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# A journey guided by values

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The work of Avanti Schools Trust began in 2005 with the objective of establishing the first state-funded school in the UK with a Hindu faith ethos. This pioneering project came to fruition in 2008 with the opening of Krishna Avanti Primary School in Harrow.

Today, our growing group of schools remain committed to the same ideals that shaped Krishna Avanti: educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight.

Each Avanti school provides an education that is rooted in a set of clear values and is open to pupils of all backgrounds. They are dedicated to providing education of the very highest quality – for the all-round development of the child, so that she or he will take their place in society as confident, thoughtful and skilled citizens, aware of their own needs and those of others.

The Trust supports schools in key areas such as character and ethos, quality assurance, school improvement, pedagogy and curriculum, purchasing and project management, and the training of staff and leadership. Our strong community links, supported by grassroots parental demand and positive working partnerships with local authorities allow all Avanti Schools to truly flourish.



## GROUNDBREAKING

The Krishna Avanti Primary School was a first for Britain – a state-funded school with a Hindu ethos. The grounds include a temple built from hand-carved marble, a meditation garden and an outdoor amphitheatre.

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# Rooted in Chaitanya's teachings

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## OPEN TO ALL

Chaitanya was a 16<sup>th</sup> century teacher, social reformer and spiritual leader responsible for the widespread publicising of sacred rites and teachings, previously monopolised by the orthodoxy of the time.

**“Be more humble  
than a blade of grass,  
more tolerant than a tree.  
Offer respect to all,  
and expect none in return.  
In so doing, chant the Holy  
Names of God always.”**

Chaitanya of Nadia 1486–1534

From the very beginning, the Avanti ethos has been inspired by the example and teachings of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.

Chaitanya was born in 1486 in Nadia, then East India's epicentre for learning and scholarship. At an early age he founded what quickly became the region's foremost school, widely renowned for its teaching in logic, grammar and rhetoric. He went on to lead an early civil disobedience movement, contesting religious sectarianism. In later life, he turned his attention to spiritual ideals that transcended social and religious boundaries and thus paved the way for a great spiritual renaissance.

He taught that the essence of education is to appreciate how everything has a special relationship with the divine and that such an understanding culminates in a profound spiritual realisation of love, compassion and selflessness – the original, pure nature of every being. He emphasised spiritual equality and advocated that humanity can be united through a shared love of God, expressed through the singing of God's many names. Chaitanya's exemplary life heralded the dawn of an inclusive spiritual resurgence that continues to inspire people from all faiths.

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# Building on three pillars

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All schools in the Avanti Schools Trust prepare pupils for their respective life-journeys by promoting educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight.

## Educational Excellence

An emphasis on independent thought and personal choice fans every pupil's innate and emerging passion for learning. Our personalised approach provides tailor-made learning paths for all pupils. This motivates and enables all pupils to become reflective, articulate and independent thinkers, laying solid foundations for their future learning, vocation and self-fulfilment. Our approach is characterised by a mentorship and academic support system that is delivered in close partnership with parents.



## Character Formation

Our schools prepare pupils to take their place as loyal, responsible and broad-minded British citizens. Our ethos acknowledges that personal virtue, responsibility and a wholesome sense of identity underpin success in all endeavours. It nurtures conduct consistent with the universal virtues of respect, integrity, humility, courage, empathy, gratitude and self-discipline. Avanti schools promote holistic, responsible lifestyles through a vegetarian diet, a curriculum that integrates yoga and meditation and a built environment that actively fosters environmental concern.



## Spiritual Insight

The development of spiritual insight is at the heart of the curriculum and draws on the teachings of Krishna Chaitanya, which embrace a universal, inclusive approach to spirituality, aimed at rekindling a personal, loving and spontaneous relationship with the divine (Krishna). The curriculum offers opportunities to explore the philosophies and traditions of different faiths. Collective worship includes the following practices: kirtan, meditation, worship, reflection, song, prayer, and story-telling.





