



AVANTI GARDENS  
SCHOOL

Prospectus

# Avanti Gardens School, Bristol

## Welcome from Ashley Milum, Principal



Welcome to Avanti Gardens School, a two-form entry community primary school in Fishponds, Bristol. Our school opened in September 2014 and recently joined the Avanti Schools Trust.

At Avanti Gardens, our three core pillars are visible in all we do: Educational Excellence – Character Development – Spiritual insight.

The staff team and I put children at the centre of everything: all decision making. Our mission is to prepare pupils to thrive beyond primary school. I believe a strong partnership between parents/ carers, pupils and staff are paramount to an excellent education. We strive to work closely with the community and create a school that we are all proud to be part of.

The Avanti Gardens curriculum follows the National Curriculum, whilst being underpinned by the Avanti Way. Our curriculum is wide, rigorous and unique, taking full advantage of our staff's expertise and amazing on-site facilities. We support our children to become fluent readers, writers and mathematicians, thus ensuring that every child can engage in and enjoy the richness of our wider curriculum. We value children's wellbeing as fundamental in their development – this is reflected in our timetabled yoga sessions each week for all pupils.

On behalf of staff and pupils, I welcome you to our community and hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of our unique and aspirational school. If you would like to find out more, please contact the school office with any questions that you may have.



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# The Three Pillars

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

## Educational Excellence



Our vision for educational excellence is one where deeply inspired teachers nurture joyful students and nourish their innate passion for learning. Learning is a quest to discover each student’s unique gifts and potential and lay the foundation for their lifelong journey of learning. This is inseparable from high academic standards, where a challenging holistic curriculum cultivates independently thoughtful and reflective students by working towards a sense of mastery, emphasising depth, and not just breadth.

## Character Formation



Our vision for character formation is one where virtues are taught by example and a supportive community of learners fosters a powerful sense of individual and collective purpose. Learning develops for these conscious changemakers as a quest for making the world a better place, starting with oneself. The capacity to internalise and put into practice what we have learned is the true test of learning. Building this capacity demands an experiential, virtues-led curriculum that embraces collaboration, custodianship and global perspectives.

## Spiritual Insight



Our vision for spiritual insight is one where our interconnectedness with all living beings and with the universe, urges acts born out of humility and love, and the Self is perceived beyond its layers of coverings. Learning blossoms for these seekers as a quest for self-discovery and opens the door to their unlimited potential; an antidote to the emptiness of a materialistic or mechanistic worldview. The curriculum unveils the possibilities of sacredness and transcendence at every moment and so engenders a deeply positive attitude to life, enduring happiness and heartfelt relationships.

# Tour of the School



## Reception ▲

Avanti Gardens is located in a stunning listed building that was first opened in 1902. The red brick building has housed many school children over the last 100 years and has now been fully refurbished



## Dining Area ▼

The dedicated lunch area allows students to enjoy nutritionally balanced and delicious vegetarian meals, prepared and served with love.

## Art Studio ►

An amazing space for pupils to become artists with plenty of room to workshop many skills.

## Classrooms ▼

Each room boasts it's own unique architecture whilst keeping to the uniformed AGS classroom layout. Newly decorated with interactive whiteboards, each room has abundant facilities for pupils to access independently to aid their learning.



## Music Room ◀

AGS are fortunate to have dedicated music space with access to a wide range of instruments for pupils to experiment and create, using their music skills and knowledge.



## Sports Hall ▼

Equipped with basketball court, badminton nets, and fully kitted with the latest gym equipment, this is an action-packed space with room to jump and spin until your heart is content.



