linked to the teachings from the Guru Granth Sahib.

### **Religious Education and Sikh Studies**

**Good**

- Religious Education (RE) has a prominent profile in the school and contributes to teaching Sikh values. All staff have a strong knowledge and understanding of the Coventry Agreed Syllabus and the curriculum is implemented effectively.
- Teachers plan activities that engage pupils well. Younger pupils enjoy learning about what Hindus need to do Puja. They know the names of the holy books of all religions. Older pupils were learning about Judaism and Christianity. They learn to use the quotes from the respective religious books.
- As a result of good teaching, pupils make good progress in RE and they use their literacy skills well to explain their work. Teachers are aware of their pupils' starting points and therefore are able to provide work that meets their needs.
- Teachers have high expectations of pupils' behavior and as a result pupils respond positively and behave very well in lessons. Pupils confidently explain what they have learnt, and most are proud of their neat and well-presented work. However, it is not yet consistent across all classes/phases.
- Lesson visits, planning and pupils' books indicates that Agreed Syllabus is implemented effectively. However, over adherence to the Agreed Syllabus does not leave sufficient time for Sikh studies in required depth. For example, older pupils, could talk about the Christian Creation story but not the Sikh view of how God created the world.
- Sikh teachings of equality of all human beings is well explained through discussions and displays around the school. The Sikh values of nam japna, kirat karna, and vand chhakna are also very well promoted through displays around the school.

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

**Good**

- All pupils and staff join in the school gurdwara for an act of collective worship (CW) that promotes the school's distinctive Sikh values. Pupils confidently lead the act of worship with support from the staff. Younger pupils recite the first five pauris from the Japji Sahib from

memory. They do kirtan with the harmonium and tabla. The behavior of those listening is good.

- Older Year 8, secondary pupils talked about Advent and how does this relate to Sikhism. They discussed about how best to celebrate the festivals and decided the best way is to do seva (voluntary work), as practical application of the Gurus' teachings. They came to the conclusion that offering services in a local hospital, supporting homeless and the elderly is the best way of celebrating the festivals.
- Pupils are confident and they enjoy school. It is a beautiful peaceful scene to watch, when in the morning the whole school comes together in the playground ready to come into the school. Pupils and some of their parents join in with pleasant greetings to each other, smiling faces, little chit chat but not a single loud voice. This is a clear indicator of a happy and harmonious community.
- Pupils say that they feel safe, there is no bullying and if it happens, they can identify staff members whom they can turn to. They know how to look after themselves. Pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding. The school values, and the CW provides very strong basis.
- Pupils have a clear sense of responsibility, empathy and charity. They raise funds for a carefully selected organizations, and willingly give time to support the local community. Pupils working alongside with a local Church of England and a Muslim faith school gave 265 bowls of soup to Salvation Army for homeless people. To celebrate Guru Nanak Sahib's birthday, pupils and their families recited Mool Manter (the first stanza written in the Guru Granth Sahib) one million times and raised £600 for charity.
- Pupils learn about all six major faith present in the UK, this helps them to understand the practices and faiths of others from the very young age. They learn to respect and celebrate difference, this helps to remove ignorance and prejudice arising from religion or cultures of others.
- Pupils have very strong understanding of British Values through the teachings of their own Sikh faith. They know what equality means, respect for other religions and cultures. They know how democracy works from their own gurdwaras that are democratic institutions. They learn how the law of our country is made and how rights have attached responsibilities. Pupils are overall well prepared to become responsible British citizens in their adult life.
- Pupils behavior in lessons is consistently good. They are polite and courteous, treat adults and each other with respect.

### **Leadership and management**

**Good**

- The primary and secondary school leaders for RE are knowledgeable about the Sikh religion and are very well supported by the-heads of primary and secondary and the Head teacher. The whole school staff are united to work to promote the clear vision built upon Sikh values.
- Leaders monitor teaching and learning well and ensure that the assessments are used effectively to plan next steps in learning. This is well done in all the major faiths taught according to the Coventry Agreed Syllabus.
- The leaders currently are not challenging pupils to engage in deeper understanding of the topics being studied. Some pupils have good grounding from home and are ready to be challenged to link learning to the shabads from the Guru Granth Sahib. For example, pupils

are highly engaged in seva (humanitarian) work, but they are not consistently taught to link this to the teachings from the Guru Granth Sahib.

- The RE leaders are aware of the need for continuity in the curriculum from primary to secondary, so that there are no gaps left in pupils' learning. They are taking measures to have a curriculum from Reception Year to Year 9 and then to use the GSCE specification for RE in Sikhism and Christianity.
- The Trustees have a clear strategic view and are highly ambitious to improve the quality of RE for all pupils. They visit the school regularly and support the staff in realising the school values of equality and respect for all. The Trustees have an ambition for excellence for their Sikh school that well prepares pupils for the multi faith and multi- cultural British Society. They work with the school to improve any weaknesses that remain to achieve the best outcomes for the school.

**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 to 16
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Number of pupils on the school roll	545
Appropriate authority	Board of Trustees
Chair	Amarjit Singh Basra
Headteacher	Rena Saggu
Date of previous school inspection	N/A
Telephone number	024 779 87619
Website	<a href="http://sevaleducationtrust.org/">http://sevaleducationtrust.org/</a>
Email address	<a href="mailto:headteacher@seva.coventry.sch.uk">headteacher@seva.coventry.sch.uk</a>