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# Aiming for excellence

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Avanti Schools Trust is driven by five strategic aims which allow us to measure our progress and effectiveness.

## I Outstanding in every Ofsted category

Using Ofsted's framework as the benchmark, Trust staff and consultants carry out support visits, audits and mini-inspections to ensure awareness of a school's grading in each Ofsted category. The best possible support is provided to each of our schools to accelerate progress towards outstanding and beyond.

## II A national family

The Trust maintains and keeps under regular review a pipeline of new school proposals. The current status, next steps and projected start date are reviewed to ensure that we are well prepared for the new schools that join our family and that our growth is optimal in terms of rate, location and nature of offering.

## III Excellent service to Trust schools

The Trust team provides a set of central services and brokers and quality assures a small number of critical external providers across the family of schools, such as IT and HR advice. All of these services are kept under review to ensure that they are both excellent and best value.

## IV Enriching the nation's education

We are committed to contributing to the heart of the nation's school system. This will be delivered through partnership with Government and DfE, teaching alliances, universities and other organisations working in education. The Trust aims to develop its own Teaching School status with associated partner organisations.

## V Leaders in ethics-based education

The distinctive ethos of the Trust is manifest in its Philosophy, Religion & Ethics curriculum and in Collective Worship. The Trust seeks to become a thought leader in these areas with a view to developing a unique and accredited programme for spiritual and ethics-based education.

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# Serving our schools

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Our central core team comprises leading educationalists with experience as headteachers, directors of education, project managers and business and community leaders.

This team provides a set of core services to schools focused on:

- vision and strategy development
- school improvement
- governor training
- headteacher support and challenge
- policy development
- financial audit and support (including responsible officer function)
- ICT strategy
- religious and spiritual education advice
- branding and marketing
- school start-up support
- project management, design and site identification services.

## TEAM PLAYERS

### Chair

John Simpson

### Chief Executive

Nitesh Gor

### Education Director

Usha Sahni OBE

### Senior Education Officer

Mark Bennison

### Finance Director

Kirit Patel

### Project Manager

Brij Vadhvania

### Brand Manager

Matthew Whitlock

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# How we deliver

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## RAISING STANDARDS

Regular reviews by the Trust help a school prepare for Ofsted inspections



## VEGETARIAN CATERING

Quality is guaranteed with Govinda's Catering, a Trust owned subsidiary



## IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR

Annual conferences bring schools and Trust together to connect and share

Examples of specific support mechanisms we currently provide include:

- an annual cycle of three review meetings between representatives of the Trust and an individual school. In each term (autumn, spring and summer) the areas of standards, finance and leadership, governance and strategy are covered respectively. Actions by both the school and the Trust would flow from these meetings
- bi-annual mini-Ofsted inspections
- coordinating a set of issue-specific action groups made up of representatives of schools and the Trust
- group level fundraising initiatives, sponsorship and business/community partnerships
- catering provision
- on-going web and social media promotion, prospectus and associated collateral design
- Trust training events for staff and governors of all schools
- admissions legal advice and appeals process
- shared ICT and finance platforms.



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# A growing family

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Like all members of a family, schools within the Avanti Schools Trust have lots in common. They are all state-funded, teaching the new national curriculum. They share an ethos, which serves to unite the schools in purpose, values and direction. They are also known for their specialisms – Mathematics and the arts.

In addition, Avanti schools benefit from other fundamental assets such as a shared visual identity, shared educational resources, accessible expertise and numerous vital services.

While sharing so much, each family member is an individual in their own right. Created at a grassroots level from the conviction and passion of local people, each growing school is nurtured and enriched by the community that surrounds it.

The following pages offer snapshots from the Avanti family album – four young schools as they settle into their environments, in pursuit of educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight. The map opposite displays their permanent locations for 2015.



## GUIDANCE FROM iFOUNDATION

In Avanti schools, the Hindu faith is expressed in accordance to principles from iFoundation, the religious authority that operates in the same way as a Diocese would for church schools.