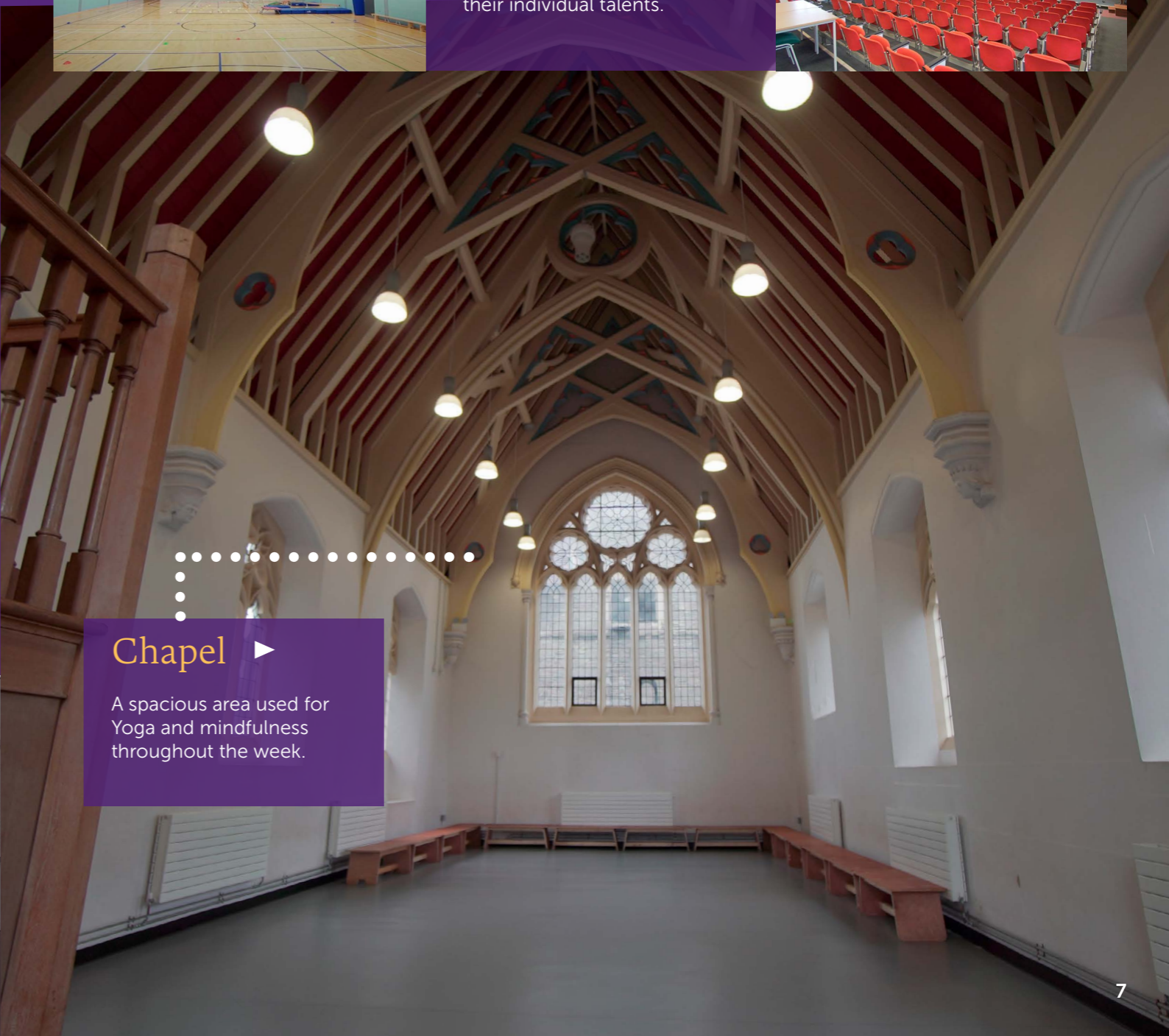
## Theatre ►

The school is equipped with it's very own theatre and stage where learners of all ages can develop their individual talents.



## Chapel ►

A spacious area used for Yoga and mindfulness throughout the week.



# The Curriculum

The Avanti Gardens curriculum has been designed to meet students' individual learning needs, so every student has the maximum opportunity to succeed and realise their ambitions.

