

Limmudei Kodesh (Jewish Studies)

Limmudei Kodesh Aims

Morasha Jewish Primary School aims to provide a rich and relevant Limmudei Kodesh programme, through which children will gain a commitment to Torah values - a strong Jewish identity with a strong positive attitude towards Israel.

We will develop a diverse and integrated Kodesh programme that will allow our children to become literate, knowledgeable and proud of their culture and heritage.

We have high aspirations for our Limmudei Kodesh teaching in Morasha. Upon leaving the school, a "Morasha" pupil should:

Jewish Way of Life –

1. Know the halachot basic to leading an orthodox Jewish life, whether in relation to mitzvot bein adam l'Makom (such as Shabbat, kashrut and chagim) or mitzvot bein adam l'chaveiro (such as tzedaka, lashon hara and g'milut chasadim).
2. Understand reasons, concepts and values underpinning the Jewish way of life, including life-cycle events.
3. Be able to participate confidently in Jewish life at home and in shul.
4. Appreciate the beauty and importance of Jewish values and Jewish family life.

Torah -

1. Be familiar with a large number of stories from the Tanach
2. Understand how to use commentaries such as Rashi to gain a deeper appreciation of the Torah.
3. Comprehend selected mishnayot in Hebrew and English, and understand the relationship between the written law and the oral law, through practical applications.
4. Appreciate the role and continuing centrality of the Torah in modern Jewish life.

Tefillah –

1. Have the ability to navigate his/her way around a siddur.
2. Feel comfortable and confident in an orthodox synagogue.
3. Be able to recite and understand the general meaning of the most important tefillot for weekdays, Shabbat and the Chagim.
4. Appreciate the importance and relevance of prayer in his/her own life.

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Ivrit –

1. Be able to read both seen and unseen text accurately and with a high degree of fluency.
2. Be able to write in Ivrit using both block and script letters.
3. Feel confident in holding a conversation in Ivrit.
4. Appreciate the importance of Ivrit in Jewish life, study and as a living language in Israel.

General –

1. Have a basic understanding of key events in Jewish history.
2. Feel a connection with Jewish people around the world and the different minhagim.
3. Respect other cultures and the dignity of difference whilst maintaining a strong Jewish identity.
4. Have a strong desire to continue on the path of learning.

These aspirations will be achieved in three main ways:

- Through dedicated Limmudei Kodesh lessons
- By integrating the acquisition of Jewish knowledge with secular learning
- Through experiential learning, e.g. assemblies, daily tefillah, during meal-times or on educational off-site activities.

This Kodesh curriculum is a working document in progress. It will be developed in stages over the next few years in conjunction with the Head Teacher, the Head of Kodesh, the Kodesh staff, the school Principal and the education committee. The Head Teacher is the current Head of Kodesh. We will look at best practice in other schools, liaise with external educational organisations and consult reputable Kodesh educational websites (e.g. www.e-chinuch.org, www.torahschool.co.uk). We will be developing a Kodesh curriculum unique to the requirements of our school community. Our Kodesh curriculum will include best Kodesh and secular teaching practice.

The Judaic programme embraces a combination of rigorous command of Jewish text with lively experience and participation, including opportunities to develop linguistic skills through the craft of disputation. Children are required to reflect critically on the nature and complexity of the text, thus developing their potential intellectually and spiritually. The innovative programme of Jewish Studies encourages discernment, spirit of enquiry, and desire and ability to continue learning Torah.

General Principles

- We provide 35% Kodesh teaching time. This includes the time allocated for tefillah (daily prayers), birchat hamazon (grace after meals), Ivrit (modern Hebrew) and assemblies.
- Boys and girls learn Kodesh together.
- We use the Modern Hebrew pronunciation.
- Kodesh teaching includes the study of traditional Hebrew texts. The languages of instruction are both English and Ivrit.
- Where possible, we employ fully qualified staff (teachers with QTS, Nursery Practitioners with a minimum NVQ2) to teach Kodesh. Any unqualified staff are required to join the GTP teacher training programme when appropriate.
- We teach Ivrit (Modern Hebrew) as a modern foreign language and integrate it with the Kodesh curriculum.
- All school policies (curricular, pupil and staff etc.) equally apply to Kodesh and secular studies.

