



YAVNEH Primary School

Ethos Policy

1. Central Principles and Values

- 1.1 Yavneh Primary School (YPS) is a Modern Orthodox, co-educational, Jewish Free school that welcomes children of all faiths and none. Whilst the school educates about and celebrates Jewish life it welcomes and respects everyone from outside the Jewish faith. The school comes under the religious auspices of the Chief Rabbi (of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth).
- 1.2 YPS is a school where Jewish values such as personal and academic development and respect for others pervade the life of the school. YPS stresses the values and traditions of a rich Jewish heritage while preparing all pupils to play an active role within contemporary British society.
- 1.3 YPS aspires to develop pupils' ethical and moral character so that pupils can distinguish between right and wrong throughout their lives.
- 1.4 We are proud to call ourselves a modern orthodox Free School as reflected in our ethos and curriculum. YPS is built upon a culture of respect for those who hold different points of view. We are only intolerant of intolerance.

2. Curriculum

- 2.1 The formal and informal Jewish Studies curricula are designed to give all YPS pupils skills, knowledge and passion that will enable them to have a continuing positive relationship to Jewish learning and Jewish life.
- 2.2 The Religious, Spiritual Education (RSE) curriculum is designed to educate those pupils not of the Jewish faith and who prefer an alternative curriculum, to understand, respect and communicate about the values taught across religions and faiths and the ethical principles therein.
- 2.3 Modern Hebrew (Ivrit) is central to our identity as Jews in the modern world and our identification with the people and State of Israel, this is reflected in the significance of Modern Hebrew at YPS which is taught as a modern vibrant language together with one other modern foreign language in the curriculum.

- 2.4** We aim for our pupils to leave as Modern Hebrew readers who can navigate the Siddur (prayer book) and are able to participate when attending synagogue services and Jewish events.
- 2.5** Some pupils join YPS already equipped with many of these skills, others do not. Those who do not are given every help and encouragement to attain them.
- 2.6** The existence of the State of Israel is central to Jewish life and we celebrate this through various school programmes and activities. However, YPS policy is not to advocate any political stance on contemporary Israeli politics.
- 2.7** We educate our pupils about major world religions and cultures as well as traditional British values. Consequently, a pupil will leave YPS with attributes of respect, empathy, good citizenship and an appreciation of democracy.
- 2.8** Our formal curriculum is complemented by a stimulating programme of Informal Education and cultural activities, charity and communal activities. Pupils perform acts of kindness, discover Judaism by experiencing it first hand and grow into valued members and contributors to their own individual communities.