

**Slough Sikh School Trust**  
Enriching Slough's diverse community

**>>>NEWS RELEASE<<<**

**GOVERNMENT GIVES GO AHEAD TO  
SIKH SCHOOL PROPOSAL**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2004**

The Schools Adjudicator has today given his approval for the proposed Sikh Faith Primary school in Slough. This has over turned the decision made by Slough's Schools Organisation Committee in November 2003. The Slough Sikh School Trust has been campaigning for support from all groups to support its cause.

The Trust on behalf of the 10,000 Sikhs in Slough was seeking the same basic rights for Sikh parents that other majority faiths have, the right to send their children to a faith school. Currently Sikhs and other minorities have a choice of sending their children to a Christian school or a non-denominational school but not a school of their own faith.

The adjudicator summarised his decision as follows:

*“ There is such clear evidence of parental demand from parents and the community for a Sikh school points to the probability that such a school would be more popular with Sikh parents than the existing schools and that the school would have enough support to achieve reasonable educational standards. I have concluded that this is enough to justify the case for approval on parental preference, community demand and standards grounds. ”*

This decision demonstrates that the Government is supporting the needs of minorities in Education. Even though the Trust has faced many hurdles over the last four years, we are delighted that we have had this decision.

The delays that we have now experienced means that this has delayed the start of the Sikh school in Slough until Sept 2006 (assuming planning permission is granted)

**- CONTACT -**

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