# LOCATIONS FOR 2015

See below for the locations of our schools. The map also shows the sites for Avanti House primary and secondary schools; to become permanent from September 2015.

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 <b>KRISHNA AVANTI</b> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<b>KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Evington Hall Spencefield Lane Evington, Leicester LE5 6HN
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 <b>AVANTI HOUSE</b> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<b>AVANTI HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Common Road Stanmore Middlesex HA7 3JB
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 <b>AVANTI HOUSE</b> SECONDARY SCHOOL	<b>AVANTI HOUSE SECONDARY SCHOOL</b> Wemborough Road Stanmore Middlesex HA7 2EQ
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 <b>AVANTI COURT</b> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<b>AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Carlton Drive Barkingside Essex IG6 1LZ
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 <b>KRISHNA AVANTI</b> PRIMARY SCHOOL	<b>KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL</b> Camrose Avenue Edgware Middlesex HA8 6ES
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LONDON



## AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL *Redbridge*

Avanti Court is a relatively new school for boys and girls aged four to eleven. The School was set up in response to demand for primary school places in Redbridge. In 2014 it received its first Ofsted inspection, giving evidence that this is a "good school" with a growing ambition.

Based in Redbridge and open to students of any faith and from any borough, Avanti Court offers a broad, challenging curriculum focused on core skills and subjects as well as inspiring a love of Mathematics and Performing Arts. What makes the school distinctive is its values-based approach, which encourages pupils to value themselves, others and the environment, empowering them to be effective learners and good British citizens. The school also offers opportunities to study Philosophy, Religion and Ethics, Sanskrit, meditation and yoga.

The school provides places for 840 children (reaching full capacity in 2018), which divides into 120 children in each year group as well as a Nursery. We aim to develop a small school model so that every child is well-known, challenged and inspired to be the best they can be. The school serves a diverse community in which people from all backgrounds, faiths and world views are welcomed to give their child a Hindu-influenced educational experience.

## AVANTI HOUSE ALL-THROUGH SCHOOL *Harrow*

Avanti House is a new mixed 4–18 school, set up in 2012 in response to parental demand, and is set to be a world-class school. It will become the largest free school in the country.

Based in Harrow and open to students of any faith and from any borough, Avanti House School offers a broad, challenging curriculum focused on core skills and subjects as well as specialisms in Mathematics and Performing Arts. What makes the school distinctive is its values-based approach to the curriculum which encourages students to value self, others and the environment and empowers them to be effective learners and good citizens. The school also offers opportunities to study Ethics, Philosophy, Sanskrit (as the root of almost all eastern and western languages), leadership training, meditation and yoga.

### **AVANTI HOUSE SECONDARY**

The secondary phase currently has four classes in Y7 and Y8 and will welcome a further 140 pupils in September 2014. The school operates a 45 x 40 minutes timetable which gives an extended thirty hour teaching week with extracurricular activities available three nights per week. The secondary phase will transfer to its permanent site on Whitchurch playing fields, Harrow, in September 2015 at which point the primary phase will move into the Common Road, Stanmore building.

### **AVANTI HOUSE PRIMARY**

Our four primary classes are currently based at the site of our sister primary school, Krishna-Avanti, in Camrose Avenue, Harrow. They follow the Early Years and KS1 Curriculum, complemented by the International Primary Curriculum which aims to broaden horizons and affirm development in literacy and numeracy.



## KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL *Harrow*

The Krishna Avanti Primary School opened in September 2009 and is the UK's first state-funded Hindu faith school. The school is located in the London Borough of Harrow – home to the largest concentration of Hindus in Britain. It operates an open-to-all admissions policy and attracts pupils from all backgrounds.

Highly acclaimed architecture integrates Vastu design principles with state-of-the-art sustainability. Spacious classrooms and surrounding teaching spaces face onto the temple courtyard. The temple plays a visible role in school life, inspiring pupils, staff and community alike. Intricately hand carved from white Makrana marble, it houses the school deities of Krishna and Balarama.

