



KHALSA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Head Teacher Mrs Jasminder Grewal OBE

SECTION 48 OFSTED REPORT

22 November 2011

Reporting Inspector: The Lady Kanwaljit Singh OBE
Deputy Director (Education)
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 the guidance of the Sikh Rehat Maryada.

Khalsa Primary School

Wexham Road

Slough

Berkshire

SL2 5QR

Telephone 01753 823501

Local authority: Slough

Dates of inspection: 22 November 2011

Date of last inspection: 11 March 2009

School's unique reference number: 134778

Head Teacher: Mrs Jasminder Kaur Grewal OBE

Inspector's name: The Lady Kanwaljit Singh OBE

Description of the School

This is an oversubscribed Sikh faith school which first opened in September 2007. The school is larger than average in size and comprises mainly Sikhs of Indian origin. Pupils come from a number of surrounding boroughs and a very small minority belongs to other minority ethnic groups. The proportion of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals is below average. Most pupils speak English as an additional language and a few are at the early stages of learning the language. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities is below average. Most of these pupils have moderate learning difficulties. The Early Years Foundation Stage provision comprises two Reception classes and morning and afternoon nursery sessions. An Interim headteacher is currently leading the school. The school has adopted the Locally Agreed Syllabus.

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of Khalsa Primary Slough as a Sikh school are outstanding

Khalsa Primary Slough is an outstanding Sikh school where Sikh values permeate daily life and drive aspirations. Pupils behave exceptionally well, enjoy learning; appreciate the outstanding assemblies in the gurdwara, and are happy to learn about their own and other's religions.

Established strengths

- The outstanding Sikh ethos of caring, where pupils have high standards of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Outstanding teaching of kirtan and Path (verses from the Guru Granth Sahib);
- Outstanding leadership that works hard to promote Sikh ethos ;
- Outstanding collective worship with a strong Sikh tradition which emphasizes 'sabat da bhalla' that is 'well-being of all humanity' ;
- Outstanding quality of teaching that enables pupils to make outstanding progress;
- Outstanding links with schools in India, Malaysia and United States of America.

Focus for development

- More opportunities for pupils to use books, computers and other artifacts to develop independent research skills to find answers to their questions and to clarify their thinking about the issues being discussed;
- Ensure that pupils understand that the pictures of the Gurus are only artist's impressions.

The school, through its distinctive Sikh character, is outstanding at meeting the needs of all learners

The school, through its distinctive Sikh character, is outstanding in meeting pupils' needs. Pupils are proud of their school and work hard to achieve high standards. Their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is excellent. The school is a very cohesive community. The staff are from different cultural, racial and religious backgrounds and are good role models. They promote pupils' cultural development as well as an understanding of Sikh teaching of respecting others' religions. The relationships between adults and pupils are outstanding and this further promotes community cohesion. Pupils' behaviour is exemplary and this results in a calm and purposeful learning environment throughout the school. Pupils enjoy school as they remarked, 'we are privileged to have a gurdwara in the school and we like learning to play the vaja and tabla'. The Sikh ethos is very strong and underpins all aspects of school life. The names of different wings of the building further remind pupils of Sikh values of nam japna, kirat karni, vand chhakna. Designated rooms such as medical room, library and staff room are named after Sikh personalities that remind pupils about their history. The displays of pupils' work on Sikh heroes of past and present depict excellent role models for pupils and staff alike. According to the Sikh teachings of seva, pupils raise funds for many charities. Parents are very happy with the school.

The impact of collective worship on the school community is outstanding

The outstanding feature of the worship in the gurdwara is that assemblies are taken by pupils themselves. They very competently lead prayers, sing shabads and say the ardas. They show great zest while performing and others listen with respect and reverence. They all know how to be respectful in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib. Pupils' behaviour is impeccable. Giani ji is always at hand to support pupils throughout the service. He provides an invaluable service in teaching path, shabads and kirtan explaining meanings both in English and Punjabi. This helps pupils to understand the text in English and also extends their learning of Punjabi. The staff plan the themes well ensuring that the relevant sakhis (Stories of Gurus' lives) are taught at appropriate times during the year. The use of the interactive white board to display pictures and text being read has a very positive visual impact that engages pupils well. The festivals are celebrated with great enthusiasm and parents have many opportunities to attend and observe their children's' contributions. The whole ethos of worship is excellent and is spiritually uplifting. Pupils are continually reminded of the Sikh teaching of 'srbat da bhalla' that is 'well-being of all humanity' during the assembly. The story of Bhai Kanaya appropriately emphasised this.

The effectiveness of the religious education (RE) is Outstanding

RE is taken seriously by the whole school community and is a popular subject that contributes significantly to pupils' academic and spiritual development. Pupils enjoy the range of interesting activities, use of interactive white board to provide visual images and other resources in lessons. However, the use of books and computers in

class lessons is a little limited. Pupils do not get sufficient opportunities to develop independent research skills so that they can follow a line of inquiry and find answers to their questions. Pupils across the school have a good knowledge of the Guru Granth Sahib and understand its importance in the day to day life of Sikhs. In the lessons seen in Sikh Studies, pupils were learning the story of Guru Teg Bahadur; signs and symbols in Sikhism and their importance for Sikhs; Guru Gobind Singh's fight against injustice; Five pillars in Islam, and Hindu festivals. All staff teach their own classes and with the help of the Sikh learning support staff provide consistently outstanding lessons that result in pupils making outstanding progress. The use of whiteboard to show the text in Punjabi and English had an excellent visual impact that encouraged pupils to pay attention and extend learning.

Pupils learn about other world religions such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Christianity. Teachers who teach these specific subjects have good knowledge of these faiths and made very good use of artifacts. However, some young pupils were getting confused between the religious practices. For example Year 2 pupils were unsure of whether 'Holi', Rakhsha Bandan, Navratri were Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Sikh festivals. The school needs to rationalise the number of religions to be taught in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 taking into account the ages and abilities of pupils as well as curriculum time to be spent on RE.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school as a Sikh school is outstanding

The coordinator has a very clear Sikh vision for the school and is extremely well supported by the Headteacher. Since the last inspection good progress has been made in improving resources and teachers' subject knowledge. The scheme of work is well implemented and assessment procedures are robust. The coordinator has developed excellent links with schools abroad in India, USA, Canada and Malaysia to exchange ideas and learn from each other. The head teacher has an excellent vision for the school and is very focused in its promotion of the distinctiveness of the school as a Sikh community that reflects the Sikh principles of nam japna, kirat karni and vand chhakna. The Governors are very supportive and also hold the school to account regarding the progress pupils make. Good links are maintained with the Network of Sikh Organisations (NSO), the endorsing body for Sikh Schools. Parents are happy with the school for maintaining the happy Sikh family atmosphere.