



Jewish Education Policy and Overview: Eden Primary

Sept 2017

Jo Sassienie

Introduction

'Eden Primary: A Jewish School where everyone is welcome.'

At Eden Primary we warmly embrace children and families from across the spectrum of religious practice and knowledge, and children and families who are not Jewish. All children participate fully in all aspects of Jewish and religious education.

Our commitment to Jewish Education is to ensure that the religious education curriculum and life at Eden enables all children and their families to feel valued, included and well-educated regardless of how they are involved in Jewish life outside school.

This is the beginning of a life-long journey for a child and their family, and we encourage families to embark on this journey with Eden Primary, a compelling and vibrant Jewish community that includes all.

At Eden staff take into consideration the variety of practice, belief and knowledge within each class so that all learners feel comfortable and are able to participate. Children and their families celebrate and learn from the diversity of religious practice and background found within our community of families.

Children and Their Families at Eden

Children come to Eden Primary from a variety of nursery schools both Jewish and of other faiths and none. Their families may or may not practice Judaism and do so in a range of different ways and may affiliate with all or any of the range of Jewish denominations. They may also be practicing other religions. All children participate in the Jewish Education curriculum and learn Hebrew as a modern foreign language. Staff at Eden are sensitive and take into account when planning, the fact that children have different levels of knowledge and experience, different family practice and beliefs, and different skills that allow them to access the Jewish Education programme. Staff assess the children's baseline ability and knowledge on arrival and take account of these differences and sensibilities at all times when planning, thinking carefully about the language they use to ensure it is inclusive.

Non-Jewish families and children are highly valued and supported. Every attempt is made to ensure that they feel comfortable and involved during their time at Eden. They are given opportunities to understand the school curriculum and practices and care is taken to ensure that school explicitly values and addresses their backgrounds and desires. This is done through the curriculum, buddy families, newsletters,

curriculum evenings, parent packs on holidays, the daily Eeton, conversation, Parent-Teacher conferences, Hebrew classes for adults, etc.

Eden Primary supports families and children with the move to secondary education and helps to launch their secondary education by ensuring that there is a good understanding of what school's offer and expect and what families desire. Eden builds relationships with potential secondary schools, both Jewish and non-Jewish, and participates in transition programmes and events whenever possible.

AIMS

Our aim is to educate children so that they leave Eden Primary with an enthusiasm for Judaism, a strong Jewish identity and/or sense of self, with a desire and the necessary skills to continue learning and as knowledgeable, responsible and communally active individuals.

Jewish life at Eden and the Education curriculum at Eden are designed to be inclusive, challenging and innovative. We teach with an inclusive stance which embraces all and engenders a sense of collective identity and responsibility to the community at large. Jewish education at Eden looks at Judaism within the context of varied denominations, other faiths, backgrounds and tradition. It enables children of all denominations and other faiths and backgrounds to participate with comfort and enjoyment, learn about Judaism and share their own experiences and traditions whilst considering universal values.

Our curriculum understands and respects the fact that Judaism has a rich and ancient history and heritage and is also continuously evolving. The religious ethos at Eden embraces the rich and ancient historical heritage of Judaism while offering innovative opportunities to be part of its on-going evolution.

The Jewish Education programme at Eden is designed to ensure that children:

- experience a wide and engaging range of meaningful teaching and learning experiences that are often experiential and creative in order to inspire excitement and engagement in Judaism and Jewish learning;
- develop a strong sense of community;
- have fun learning about and being immersed in Judaism;
- develop a positive commitment to and a sense of pride in their Judaism;
- understand the meaning and value of Jewish practice;
- develop a desire and the ability/skills to participate fully in Jewish life;
- gain the necessary literacy skills and a desire to continue on a journey of Jewish learning;
- are provided with opportunities to grow as modern Jews who have a positive regard for Jews of all denominations and for people of other beliefs;
- become knowledgeable about and excited by all aspects of Jewish Education;
- are respectful, and value and understand the variety of family backgrounds and experiences within and outside the school community, which are valued and supported equally;
- participate actively in social action and charity opportunities;

- have opportunities to develop their spiritual and moral lives and their own understanding of theology and God.
- develop the ability to express themselves and ask questions;
- become actively responsible for themselves, their views and their community;
- are encouraged, both inside and out of the classroom, to make informed choices about the lives they wish to lead.