## Key Stage 1 & 2: Ages 5 - 11

Pupils will enter KS1 equipped with the fundamentals of EYFS to access a broad and balanced curriculum, that includes all National Curriculum subjects and enriched by Yoga and Craft. A broad, rigorous and unique curriculum offer is built upon the core subjects of reading, writing & mathematics. These fundamental skills and knowledge allow pupils to engage in and enjoy the richness of the wide curriculum offer at AGS. Subjects are planned for so that there is a clear progression of knowledge and skill weaved throughout the entire curriculum ensuring all relevant knowledge is taught and revisited in further depth within termly topics.



### COMMITTED TO INCLUSION

A dedicated Inclusion team ensures each child is viewed holistically



### YOUR TIME TO SHINE

Performing Arts is a fun way to build confidence through self-expression



08.45	Start of the day
09.00	Registration
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch (12.00 to 13.15 for Reception class)
15.15	End of the day (15.00 for Reception class)

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# How we achieve our vision

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## How we recognise educational excellence:

- Teachers and students are inspired and joyful.
- There is high quality dialogue; students display the ability and willingness to listen to others with an open mind and to speak sincerely, questioning their own assumptions and engaging in empathic dialogue.
- There is a culture of intellectual curiosity and continuous professional development, including a focus on connecting research to classroom practice.
- Learning is approached by examining the big questions of life in a holistic, values-based and contextualised curriculum to deepen motivation and personal insight.
- Long-term student progress at least matches, in broad terms, the best state-funded and private schools in the country.
- Students are actively involved in creating their own paths of learning with opportunities for in-depth study of their chosen areas, gaining deeper insight into their interests and abilities.
- There is the committed engagement of parents and carers as co-educators.



## Educational Excellence



# How we achieve our vision

## How we recognise character formation:

- Avanti's virtues of respect, self-discipline, courage, integrity, empathy and gratitude are tangible throughout curriculum planning and school life.
- The curriculum is experience based to support the transition from knowledge to wisdom and includes global perspectives to facilitate their transcultural proficiency.
- Students make conscientious choices, develop moral literacy, promote the common good and display a sense of stewardship as well as a reverence for all life, nature and the earth's resources.
- There is excellent provision for Philosophy, Religion & Ethics, PSHE, yoga and meditation.
- Student voice is palpable throughout the school, with ever-increasing opportunities for developing leadership and oracy.
- Students take ownership of their learning experience by means such as self-organised learning and principles of restorative practice.
- Clean, uncluttered and inspiring learning environments support a mindful engagement with learning.



## Character Formation



# How we achieve our vision

## How we recognise spiritual insight:

- Students have profound and stirring experiences of religious education, festivals and other activities for spiritual cultivation.
- Effective pastoral care supports each student's personal, emotional and spiritual journey.
- Students develop authentic and broad-minded insight into the complexities, essences and core principles underlying the varied manifestations of religion and spirituality.
- The curriculum and school life make spirituality relevant and accessible to all, irrespective of faith or belief.
- Students evidence spiritual insight in terms of their own identity, their relationship with others, with the wider world and for some, their relationship with God; in those of our Hindu faith-designated schools, this includes opportunities for awakening each person's unique and loving relationship with Lord Krishna.
- There are opportunities and structures to support the development of heartfelt relationships between members of the school community, from which each person feels supported and nurtured.
- All members of the school community are committed to introspection and their own personal journey of self-discovery.



## Spiritual Insight





# Aiming for Excellence

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. 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.

# Life at Avanti



## Wide, rigorous and unique curriculum offer

Our schools offer a dynamic classroom approach in which students actively explore real-world problems and challenges and acquire a deeper knowledge. Students at all ages engage in projects, from studying the environment to social experiments to working on scientific innovations.



## Yoga ◀

Every student has access to Yoga and Mindfulness sessions ranging from 20 minutes to 1 hour a week. Yoga and Mindfulness help ground students, relieve stress and improve their overall health and wellbeing.

## Avanti Nights ▶

Avanti hosts regular events called “Avanti Nights” for parents and the wider community. This is a series of events focused around wellbeing and development for parents in their personal and family lives. We’ve had events ranging from “Conscious Parenting” to “the Business of Life.” These events provide an opportunity for parents to hear expert speakers and gain wisdom and insight into every-day topics.



