



# Rosh Pinah Primary School

## **Jewish Studies Policy**

**Reviewed and Revised:**

**Due for ratification by Governing Body: July 2021**

## **Principles and Aims**

As a United Synagogue school that embraces both orthodoxy and modernity, we seek to provide a formal and informal Jewish education that blends an authentic, immersive and enriching experience with a sensitive understanding of the wider culture in which our pupils live. We aim to nurture children who are committed to and involved in Jewish practice, ethics and traditions and to immerse them in our Jewish beliefs and values so they are motivated as lifelong Jewish learners. We aspire to develop confident Hebrew readers who acquire knowledge and textual skills through the study of selected classical texts. Our purpose is to create responsible Jewish citizens, who play an active role in the Jewish and wider community and who take pride in their commitment to Israel.

Whilst our teaching mainly focuses on Judaism, we also teach the children to show an appreciation, and have an understanding, of other religions. Examples of this include:

- Hinduism - making Diwali cards
- Christianity - Christmas appreciation assembly and festive lunch
- Islam - Inviting a local Imam in to address the children

## **Statement on Jewish Personal and Spiritual Development**

All schools that follow the National Curriculum will be able to provide opportunities for pupils to grow personally and spiritually. A Jewish school will provide a particular context for this growth through the wisdom and tenets of Judaism.

Rosh Pinah pupils recite Tefillah every day. The singing is uplifting; the discussions are appropriately spiritual, personal and relevant. Over time and in a natural way, pupils discover the value of making a daily connection to God.

Weekly Parashah lessons include an age appropriate middah (moral) that emerges from the storyline. Pupils are inspired by the actions of biblical personalities and learn about the relationship they had with God. Using this as the reference point, pupils learn to engage in self-reflection, discover the value of sharing with others their understanding of their own life experiences and start to forge their own relationship with God.

Experiencing the weekly Kaballat Shabbat and celebrations of the Chagim in school present an opportunity for pupils to learn that we make 'time' and 'place' special; that we belong to a community and to a people with a shared history and that we cherish a connection to Israel.

Pupils learn about God's role in the development of the Jewish People and begin to develop an appreciation of His role in people's individual lives.

The teaching of RE and British Values throughout the school ensures that our pupils develop an awareness that, in a world created by God, we are required to show respect for all of humanity and a sense of responsibility for the world that we all share.

## **Cross-Curricular Elements**

JS staff incorporate the School's PSHE policy, promoting respect and understanding of diverse communities and religions. Children are introduced to important information about world religions, allowing for the development of accepting difference. Within JS lessons, Jewish Studies teachers seek to explain the differences of customs among Jewish groups, such as Sephardim and Ashkenazim. Opportunities for cross-curricular links within the National Curriculum are identified whenever possible (both by JS teachers linking to the National Curriculum and Class Teachers linking to JS). Where possible, joint planning is done with JS for focused days such as an Egyptian Day.

### **Parental Partnership**

Parents are encouraged to be involved with their child's Jewish education and the school offers a range of opportunities for parents to support and join in with their children's learning and experience of Jewish events. Currently this is done through:

- Tribe events
- Parental/carer participation at Kabbalat Shabbat
- Chanukah assembly at Edgware Synagogue
- Chagigat HaSiddur/HaChumash ceremonies
- SEED's Generation Sinai (annual parent-child learning programme pre-Shavuot)
- Model Sedarim
- An overview of each year group's learning in the weekly newsletter
- Hebrew Reading - parents are encouraged to help their children to practise if possible
- In addition, the PSA is very active and provides exciting opportunities for parents and children to feel connected to the school's Jewish identity as well as raising funds for the school. Events have included Pizza in the Sukkah, Challah Bakes and Yom Ha'atzmaut fairs.

### **Equality, Equal Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion**

The JS department is committed to ensuring that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed. The curriculum is differentiated as are the teaching and learning opportunities for children. No member of the school should suffer or be disadvantaged by direct or indirect discrimination. JS Teachers will adapt the curriculum as necessary to meet the needs of children who may have emotional or physical difficulties or special educational needs. All pupils are given the same opportunity to be involved in learning irrespective of Synagogue affiliation or cultural backgrounds. We are accepting of difference. The JS department of Rosh PInah is committed to giving every child the opportunity to expand their Jewish learning as they progress through the school and is always striving to develop and to achieve excellence.