The Curriculum: Life and Learning at Eden

The Jewish Education Curriculum incorporates the following strands:

- Sacred Texts
- Knowledge of and Response to Jewish Text: Understanding, Interpretation, Commentary
- Jewish Life: Jewish Law and Practice
- Shabbat
- Life Cycle: calendar, holidays, a journey through life
- Prayer and Spirituality
- Values and Social Action
- History, Peoplehood and Israel
- Community
- Culture and Heritage
- Religious Education and Diversity: other religions
- Hebrew as a Modern Foreign Language

The detailed curriculum documents for each year group identify areas of content and what the children should be able to do as a result of their learning experiences (skills). Progression documents are provided to ensure that teachers are aware of expected progress and development.

Our Jewish Education curriculum is both discipline-based and also integrated and thematic.

Approximately 15% of time in school is devoted to Jewish Education. This is averaged out over the year recognizing that at certain times in the year Jewish subjects are more relevant.

Of this time, at least 1.5 hours a week are devoted to Hebrew (speaking, reading and writing). The remaining time is either integrated into thematic study or discrete Jewish Education sessions. For example when teaching about Living Things, teachers will teach about Jewish attitudes to taking care of animals but they may learn about Shavuot separately from their ongoing thematic study.

The thematic approach, integrating Jewish and secular education, enables children to see and explore connections across subjects, deepens conceptual understanding and lends itself to authentic and seamless real world learning experiences.

To enhance the curriculum and ensure seamless integration class teachers at Eden teach both Jewish and General Education. We supplement this with additional

support where subject knowledge needs enhancing and have separate teachers for Hebrew (R-Y6) and Chumash (Years 4-6).

The concepts of difference and diversity are on-going themes throughout the Jewish education curriculum and infuse the approach to teaching and learning. The backgrounds of all children are reflected explicitly in the planned curriculum providing parallels from all Jewish denominations and faith-based traditions which are incorporated into thematic units of work for comparison and study.

The integrated theme-based approach allows the recurring elements of the Jewish year to be studied from different, deepening perspectives on an annual basis. Each year builds upon the knowledge and skills attained in previous years. The curriculum consists of building blocks that are integrated with learning according to statutory requirements and the general education curriculum and develop over the years in EYFS, KS1 and KS2.

The themes of celebration, diversity and difference, Jewish values, *chesed*, social action and spirituality pervade each strand of the Jewish Education Curriculum.

Graduates of Eden Primary will be literate Jews with a good knowledge and skill base to live informed Jewish lives and continue on the life long journey of knowledge acquisition and decisions making about their religious lives.

Year Long Themes Integrating Jewish and General Studies

Reception	Cycles and Getting to Know my School Community
Year 1	Me and My Family Taking Care of Myself
Year 2	My Local Community Muswell Hill, East Finchley, London
Year 3	My Country, My People (UK) New Beginnings
Year 4	The Wider World Connections and Communication My Fellow Human Beings Peoplehood
Year 5	Journeys My Heritage Citizenship
Year 6	Leadership and Responsibility

Pedagogy

At Eden our starting points for teaching and learning about any aspect of Judaism, are the central uniting ideas and principles common to all strands of Jewish life and tradition. Where relevant this will be rooted in the core, central texts of major traditions and practices.

Children are then encouraged to share and discuss their own personal experiences, knowledge, differences and personal connections to the learning, practices and understandings. The personal experiences and pre-existing knowledge of all children are shared and valued to broaden, make personal, enhance, deepen and foster learning for all children. These ideas are strongly valued and discussed in relationship to the learning to enrich and diversify the children's knowledge and understanding of a complex and dynamic Judaism which may have a multiplicity of interpretations and expressions in the context of a diverse world.

On-going responsive planning, evaluation and adaptation of teaching ensure that children are provided with opportunities to explore different experiences, interests, practices and the validity of diversity in a non-judgemental way.

Core texts and practices are explored openly incorporating at all times the children's own interpretations, experiences, knowledge and practice.

Respectful discourse is taught and expected.

We facilitate discussion of different perspectives, practices and beliefs in a celebratory, understanding and respectful manner emphasizing at all times the richness of Jewish life, an understanding of the evolution of Jewish practice in different directions and how children can learn and grow through mutually respectful discourse.

