

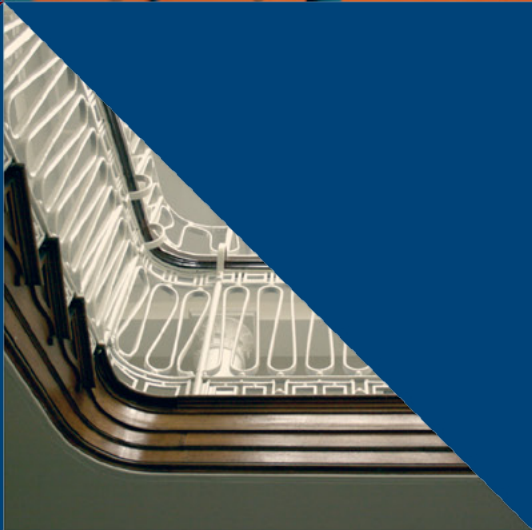
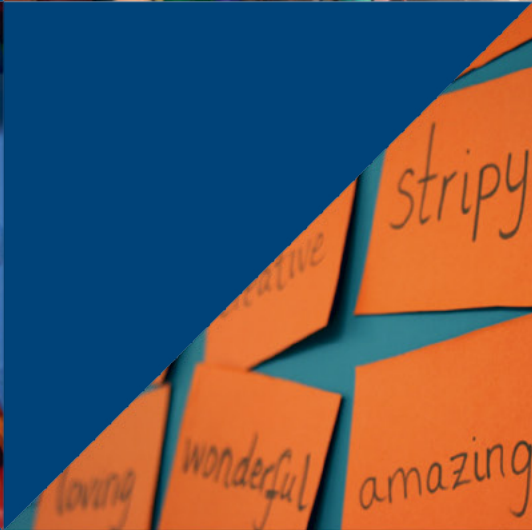


KRISHNA AVANTI

PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS





Welcome

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Krishna Avanti, a truly landmark project for the City of Leicester. We are a School dedicated to the whole child and have high ideals and aspirations. We want every child to excel and enjoy their time at school. As the Principal, I consider it a privilege to serve you and extend my friendship to you and your child.

The Krishna Avanti Primary School is a special place with a strong spiritual emphasis combined with a determination for educational excellence, character development, and spiritual insight. Our vegetarian diet, along with the inclusion of Yoga and meditation, supports calmness, good behaviour and enhances a wonderful enthusiasm for the learning process.

The School opened its doors to the first intake of two Reception (EYFS 2) classes in September 2011, and will continue to grow, adding another two Reception classes each year. Our personalised learning approach allows our children to develop their talents whilst receiving maximum individual attention.

We have the distinct advantage of being in a grand setting of five acres of lush grounds and buildings that combine the very latest in modern design and the heritage of Evington Hall, which was built in 1835. Our spacious site offers ample opportunity for outdoor learning and play.

I look forward to receiving your child. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us and come in and meet the teachers and see our beautiful school.

Welcome to the Krishna Avanti experience.

Christopher Spall - Principal

Our Vision

Our School prepares students for their respective life-journeys by promoting educational excellence, character formation and spiritual insight.

Emphasis on independent thought and personal choice fans every student's innate and emerging passion for learning. This personalised approach provides tailor-made learning paths for all students, ensuring their long-term progress and fulfilment, and is supported by a mentorship system delivered in close partnership with parents.

We also work collaboratively with the wider community, especially partner organisations, to prepare students as responsible British citizens. The School promotes holistic, responsible lifestyles through a vegetarian diet, a curriculum that integrates yoga and meditation, and a built environment that actively fosters environmental concern. By drawing on the teachings of Krishna Chaitanya*, our School embraces a universal, inclusive approach to spirituality, aimed at rekindling a personal, loving and spontaneous relationship with the divine (Krishna).

* Our ethos draws from the teachings of Chaitanya. He was born in 1486 in Nadiya, 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. Such 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 His many names. Chaitanya's exemplary life heralded the dawn of an inclusive spiritual resurgence that continues to inspire people from all faiths.



Educational Excellence

Our School motivates and enables all pupils to become reflective, articulate and independent thinkers, laying solid foundations for their future learning, vocation and self-fulfilment. The broad and challenging curriculum focuses on core skills and subjects, and is distinctive in its values-based approach to the humanities and its emphasis on the artistic and spiritual realms.

Character Formation

The School acknowledges that personal virtue, responsibility and a wholesome sense of identity underpin success in all endeavours, material and spiritual. It nurtures conduct consistent with the universal virtues of respect, integrity, humility, courage, empathy, gratitude and self-restraint.

Spiritual Insight

Rooted in the teachings of Chaitanya, our School promotes an inclusive, accessible approach to spirituality. It aims at a personal, loving and spontaneous reciprocation with the divine (Krishna). Self-discovery is supported through song, mantra meditation, service to humanity contemplative prayer and the study of exemplary role models. This prepares all students to make lasting contributions to society as loyal, responsible and broad-minded citizens.



Early Years Foundation Stage

At Krishna Avanti Primary School, we want our pupils' first experiences of education to be enjoyable and engaging. We expect all members of the school community to work collaboratively, with high aspirations and expectations of everyone, consistent with our ethos.