## Fresh Vegetarian Meals ▲

We believe a healthy gut is the basis of a healthy life, and that’s why it’s so important to us that we only use the freshest ingredients when preparing our tasty, nutritious vegetarian meals available for all children.



## Retreats

Avanti Getaway! Staff and students get the opportunity to go to annual off-site retreats. These are a chance to develop friendships, go out of their comfort zone, improve their wellbeing and reconnect with nature.

## Wellbeing Wisdom

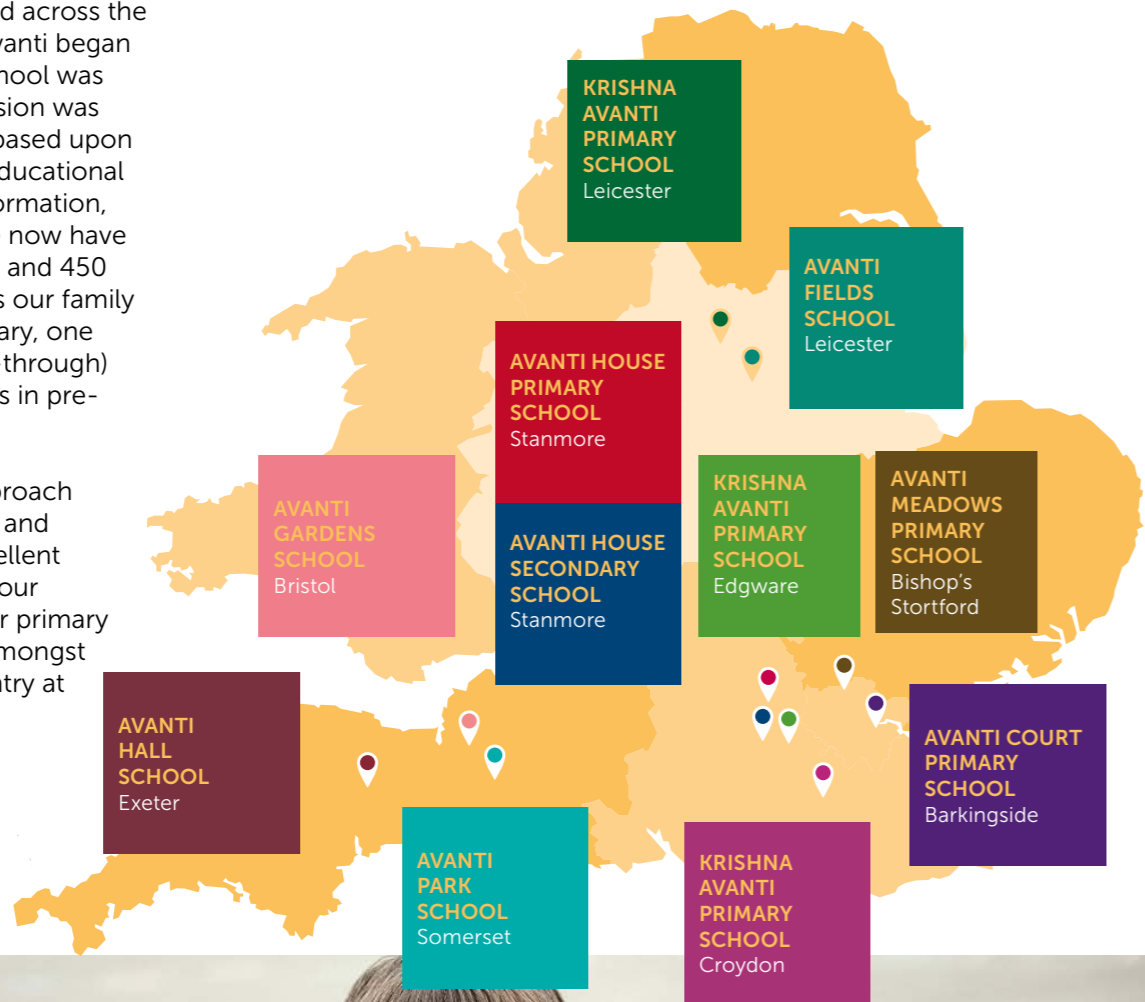
Avanti staff have access to regular wellbeing sessions. Our previous sessions have been led by medical professionals, corporate coaches and even monks! We discuss everything from how to overcome stress to learning about meditation.