Through modelling interpersonal behaviour, we expect our staff, families and governors to demonstrate our underlying pedagogy and how it is rooted in Jewish values or behaviour.

All school policies apply to Jewish Education.

Hidden Curriculum

At Eden the environment and the messages it sends are seen as an additional teacher. Displays and the school environment therefore play an important message in reinforcing values and learning across the school. In order to ensure that children, families, guests and staff entering Eden Primary know that Eden is a Jewish school with carefully chosen values, the following things are consistently embedded throughout the school:

- The school environment sends a strong message that Eden is a Jewish school
- Jewish values are embedded in the social, moral and behavioral ethos of the school and made explicit through display around the school

- Jewish Education displays in each classroom and throughout the school are inspiring and topical
- Displays about Jewish holidays are seen in each class at least a week before a holiday
- The school environment demonstrates that Hebrew is valued and is being used as a living language throughout the school in labels and displays
- Hebrew words for values and PSED/behavior are displayed around the school
- Mezuzot are put on all doors
- Children can talk about how and why their school is a Jewish building and a Jewish school
- Class names are in Hebrew

School Values

Our school values have parallel Jewish values that are evident in the school and central to PSHE study and themes.

The following are the 5 key values with related possible Jewish values and learning opportunities that are deeply embedded in curriculum and life at Eden Primary (2017-2018). These are constantly reviewed and may change as felt relevant.

RESPECT, COMMUNITY, EXCELLENCE, RESPONSIBILITY, CREATIVITY

RESPECT

(Ve'ahavta Lere'echa Kamocho-love your neighbour as yourself, Chesed - kindness)

- Compassion
- Kindness
- Valuing all others - children and adults
- Getting along

COMMUNITY

(Kehillah Kadusha- holy community, Tzelem Elohim- made in the image of God)

- Inclusive
- Unity
- Celebrating difference/uniqueness
- Diversity
- Inclusion of children with Sen and from different faiths and backgrounds
- Family

EXCELLENCE

(Lilmod U'Lelemed-to teach and to learn, Derech Eretz – way of the world, Chevruta-learning in collaboration, Lihiyot B'Simcha-doing everything with joy and positive attitude)

- Embracing challenge
- High expectations

- Determination, effort and resilience
- Thinking
- Confidence
- Pride in our achievements

RESPONSIBILITY

(Tikkun Olam- repair the world, Tzedakah- charity, Gemilut Hassadim- good deeds, Tzedek Tirdof- pursue justice Baal Taschit- taking care of the environment)

- Care for each other
- Care for school
- Care for nature and the environment
- Care for the wider community
- Taking responsibility for our learning

CREATIVITY

(Shivim Panim L'Torah- 70 interpretations of Torah, Elu V'elu- these as well as these are the words of the living God)

- Courage
- Curiosity
- Exploration
- Innovation
- Fun
- Risk taking
- Innovative teaching and learning

Jewish Toolkit

Classrooms should provide children with the tools and resources necessary for learning and Jewish practice in exactly the same way that they do when teaching secular studies. This may include: Hebrew and Jewish literacy labeling and resources, vocabulary and prompts when working on Jewish content even in other subject areas such as literacy or science, stimulating displays, instructions for Jewish routines and ritual, *kippot* available, library area, etc.

Jewish Culture

Jewish Culture is part of the Jewish Education curriculum. Judaism has been responsible for many aspects of modern day culture both within Jewish life and more widely in addition to a purely religious understanding. This facet of Jewish life is explored by starting with studying their own histories and family heritage and then moving throughout their years at Eden t looking at Jewish history, art, writing, theatre, film, comedy, architecture, philosophy, and of course food.

Hebrew

Hebrew is studied as the modern foreign language of the State of Israel and as the traditional language of Jewish texts providing access to further study of Judaism and to spending time in Israel.

The school will have a natural language partial immersion Hebrew programme in which children can start to learn a second language early on in the same way that they learned their first. As well as discrete teaching sessions starting in Reception for 20 minutes each day, staff will speak Hebrew for chunks of the school day to immerse children in a modern, living foreign language. Hebrew lessons are taught exclusively in Hebrew.

