

Yavneh Primary School



Limudei Kodesh Policy

Vision Statement

Yavneh Primary school is a Modern Orthodox Jewish Free School which sets out to provide a vibrant, inclusive environment where all of our children make progress and all can find an area in which they can shine.

At Yavneh Primary, our children will be imbued with the ethical and moral values of Jewish traditions, including good citizenship, volunteerism, mutual responsibility and positive relationships. We will foster a love of Judaism, pride in Jewish identity and a commitment to the Jewish people and Israel as well as actively engaging with the wider community in order to build a sense of self that includes and attends to the wellbeing of others and prepares our children to play an active role within a contemporary British society.

Our school motto is 'Olam Chesed Yibaneh' meaning 'A World Built on Kindness'. 'The Yavneh Way' of politeness, kindness, courtesy and respect are the ways that lead into and become a part of our vision of a world built on kindness.

Aims

- To develop within the pupils a positive commitment and passion for Judaism
- To give pupils the skills and knowledge needed to be able to lead a full Jewish life
- To make LK meaningful and relevant to the pupils through practical experiences and experiential learning
- To develop within the pupils' exemplary character traits (middot) linked to the study of role models from the Torah
- To develop within the pupils a commitment to and a love for the Land and the State of Israel
- To develop within the pupils an understanding of the importance of community and for them to know practical ways in which they can contribute to the Jewish and wider community.

General Principles

- Limudei Kodesh lessons comprise 25% of teaching time. In addition, time is allocated for tefillah (daily prayers) and Friday Kaballat Shabbat assembly.
- The LK curriculum includes regular revision of key skills in order to ensure that children have a solid foundation before moving on
- We use the Modern Hebrew pronunciation.
- We have developed our own Curriculum maps for Halacha, Chagim, Israel and Tefillah in order to ensure progression of knowledge and skills.
- We track children's progress against the key learning objectives in each area of Limudei Kodesh.
- We use the JCP Chumash readiness curriculum at the end of Kitta Bet and go onto the JCP Chumash curriculum from Kitta Gimmel.
- The LK and secular curriculum are integrated. Teachers meet for planning meetings to make sure that integration is seamless.

Curriculum Strands

Tefillah

Appropriate tefillot are recited daily and new tefillot are added as the year progresses. Daily brachot are included into the school day such as before snack time. Birkat Hamazon is recited after lunch and children are guided and supported to make a personal connection to Hashem. Understanding the meaning of the tefillot is essential in making tefillah meaningful and relevant to the children. In Kitta Aleph the children receive their first Siddur at a Chagigat Hasiddur ceremony. We use the Koren Children's Siddur.

Halacha/Jewish Year

The children celebrate and learn about Shabbat as well as the Chagim as they occur throughout the year. Shabbat is celebrated with a weekly Kabbalat Shabbat ceremony and the week begins with Havdalah. This learning ties in with the six core areas of learning of the EYFS and with the National curriculum from Kitta Aleph. The children become familiar with the customs, laws, tefillot and brachot connected to the Chagim. Experiential learning forms a key part of the Jewish Year curriculum.

Hebrew Language

Reading

In Hachana, the children learn the aleph bet phonetically as well as letter recognition. The children start to acquire an active Hebrew vocabulary from the beginning of Hachana. This vocabulary includes every day words as well as subject specific words such as relating to Chagim and Shabbat. In KS1 the children will develop their reading accuracy and fluency through the use of the Aleph Champ and Shalom Ivrit programmes.

Writing

In Hachana and Kitta Aleph the writing of block letters is to be seen as a reading reinforcement and not as an end in itself. In Kitta Bet, the children are introduced to Hebrew Script. Once the children have mastered script writing, they must use it all the time.

Ivrit

Ivrit vocabulary is used on a regular basis for classroom instructions and vocabulary linked to topics and Chagim. A regular Ivrit lesson will be introduced in 2018-19.

Torah

Parashat Hashavua

The children have a weekly Parashah lesson in which they become familiar with stories from the Torah. In addition they have discussions about the ethical and moral values (middot and mitzvot) that they can learn from these stories. Parashat HaShavua lessons are often linked with Music, Drama and Literacy. The children are encouraged to share their learning with their families during Shabbat. We send a weekly Parashah newsletter to the parents of each class so that parents can re-inforce the learning done in school.

In Kitta Bet the children start learning Chumash. We follow the JCP curriculum.

Halacha/Jewish Way of Life

The children are encouraged to explore and experience Judaism and understand the importance of middot, mitzvot and derech erez. The children learn about aspects of the Jewish Way of Life such as mezuzah, kashrut, sofrut etc. Practical workshops form an essential part of this strand of the curriculum. We have developed our own detailed Jewish way of Life curriculum to ensure progression of knowledge and skills. Assessments.

Yisrael

Aspects of Israel, both in ancient times and in the modern day, feature throughout the curriculum. The State of Israel is a particular focus in the Summer Term through the observance of Yom HaZikaron and the celebration of Yom Ha'atsma'ut and Yom Yerushalayim.

Songs, visitors and fund-raising initiatives throughout the year contribute to an ever-growing bond with the modern-day State of Israel.

Tzedakah

Tzedakah(charity) is a key focus at Yavneh Primary School. Our children are encouraged to think about the welfare of others from a young age. Our Tzedaka Tzevet which is made up of a group of Year 6 children collect Tzedaka every Friday and help to organise charitable initiatives both within and outside the Jewish community. We have been involved in projects such as, [Mitzvah Day](#), [Camp Simcha Toy Drive](#), Children in Need, projects with Herts young Homeless and [Jewish Blueish Child's Day](#). We link up with Yavneh College and raise money for three different charities every year.

LK Leader: Roles and Responsibilities

Liaise closely with the Head teacher and secular teachers to create a seamless education for the pupils

Monitor, review and evaluate the planning and delivery of the LK curriculum including reporting to parents and governors

Track progress to ensure that standards are high and all pupils achieve their potential

Responsible for acquiring resources to enhance the curriculum

Liaise with outside agencies such as JCP, Pajes, Pikuach etc.

Provide training for all staff to ensure meaningful JS integration

R Coren

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