The whole school functions as a learning environment. This includes the grounds: a mixture of play spaces, an amphitheatre, landscaped vegetable and flower gardens and wooded wildlife areas – all serving as natural curriculum resources which reinforce responsible attitudes towards the environment.

A calm and welcoming atmosphere pervades this exceptional school. This, combined with its reputation for high-level academic achievement make Krishna Avanti Primary School a first-class option for nursery and primary education in Harrow.

## KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL *Leicester*

The Krishna Avanti Primary School is a free school for boys and girls that opened in September 2011. It has been adding a new year group each academic year, and will reach its capacity of 420 pupils by September 2017.

The school is set in five acres of land on Spencefield Lane in Leicester, in Evington Hall. The Grade 2 listed building was built for the High Sheriff of Leicester and was also once a Catholic Convent. The main house has great character with beautiful features including an extraordinary library area. The tranquil, landscaped grounds and extensive buildings make this a wonderful learning environment for all children of any faith and background.

The school offers a broad and stimulating values-based curriculum, with the addition of yoga, meditation, Spanish, as well as Sanskrit (being the root of most eastern and western languages). Whilst there are high expectations of all children, learning is also fun, ensuring our children grow into confident, successful and happy young people.

The school is lead by Mary Lawson, an experienced Headteacher and former Director of Education for the Diocese of Leicester.



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# Onward and upward

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An important milestone for a new school is the inspection conducted by Ofsted, an independent service reporting directly to Parliament. Their assessment forms a vital aspect of a school's reputation.

Avanti schools are much like the young people they serve: dynamic and creative, growing and developing at a healthy rate with increasing appetites for new horizons and challenges. Recent Ofsted reports paint a positive picture of the journey so far.

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## KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL, LEICESTER

Inspected May 2013

Graded overall by Ofsted as

**GOOD**

## KEY FINDINGS

Progress in Reception Year is outstanding

School operates in a warm, caring environment

Outstanding behaviour; pupils "kind and caring"

Good opportunities to learn of different cultures

Leadership has an accurate view of the school

Governors ensure resources are well managed

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## KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL, HARROW

Inspected June 2013

Graded overall by Ofsted as

**GOOD**

## KEY FINDINGS

Above average attainment for Key Stage 1

Good teaching means pupils are actively involved

Behaviour is "impeccable" in and out of class

Excellent systems help school run smoothly

A curriculum that is based around school values

Leadership successful in raising achievement

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## AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL, REDBRIDGE

Inspected February 2014

Graded overall by Ofsted as

**GOOD**

## KEY FINDINGS

Pupils achieve well and make good progress

Phonics for EYFS and Y1 above national average

Governors are supportive and well informed

Leadership shares a vision for improvement

Pupils are courteous, confident and well behaved

Provision for spiritual development is very strong



## WHAT OFSTED JUDGEMENTS MEAN

<b>GRADE 1 OUTSTANDING</b>	An <b>outstanding</b> school is highly effective in delivering outcomes that provide exceptionally well for all its pupils' needs. This ensures that pupils are very well equipped for the next stage of their education, training or employment.
<b>GRADE 2 GOOD</b>	A <b>good</b> school is effective in delivering outcomes that provide well for all its pupils' needs. Pupils are well prepared for the next stage of their education, training or employment.
<b>GRADE 3 REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT</b>	A school that <b>requires improvement</b> is not yet a good school, but it is not inadequate. This school will receive a full inspection within 24 months from the date of this inspection.
<b>GRADE 4 INADEQUATE</b>	A school that has serious weaknesses is <b>inadequate</b> overall and requires significant improvement but leadership and management are judged to be Grade 3 or better. This school will receive regular monitoring by Ofsted.