Hebrew conversation (Speaking and Listening) is the starting point for the teaching of Hebrew in Reception. In Year 1 the children will start to read and write in Hebrew using the programmes Ezev Kef for vocabulary and sentence structure and Aleph Champ for decoding. In Year 3-6 the children will use the programme Ivrit B'Click. All lessons will have a good balance between conversation and literacy to ensure that all aspects of the language are well-taught. By the end of Year 3 at the latest we expect all children to read well and to decode unseen texts. In Years 4-6 the children will build on their reading with specific work on traditional texts.

(In 2017 the school evaluated decoding in reading as an area requiring further work and identified a new programme to address this. This was introduced in January 2018. The plan is to introduce this in Year 1 starting in September 2018. From January-July 2018 it will be used in Years 6 down to Year 1 to rectify any gaps in learning.)

English is spoken predominantly in lessons where complex general studies subjects are being learned. However we will use Hebrew as often as possible in general studies lessons, Jewish Studies lessons and during transitions but will use Hebrew whenever possible (particularly in Jewish Education lessons) and in increasing amounts as the children move through the school.

Teachers fluent in Hebrew will use Hebrew as a default language around the school even when speaking to other adults who speak Hebrew when children are present to encourage and model use of Hebrew as a living and modern language.

Teachers are expected to use Hebrew as part of their Jewish Education teaching building on and enhancing the learning in Hebrew lessons. Teachers will use Hebrew words for common events or items during the school day and week, for example: Tefillah, tzedakah, kippah, bracha, etc

Israel

At Eden children will learn about the state, history, geography, religion, culture and people of Israel. They will learn about Israel's meaning, value and importance to Judaism, to the Jewish people, to Eden Primary and to other faith based communities. Children will explore the different relationships and ways of connecting that Judaism, families and individuals have to Israel and as they grow older may appreciate the complexity of these relationships and will develop their own links with and understanding of Israel. Children will learn about the strong connection of

Judaism and the Jewish people to the land of and state of Israel. As political issues and opinions arise they will be tackled and discussed in age appropriate ways.

Children will learn Hebrew as a Modern Foreign Language throughout their time at Eden because of the importance of Israel, where Hebrew is spoken, and of texts written in Hebrew to Judasim and to Eden Primary.

Through a variety of projects, children at Eden will develop a personal relationship with Israel and they will be able to apply their knowledge and understanding of Israel and Hebrew in a meaningful way.

Text Study

Textual analysis and informed debate will be at the heart of learning with a strong emphasis on skills acquisition, to ensure that an Eden Primary student can continue their Jewish journey far beyond the school gates.

Children will first learn Hebrew as a Modern Foreign Language and will then transfer their knowledge and skills to the study of traditional Jewish text in Hebrew

In Year 1 children will start learning to read and write in Hebrew and this will give them a solid grounding for studying traditional Jewish text. In all classes children will apply their Hebrew knowledge to the study of Jewish texts (siddur, megillah, haggadot, chumash, etc)

In Years 4-6 children will have specific lessons designed to develop the ability to study some biblical Hebrew, Tefillot and some Torah SheBe'al Peh in Hebrew.

All children will have opportunities to learn to read/leyn Torah and in other trope.

We will celebrate achievements through ceremonies and relevant gifts to further their learning. At the end of KS1 the children will participate in Shacharit/morning prayers with their families and will be given a *siddur*. **Year 6 Chumash and ceremony**

God/Theology

The curriculum approaches the theme of God and spirituality with sensitivity and openness. Different forms and expressions of spirituality are presented and explored throughout the subjects studied.

At Eden we use and spell the words God or Hashem in English. In Hebrew we will use Hashem or Adonai. Staff and children may use a name or words that they are most comfortable with personally.

Staff will explore the possible ways of naming God with children and be respectful of the customs and practices of different families with sensitivity to other religions and beliefs.

Technology

Clothing

While at Eden:

- Boys are expected to wear *kippot* during lunch and Tefillot (Shabbat preparation, blessings, prayer, religious events, etc). Girls are welcome to at these times as well. At the start of each year there will be teaching, learning and discussion of the use of head covering to launch the year.
- Children do not need to wear Tzitzit in school but will learn about them when studying the relevant parts of Shema and at this point Tzitzit will be made available in school for those who would like to explore this possibility.
- Kippot will be made available for adults on occasions of a religious nature.

