

DEVANHAAR
GURMAT ACADEMY
STUDENT HANDBOOK
2026/2027



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1.About Us

What is the Gurmat Academy?

Devanhaar Gurmat Academy (DGA), located at Singh Sabha Gurdwara on Somerset Road, provides a space for students to develop their Sikhi through Gurbani Santhiya, Itihaas (history), Gurbani understanding, Sikhi philosophy, and Seva.

There are currently three classes, with over 80 students attending weekly. As part of the academy, students also have opportunities to take part in trips, activities, Gurmat camps, Seva, and much more.

With Guru Sahib Ji's kirpa, we have seen many students progress over the past few years, completing their Nitnem Santhiya and advancing further. Many have even gone on to become key Sevadaars in the academy.

Invest in your child's Sikhi journey

The Gurmat Academy is more than just a place of learning — it is a hub for Sangat, personal growth, and friendships. Our academy fosters an environment where students develop their Sikhi knowledge while also growing in confidence and character. Through classes, interactive workshops, and mentorship from dedicated Sevadaars, students gain practical life skills, a strong sense of identity, and support from a like-minded community.

Parents have shared how their children have become more engaged with Sikhi at home — feeling inspired to complete Nitnem, ask deeper questions, and take an active role in Seva. With each student's progress, the future of Sikhi is strengthened, ensuring the next generation continues to carry Guru Sahib's teachings forward with love and conviction.

2. Gurmat Academy

Timings

Tuesday

- 6:00pm - 7:30pm: Sikh History / Debates / Quizzes / Sports

Saturday

- 9:15am - 9:30am: Assembly (Sakhi & Announcements)
- 9:30am - 10:30am: Gurmukhi / Baal Updesh / Gurbani Santhiya
- 10:30am - 11:30am: Sikh History (Itihaas)
- 11:30am - 12:25pm: Punjabi Speaking
- 12:25pm - 12:30pm: Assembly (Simran & Announcements)

Note: Classes are only for registered students aged 7 – 18. New students must join the waiting list using the QR code below.



3. Teaching Staff



Younger Class

Attar Singh, Inderjeet Kaur, Sundeep Singh, Tanvir Kaur



Middle Class

Baldev Singh, Bapinder Singh, Gurleen Kaur, Harkeerat Kaur, Pardeep Kaur



Elder Class

Baljit Kaur, Harpreet Kaur, Jasandeep Singh, Karanjot Kaur, Mandeep Singh, Paramveer Singh

4. Gurmat Academy

Uniform

All students must attend wearing appropriate Gurdwara attire. Heads must be covered at all times: Dastaar, Patka, Rumaal or Chunni.

- **Boys** Baana, Kurta Pyjama, Dastaar, Patka, Rumaal



- **Girls** Baana, Suit, Dastaar, Patka, Chunni



5.What to Bring Each Day

- Bag
- Notebook
- Pen
- Middle class students must bring their Baal Updesh Kaida and a Hazooria
- Elder class students must bring their Gutka Sahib and a Hazooria

Note: Students may use the Baal Updesh Kaiday and Gutkay Sahib kept in the classroom cupboard; however, it is recommended that they bring their own.

Please ensure full Satkaar and Sucham is maintained when handling Gurbani (clean hands, kept respectfully and never placed on the floor).



6. Arrival & Collection

Parents must drop off children inside the Gurdwara classroom.

Children must be collected promptly at finishing time.

Parents must wait outside the classroom during lessons.

Please inform a teacher if you will be late dropping off or collecting your child.

7. Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance is monitored closely due to limited spaces and a waiting list.

Absences must be reported at least 12 hours in advance via the DGA app.

More than three unauthorised absences may result in loss of place at the academy.

Saturday classes start promptly at 9:15am and finish at 12:30pm.
Tuesday classes start promptly at 6:00pm and finish at 7:30pm.

Late arrivals disrupt lessons and learning. Repeated lateness will be recorded and parents will be contacted. Persistent lateness may result in loss of place at the academy.

Please ensure children arrive on time each week.

