

The APS journey

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<p>June - December 2013 - Development of the programme</p>	<p>The Akaal Academy Trust registers with Company House as it's journey begins. This period included pre-application registration supported by the New Schools Network.</p>
<p>Jan - July 2014 Application and Approval</p>	<p>Following submission of application in January, DS Virk (Lead applicant Trustee), Julie Kennedy (Governor), Frank Knowles (Core team member), Navjot Kaur (Governor-Lead) and Balbir Singh Mashiana (Governor Finance) were invited to attend the DFE for an interview regarding FREE school application in March, subsequently being informed in June to proceed with the next step in Free School application.</p>
<p>July - Dec 2014 Pre-opening</p>	<p>The Secretary of State had agreed, that the application to establish a free school should proceed to the pre-opening stage, and awarded a grant of no more than £220,000 (including VAT), under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002 in respect of approved eligible expenditure incurred in developing detailed plans for the Akaal Primary School project.</p> <p>School branding and school logo finalised by Shiny motion Multimedia Design on 5th August 2014.</p> <p>ARTELIA UK was appointed following the tender for Project Management Services on 18th August 2014.</p> <p>Between 9 Sept and 2nd December, key issues relating to actions set from the DFE and recruitment of the Executive Head Teacher and Head of School, took place. It was proposed by Elaine Bowen and agreed by Kathy Gisbourne, DFE advisor, that Vicky Kavanagh should be considered for the post of EHT</p>
<p>January 2015 - July 2015</p>	<p>5 January 2015: Benchmarking interview of Vicki Kavanagh for EHT at the Sikh Museum. She was appointed on 20 January 2015 with the understanding that she would remain in office till the first Ofsted. Her appointment was subject to signing of Funding Agreement. But she resigned on 31 August 2016 when Andrew Pearson replaced her.</p> <p>9 January 2015: Interview for HoS. Three candidates appeared in interview held at the Sikh Museum. Julie Kennedy selected and offered position on 20 January 2015 till 31 August 2015 and its continuation was subject to signing of Funding Agreement.</p> <p>17 Feb 2015-Public Consultation before funding agreement: In accordance with Section 10 of the Academies Act 2010, Akaal Academy Trust Derby consulted key stakeholders on the proposal to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Secretary of State for Education. The</p>

	<p>consultation was advertised in the Derby Telegraph on Wednesday 4th February 2015 and leaflets were distributed. The consultation meeting was held at City of Derby Academy, Farmhouse Road, Sinfin, Derby, DE23 8NQ on Tuesday 17th February 2015 at 6pm. Artelia, the Project Development Company, submitted its report on 17 March 2015. Out of 250 questionnaires 235 favoured signing of funding agreement and only 4 opposed.</p> <p>15 June 2015-Temporary accommodation: Atlas Refurbishment Northern Ltd given contract of temporary building for Akaal Primary School at Gurdwara site.</p> <p>22 June 2015: Education Secretary John Nash confirms that Secretary of State agreed to enter into Funding Agreement with Akaal academy Trust. The Funding Agreement was finally signed on 25 June 2015.</p> <p>27 June 2015: Readiness to Open meeting for finalising documents meeting of Board of school at the Sikh Museum</p> <p>30 June 2015: Akaal ROM (readiness to open) meeting at DfE office St Place Sheffield from 11 to 1pm. This was attended by DS Virk (Chair), Julie Kennedy (HoS), Vicki Kavangh (EHT), Elaine Bowen (governor) and Mike Parker (Business manager).</p> <p>7 July 2015: External ROM report-risks and mitigation actions for Akaal primary School.</p> <p>15 July 2015: EFA approves funding for temporary site and ICT provisions.</p> <p>21 August 2015-Temporary site: Lease deed with Singh Sabha Gurdwara located at Princes Street Derby for a term of three (3) years commencing on August 21st 2015 at an annual rent of £2500.</p>
<p>Sept 2015 -</p>	<p>6 Sept 2015: Opening of temporary site at Gurdwara by Panj Pyare and Sangat. School opened with 25 pupils in Reception and Year 1 Staff were: Mrs Arundel, Mrs Bassi, Miss Kaur, Mrs Fellowes, Mrs Chauhan and Mr Parker. Transport was provided free for the majority of children, initially by the Gurdwara.</p>

Vegetarian meals were provided by Village School for the first 3 years whilst at the initial site.

7 Sept 2015: DfE informs about Sikh Faith designation of school which was approved on 28th August 2015

4 February 2016: The Secretary of State exercises powers under Schedule 1 to the Academies Act 2010 to make a scheme of the freehold interest in the part of the former Normanton Junior School site.

20 April 2016: Official copy of Land Registry new school site at Grange Avenue Derby. This title is dealt with by the Land Registry, Nottingham Office.

10 June 2016: Benchmarking interview of Andrew Pearson for EHT. Job offered on 18 June 2016 for two days a week and to begin on 1 September 2016.

30 June 2016-Community Consultation: GF Tomlinson Building Ltd conducted community consultation at the at the Sunnyhill Community Centre, Coleridge Street, Derby, DE23 8AF on Thursday 30th June 2016, 4pm until 6pm. The consultation was for Akaal Primary School building on land off Grange Avenue, Derby, DE23 8DG. Residents were shown draft plans and allowed to discuss and express their opinions.

11 July 2017: Benchmarking interview of Julie Fellowes as HT. The job was offered to her on 11 July 2017 to start from 1 September 2017.

17 Dec 2017: Laying of foundation stone of Akaal Primary School at Grange Avenue site. This followed the completion of full reading of Guru Granth Sahib at Singh Sabha Gurdwara. A prayer was performed at the Gurdwara and all congregations came to the school site. The foundation was laid by Panj Singh after a prayer. There about 200 people at the foundation ceremony.

During this year, several visits were made to the new school site by the children. It gave everyone the opportunity to experience the excitement of our new school growing.



2 Sept 2018: Opening of new site by Panj Pyare and Sangat.



The new school opened with children up to Year 4, with numbers increasing consistently.

The school was purpose built with ample parking for staff and visitors, a welcoming reception area and opportunities for future development of outside space - EYFS and Year 1 area, the Ninja trail, the MUGA, and the Actiwalls.

It made a huge difference to children and staff to have such wonderful facilities: space to spread out in school, a hall for PE, assemblies and dinner time, and vast grounds to run and play with both playgrounds and green areas.

Particularly exciting were the new forest area, the meadow area and the wellbeing wood.

During the Covid pandemic, school continued to function as a learning environment for all. Those children attending school were taught in small classes, while those children who stayed at home were initially given work pack resources and taught over zoom. Zoom lessons were uploaded to YouTube for children to access in their own time or to revisit the lesson. All children were offered a full range of educational opportunities.

Children were provided with a daily cooked meal, meals delivered to home or a food parcel.

July 2021 saw our first Year 6 class leave, which was a landmark and emotional time for all involved, including a visit from *Guru Granth Sahib* into school, to see the first children to attend our school to continue on their journey, equipped with the values we had learned to live through school life.

Sept 2021 - We currently have all year groups in school, the largest number since we started. There has been a large influx of children enrolling in our school in all year groups.

We continue to strive to offer our children the best we can in all aspects of school life and began the year with *Guru Granth Sahib Ji* visiting the school with prayers and shabads.