<b>Achievement</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Behaviour</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	<b>GOOD</b>

### FURTHER INSIGHTS

Teachers promote a love for learning, which underpins progress  
Children leave Reception with skills above those expected for age  
The quality of teaching in EYFS is outstanding  
Pupils demonstrate ICT skills above those expected for age  
Pupils behaviour in classrooms and other areas is outstanding  
Effective systems for managing and improving quality of teaching

<b>Achievement</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Behaviour</b>	<b>OUTSTANDING</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	<b>GOOD</b>

### FURTHER INSIGHTS

Phonics are taught well throughout EYFS and Year 1  
Speaking, listening and drama are used to enthuse written work  
Teachers question well to assess understanding and extend thinking  
Pupils take a pride in their work and present it neatly  
Pupils appreciate that their views are valued thanks to school council  
All pupils are treated equally and have the same opportunities

<b>Achievement</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Teaching</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Behaviour</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>Leadership</b>	<b>GOOD</b>

### FURTHER INSIGHTS

Pupils in Year 2 achieve high scores in reading and Mathematics  
Supportive teacher relationships mean pupils are keen to learn  
Skilled teaching assistants extend help to pupils that need it  
Pupils enjoy applying their skills to well-planned home learning  
A harmonious atmosphere – a climate of friendship  
Celebrating different faith festivals extends spiritual understanding

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# Exciting times

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Recent years have seen Avanti schools take brave steps into a new world. Before 2008, there was no such thing as a state-funded Hindu faith school. Now there are four, with plans to expand the offering to more than 15 by 2020.

In 2012, Krishna Avanti, our flagship primary school caught the attention of Her Majesty the Queen, who opened her Jubilee celebrations with an extended visit. A year later, the Secretary of State for Education officially opened Krishna Avanti Primary School in Leicester, commenting that the school was a 'beacon' and a 'fantastic option'.

Our five strategic aims ensure that sights are set firmly on excellence. Here are a few more ways in which Avanti Schools Trust is breaking ground.

## Avanti schools in India

Education in India presents a remarkable challenge; one that Avanti Schools Trust has embraced. Having researched the current landscape, its strengths as well as the issues, the Trust decided to form a small Delhi-based team in 2013 to build connections with government, policy-makers and educators. Drawing on the experience and successes of Avanti UK, our vision is to establish sister schools in India.



## Partnering with the University of Cambridge

In 2013, a unique partnership was formed between the University of Cambridge and the Avanti Schools Trust. Together, the CAMAST team plan to create, develop and research a family of schools across the globe which are designed to enhance the educational experiences of students within the school and their wider communities.



## Govinda's – beyond vegetarian

All Avanti schools promote vegetarianism as a healthy and ethical lifestyle choice, beneficial to the individual and our world. To support this ideal, a subsidiary venture has been created to provide lunches for our schools. Pupil feedback has contributed to the development of a varied menu, comprising all the familiar favourites alongside global gourmet goodies.



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# Staying connected

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## Highlights and updates

The Avanti Life newsletter brings you the very best of what's happening within our family of schools – the events, the achievements, the vision – and the pupils, educators and friends behind it all.

[WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/MAGAZINE](http://WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/MAGAZINE)



## School life in detail

The websites for our schools offer detailed and up-to-date information on many key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.

[WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/AVANTI-SCHOOLS](http://WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/AVANTI-SCHOOLS)



## Socialising

We use Facebook as a shared community page where many school and Trust highlights are broadcast. It's a great way to stay informed and in touch.

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AVANTISCHOOLSTRUST](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AVANTISCHOOLSTRUST)

friends   
AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

## Getting involved

Friends of Avanti Schools Trust is a networking platform for community volunteers, dedicated to enriching the educational environment in which our children grow.

[WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/FRIENDS](http://WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/FRIENDS)



## Talk to us

Our aim is to communicate with our audiences as much as possible, sharing the successes of our schools in as much detail as possible. If you have any questions, we would love to hear from you.

[WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/CONTACT](http://WWW.AVANTI.ORG.UK/CONTACT)