Parents are requested to avoid booking holidays during term time. Extended absences may result in loss of place due to the waiting list.

8. Behaviour

Students must always show respectful behaviour within the Gurdwara and classroom in line with Gurmat values.

This includes:

- Listening to teachers and Sevadaars.
- Respecting Gurbani, Gutka Sahibs and the Gurdwara environment.
- Being kind and considerate to other students.
- Mobile phones must not be used during class unless permission is given by a teacher or Sevadaar.

Persistent poor behaviour will result in parents being informed and further action taken.

9. Homework

Students must practise what they have learned in class at home throughout the week.

For further guidance, please speak to your teacher.

Free practice tools for every class — Gurmukhi akhar, Muharni, Punjabi numbers and audio for Nitnem and other Banis — are at devanhaargurmatacademy.com/resources

10. Rewards



Younger Class

Star cards are given out every week to recognise good effort, participation and Seva.



Middle and Elder Class

We recognise students who consistently show good effort, participation and Seva. Recognition may include Sikhi gifts and vouchers.

11. Trips & Activities

Students take part in trips, camps and activities through the year — a core part of the academy.

- Annual residential — Seva, team-building, canoeing, archery, workshops and talks.
- Gurmat camps — age-appropriate sessions built around Sangat and Sikhi.
- Day trips — Cliff Lakes, Ninja Warrior, bowling.
- Fun days — Diwali, Guru Nanak Dev Ji GURPURAB, Vaisakhi.

Details are shared in the WhatsApp group and sign-ups are completed via the DGA app. Please keep medical, dietary and emergency contact details up to date. All trips are supervised by DBS-checked teachers and Sevadaars, with at least one adult to every ten children and a Designated Safeguarding Lead present throughout.

12. Student Details

Parents must ensure all student details on the DGA app are correct, including:

- Emergency contact
- Medical conditions (if any)
- Dietary requirements (if any)

If you do not want your child to appear in photos/videos shared on social media, please untick consent in the app.

Press the green tick to save any changes.

13. Safeguarding

Devanhaar Gurmat Academy is committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment for all children.

- All classes take place within the Gurdwara premises.
- Children are supervised at all times by DBS-checked teachers/Sevadaars.
- Children must not leave the Gurdwara without a parent or guardian.

Any safeguarding concerns can be raised confidentially with academy teachers.

In the event of illness or emergency, parents will be contacted using the details provided on the DGA app.

Our full Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance policies are on the website under About Us › Policies.

14. Monthly Payments

The monthly Gurmat Academy fee is £20 for one child. Additional contributions are appreciated for families with more than one child attending.

Payments help support resources, equipment and the running of the Gurdwara.

Payment reminders will be sent monthly on the app.

15. Contact Us

- Attendance / Payments / Trips: Bapinder Singh
- Safeguarding: Mandeep Singh
- Medical / First Aid: Inderjeet Kaur
- Class Questions: Relevant teacher via the DGA app

Singh Sabha Gurdwara

80 Somerset Road
Handsworth Wood
Birmingham
B20 2JB



16. Key Dates

September 2026

- Saturday 12th – Wolf Run (14+)
- Thursday 17th – Monthly Sangrand Programme

October 2026

- Saturday 10th – Trip (TBC)
- Friday 16th - Sunday 18th – Devanhaar Akhand Paath
- Saturday 17th – Monthly Sangrand Programme

November 2026

- Sunday 8th – Diwali/Bandi Chhor Divas
- Monday 16th – Monthly Sangrand Programme
- Tuesday 24th – Guru Nanak Dev Ji Gurpurab

December 2026

- Friday 4th to Sunday 6th – December Residential
- Wednesday 16th – Monthly Sangrand Programme

January 2027

- Thursday 14th – Monthly Sangrand Programme

February 2027

- Saturday 13th – Monthly Sangrand Programme

March 2027

- Monday 15th – Monthly Sangrand Programme

April 2027

- Wednesday 14th – Vaisakhi (Fun Day)



**Scan DGA on
any of the Apps below**

iOS App



Android App



Instagram



WhatsApp