By the end of the Early Years and Foundation Stage (Reception), we aim for all our children to have developed positive attitudes to school supported by:

- positive relationships with adults
- strong friendships
- meaningful learning activities set in an engaging, calm learning environment
- and strong links between school and parents/carers.

We also expect them to have a firm understanding of phonics and enjoy reading, offering additional directed support to those with need.

Children will be offered a broad, balanced Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This allows plenty of opportunities to learn through play in a wide variety of contexts and focuses on:

- personal, social and emotional development
- communication and language
- literacy
- problem-solving, reasoning and mathematics
- knowledge and understanding of the world
- physical development
- expressive arts and design

Teaching will encourage all children to ask questions and talk about their play and learning.



Key Stages 1 & 2: Years 1–6

Throughout Key Stages 1 & 2, Krishna Avanti pupils will continue to develop a love of reading, through an effective balance of synthetic phonics, drama, speaking and listening tasks, guided reading and storytelling.

We know that pupils who can communicate orally and in writing and who understand the value and pleasure of reading, are more likely to have happy, fulfilling academic and personal lives.

With these skills, pupils will access a broad and balanced curriculum that includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Arts (Music, Art, Dance & Drama)
- ICT (Information & Communications Technology)
- Physical Education (PE)
- Humanities
- Religious Education (RE)
- Yoga and Meditation
- Sanskrit
- Spanish
- PSHE (Personal Social Health & Economic Education, including Philosophy & Ethics)

We aim to enrich the curriculum with memorable learning experiences, including educational visits and outdoor learning opportunities. Pupils will be largely taught together in their class but will be supported by focused interventions, where needed, so that no child is left behind. Targets are set for each child to support their personalised learning journey.

Philosophy & Ethics

Avanti Schools share the same distinctive ethos, founded on three pillars: Educational Excellence, Character Formation and Spiritual Insight. Our curriculum is developed to include a Philosophy & Ethics course, which although taught discretely, is intended to inform all learning throughout pupils' time at school. The P&E course is focused on developing seven key values. Humility is the overarching value and unifies the others, which are: empathy, courage, respect, self-discipline, gratitude and integrity. Each value is covered over each one of the 6 academic terms, repeating year on year to extend pupils' and students' understanding to show progress over time (e.g. Autumn 1 focus is Empathy).

Included in each term is a focus Festival Day that unifies the values and character qualities we intend to develop. These are special celebratory days, involving planned lessons, performing arts and opportunities to perform publicly. The overview identifies expectations for significant milestones throughout the school career (roughly based on 2 years e.g. end of Year 2, end of Year 4 etc). Yoga, meditation and mindfulness, Sanskrit and RE lessons contribute to the holistic education of pupils and students and are linked with the P&E course.

Summary:

- Weekly/twice weekly sessions lasting 45 minutes
- One value covered each term
- Linked with yoga, meditation and mindful lessons
- Linked with RE and Sanskrit lessons
- Celebration Festival Days each term (based on Hindu and other religious festivals)
- Assessed termly against Expected Outcomes



Collective Worship

As with all schools in the United Kingdom, at Krishna Avanti we take part in daily acts of collective worship, which, inclusive to all, will balance the major faith traditions with our distinctive ethos and understanding of spiritual worship. Collective worship at Avanti Trust Schools involves: kirtan, song, meditation, prayer, worship, reflection and story-telling.

Children can be withdrawn from these sessions although we strongly encourage everyone to be involved as they are vital learning opportunities to break down barriers between different faiths and belief systems. Please talk with the Principal should you wish to discuss this further.



After School Clubs

We offer a wide range of after-school activities. These may change term to term. Please ask the school if you'd like to get an idea of some of its current activities. Some of the activities being offered during our school year include:

- Archery
- Classical music (ragas and mrdangam)
- Football and cricket
- Karate
- Kuchipudi classical Indian dance
- Study of Bhagavad Gita



Admissions

To apply for a place at the School, here's what you need to do:

1. Applicants must complete the City Council's admissions form and return it to the Council offices. The deadline for submitting this form is 15th January.
2. Parents must also complete a Supplementary Information Form ('SIF') if wishing to apply for a place on the basis of Hindu practice or for an ISKCON Leicester place. You can download the form from our website.
3. The SIF must be returned to the school office and not to the City Council. The office address is on the form.

Applications must be submitted no later 15th January. Applications received after the closing date will be considered after those received on time. Offers of Reception places will be sent to applicants from the City Council. Unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. If a place becomes available this will be allocated using the School's admissions policy and over subscriptions criteria (to be published shortly and published on our website). Unsuccessful applicants have the right to appeal and information will be sent with the decision letter from the City Council.



School Site

Evington Hall was built in 1800's as the home of the Sheriff of Leicester. Set in five acres of lush grounds, the site provides an ideal environment for learning. There has been a major refurbishment and new build programme which now provides:

- New function and dining hall
- A spacious central plaza
- New Reception and Year 1 classrooms
- Refurbished rooms for Year 2 and Year 3
- Refurbished rooms for Years 4, 5, & 6 in Evington Hall
- Resource rooms equipped for science, art, cooking and ICT
- Refurbished PE hall
- Landscaped gardens and play areas
- Vegetable gardens for each class





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“I will offer teaching to all and live by what I teach”

Chaitanya of Nadiya: 16th Century teacher, social reformer and spiritual leader

