

# YAVNEH COLLEGE

## Jewish Ethos Policy

### 1. Central Principles and Values

- 1.1 Yavneh College (YC) is a Modern Orthodox, co-educational, Jewish school, under the religious auspices of the Chief Rabbi (of the United Hebrew Congregations of the Commonwealth). The school celebrates the existence of the State of Israel as being central to Jewish life.
- 1.2 YC is a school where Jewish values pervade the life of the school, making it a Jewish school, not simply a school for Jewish children. YC stresses the values and traditions of our rich Jewish heritage while preparing our pupils to play an active role within contemporary British society.
- 1.3 YC aspires to develop pupils' ethical and moral character using Jewish values as the guide for distinguishing between right and wrong throughout their lives.
- 1.4 We are proud to call ourselves an Orthodox school, as reflected in our ethos and curriculum. YC welcomes all Jews and 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 pupils skills, knowledge and passion that will enable them to have a continuing positive relationship to Jewish learning and Jewish life.
- 2.2 We aim for all of our pupils to leave as Hebrew readers who can navigate the Siddur (prayer book) and are able to participate when attending Shul services and Jewish events.
- 2.3 The Hebrew language is more than a tool to access classical Jewish texts. It is central to our identity as Jews in the modern world and our identification with the people and State of Israel, and this is reflected in the significance of Ivrit and Jewish textual skills within the curriculum.
- 2.4 Some pupils join YC already equipped with many of these skills, others do not. Those who do not are given every help and encouragement to attain them.
- 2.5 Jewish Studies at YC is taught according to ability, not background. We aim to stretch pupils academically, nurture their independent learning skills and enable them to appreciate the richness of Torah by engaging with texts first-hand.
- 2.6 The establishment of the State of Israel is something of great religious and spiritual significance and the existence of a Jewish state in the

contemporary world is something that we celebrate in our formal and informal curricula. It is not, however, YC policy to advocate any particular political stance on contemporary Israeli politics.

- 2.7** We educate our pupils about other major world religions and cultures as well as traditional British values. Consequently, a pupil will leave YC with attributes of respect, empathy, good citizenship and an appreciation of democracy.
  
- 2.8** Our formal Jewish curriculum is complemented by a stimulating programme of Informal Jewish Education and cultural activities, Tzedakah (charity) activities and communal activities. Pupils perform Chesed (acts of kindness), discover Judaism by experiencing it first hand and grow into valued members and contributors to their Jewish communities.

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