# Avanti Schools Across the UK

Avanti Schools are based across the country. The idea for Avanti began in 2003 and our first school was opened in 2008. Our vision was for a family of schools based upon our core principles of educational excellence, character formation, and spiritual insight. We now have close to 4,000 students and 450 members of staff across our family of 10 schools (five primary, one secondary, and four all-through) with three more schools in pre-opening.

Avanti has a proven approach to school development and improvement, with excellent pupil outcomes across our schools for example our primary school outcomes are amongst the top 10% in the country at Key Stage 2.



# Reviews of Avanti

"The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is exceptional.

School leaders and governors, through the Avanti Trust, are wholly committed to ambitious outcomes for all pupils."

**Ofsted**  
Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills

"Thank you for welcoming me to the school today. It has been inspiring to meet staff and students so engaged in learning. My congratulations to everyone involved in the conception and opening of this splendid premises."

**Damian Hinds**  
Secretary of State for Schools

"As a parent an important aspect of education is the level of teaching. I knew as a new school, they had the opportunity to source and select the best teachers to deliver the curriculum. The teachers we have in the school at present are brilliant. They come with vast experience in their respective areas and they also have the same goal – for the school to succeed and children to excel."

**Parent**  
Avanti Parent

"Being at Avanti makes work so enjoyable and a place that I look forward to going to work everyday, the enviroment is perfect not only for academics but for spiritual insight."

**Teacher**  
Teacher at Avanti

"Avanti Fields is a place I can happily call my second home. The environment captures all aspects of a quality education where everyone aspires to be the best versions of themselves and exceed their expectations. I couldn't image a friendlier, more pleasant and safer place to be inspired to learn in."

**Student**  
Avanti Secondary School



# VIPs



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Avanti schools have hosted Her Majesty The Queen, Justine Greening (Secretary of State), Nick Gibb (Minister for Schools), Lord Nash and Michael Gove (Secretary of State) and even Swami Ramdev who came to teach the students yoga!

Students from Avanti have performed at venues as diverse as 10 Downing Street to Wembley Stadium for PM Narendra Modi and PM David Cameron, and the Royal Festival Hall.



DAMIAN HINDS, SECRETARY OF STATE



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI & PRIME MINISTER DAVID CAMERON



PRIME MINISTER TERESA MAY AT DOWNING STREET



SWAMI RAMADEVA



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

# Applying for a Place

In the event of receiving more applications than there are places, please refer to the Admissions Policy for our oversubscription criteria.

## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY

<https://avanti.org.uk/avantigardens/admissions/>



AVANTI GARDENS  
SCHOOL



# Staying Connected

## AVANTI SCHOOLS TRUST

The Trust website is a good starting point to learn about the Avanti vision at play in our schools. Short videos are also online.



[www.avanti.org.uk](http://www.avanti.org.uk)

## HIGHLIGHTS AND UPDATES

The Avanti Life magazine brings you the very best of what's happening within our family of schools. Also available in print.



[www.avanti.org.uk/life](http://www.avanti.org.uk/life)

## SCHOOL LIFE IN DETAIL

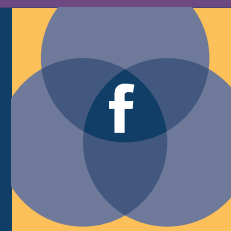
The school website offers up-to-date information on key aspects of school life, from ethos to admissions; school lunches to job opportunities.



[www.avanti.org.uk/avantigardens](http://www.avanti.org.uk/avantigardens)

## SOCIALISING

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



[www.facebook.com/avantischools](http://www.facebook.com/avantischools)

## Avanti Gardens School

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**AVANTI GARDENS**  
SCHOOL

A Journey of  
Self-Discovery

Avanti Gardens School is part of the Avanti Schools Trust  
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