Development and assessment of skills

- We will be developing a skills-based curriculum whereby the children's cumulative acquisition of knowledge will be complemented by an equivalent growing skill base.
- Throughout the school, we prioritise Speaking & Listening and independent English writing across all the subject areas, including Kodesh. The Speaking and Listening whole school curriculum will be developed year by year with the relevant staff so that some areas will be covered in secular lessons, whilst other areas will be covered in Kodesh lessons.
- We will assess Speaking & Listening and English writing in both secular and Kodesh lessons.
- We will be developing an integrated whole school curriculum map to include both Kodesh (Jewish studies) and secular studies (secular studies). Topics in both Kodesh and secular studies will be chosen to be taught at times to complement each other (for example Egyptians and Pesach, Tu B'Shvat and plant growth).
- We will adapt the JSCP (see below) level descriptors for assessing Kodesh.
- We will develop our complete Kodesh curriculum using the principles of best practice by liaising with other schools and organisations. This will include liaising with feeder schools and working towards their Year 7 Kodesh requirements.

Religious and Moral Development

- We provide for the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through our Kodesh thematic strands (e.g the Jewish Way of Life) and experiential learning opportunities (e.g. Jewish Festivals)
- We recognise the close link between Kodesh and PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) and will therefore be developing the school's PSHCE curriculum in conjunction with the Kodesh curriculum.
- We strive to make tefillah (collective worship) both a spiritual and creative experience, introducing music where appropriate. This helps the children to enjoy the experience of prayer.
- Our school teaches Kodesh to all children, whatever their ability and individual needs. Kodesh forms part of the school curriculum policy to provide a broad and balanced education to all children. Through our Kodesh teaching, we provide learning opportunities that enable all pupils to make progress. We strive to meet the needs of those pupils with special educational needs, those with disabilities, those with special gifts and talents, and those learning English as an additional language, and we take all reasonable steps to achieve this. Further details about our teaching and learning is detailed in our see separate policies: Teaching and Learning; Special Educational Needs; Gifted and Talented; English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Curriculum Information and schemes of work

Jewish Studies Curriculum Partnership (JSCP) and Agency for Jewish Education (AJE)

- We aim to be part of the Jewish Studies Curriculum Partnership (JSCP). As such we use their Kodesh teaching and learning materials, adapting them and augmenting them for the needs of our school community.
- The JSCP develop curricular and assessment materials for Sedra, Yom Tov, Chumash and Hebrew Reading.
- The JSCP is an initiative of the Agency for Jewish Education (AJE).
- We aim to work closely with the AJE especially with regard to teaching resources, staff training and staff recruitment.

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Curriculum Strands

Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1 (Y1 – Y2)	Key Stage 2 (Y3 – Y6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tefillah (daily prayer) • Sedra / Parashat Hashavua (weekly Bible portion) • Yom Tov (Jewish Festivals) • General Knowledge and Jewish Daily Living (halacha, practice and customs) • Hebrew Reading (Reception) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tefillah (daily prayer) • Sedra /Parashat Hashavua (weekly Bible Portion) • Yom Tov (Jewish Festivals) • General Knowledge and Jewish Daily Living (halacha, practice and customs) • Hebrew Reading • Hebrew Writing inc script • Hebrew Script (Y2) • Chumash Readiness (Y2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tefillah (daily prayer) • Sedra / Parashat Hashavua (weekly Bible Portion) • Yom Tov (Jewish Festivals) • General Knowledge and Jewish Daily Living (halacha, practice and customs) • Hebrew Reading inc script • Hebrew Writing inc script • Chumash • Jewish History • Mishna • Rashi Script

We plan to implement the Tal Am schemes of work.

“Tal Am’s mission is to create a Hebrew and Heritage curriculum in a unifying language and unique voices, to develop Jewish knowledge and identity in our learners, and to implement the curriculum through state-of-the-art professional development for their educators.” Information regarding the components of the schemes of work can be found on their website: www.talam.org

Signed:.....Ian Kamiel.....

Date:.....April 2008.....

To be reviewed by:....September 2009.....