Tefillah/Prayer (See additional document for more information on the teaching of Tefillah at Eden)

Children at Eden will develop understanding and knowledge of spirituality and theology through an inspiring and lively approach to prayer.

At Eden, the school day commences with parts of Shacharit (morning prayer) in all classes. Children develop their knowledge of Shacharit and of other prayers and services as they progress through the school. Lunch always starts with a ***bracha***/blessing and from Year 1 the children start learning and saying Birchat Hamazon (grace after meals) after lunchtime play at the start of afternoon school.

Over the course of the school pupils will learn to navigate a *siddur*/prayer book independently.

Shlichut Tzibur/prayer leaders will be encouraged throughout the school starting in Reception. Girls and boys will be given opportunities to point to the words and lead Tefillah in their own classes and later on in KS2 they will have a chance to lead Tefillah independently for other classes.

In all areas of Jewish Education Nusach Sepharad (Modern Hebrew pronunciation) is used.

In KS2 pupils will be given the opportunity to expand their experiences in Tefillah through the exploration of regional and communal variations of common prayers such as Birchat Hamazon.

Gender Issues in Prayer: Children will have opportunities to share and learn about different approaches to Tefillot with regards gender for example whether to include *Imahot (mothers)* or not and whether or not to include certain prayers according to their own or family practice such as with certain prayers in Birchat Ha'Shachar. Teachers will facilitate this dialogue and provide opportunities for personal prayer as the children get older and make personal decisions about such issues.

Siddurim: In EYFS and KS1 children will have a large class siddur which is valued, illustrated and used by the whole class to follow along each day. In KS2 the children will move towards using an individual siddur put together by the school to include what they have learned and will be learning.

The first Eden class will work on developing a school *siddur* for KS2 by the time they leave the school and this will then be published and printed for all of KS2 to use.

The school will make available a variety of different siddurim from different denominations for children to explore, compare and use.

All classes will have two sessions of song/prayer leading and learning each week with an outside professional including one Shabbat session on a Friday.

Children will learn a variety of sung and chanted versions of Tefillot during the time at Eden.

Assembly and Whole School Celebrations

We use our assembly times:-

- To promote the school ethos and its Jewish foundation.
- To explore current relevant issues in school and the wider world.
- To set and promote standards of behaviour.
- To focus on values.
- To provoke thought and reflection.
- To provide stimulus/extension/opportunity to exhibit classroom work.
- To pray together.
- To prepare for Shabbat together

Where possible Jewish values, texts and celebrations are shared together as a community.

Judaica and Sacred Objects/Books

Eden Primary has a collection of artifacts, sacred objects and books to support learning and to form an integral and beautiful part of ritual and celebration. These are kept safely and as appropriate and are treated as holy with the respect that is due by both staff and children who are taught about this whenever relevant. This includes:

- Our Sefer Torah (scroll) and Aron (ark/cupboard)
- Class siddurim (prayer books)
- Sefarim (holy books such as prayer books, bibles, other texts)
- Kippot (head covering for prayer)
- Judaica/objects for festivals (Chanukiot, Lulavim/Etrogim, etc)
- Talit (prayer shawl)

Denominations

Children at Eden will learn about the different Jewish denominations, their evolution, history, similarities and differences. They will recognize which synagogues and religious leaders relate to the different denominations both locally and further afield and they will understand that families in the school practice their Judaism differently and may or may not belong to different synagogues and other Jewish organizations. This will be part of the curriculum and children will also be encouraged to talk about their personal affiliations and experiences to deepen the understanding. Children will also learn about kinds of Judaism not practiced amongst the Eden community.

Religious Leaders

Rabbis and song leaders/chazzanim will be invited to visit Eden to work with the children, staff, families and governors from across the spectrum of Jewish denominations. They may be asked to teach, to lead assemblies, to lead celebrations for holidays and Shabbat, to talk with children and adults and to discuss issues and opinions across denominations.

Religious leaders and representatives of different faiths will also be invited to come to Eden to teach and be part of the Eden community.

Religious Education

Throughout the school we will also teach RE from an inclusive perspective. We will cover the five main religions (*Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism*) in an informative and interesting way including visits to religious buildings and communities. The children will learn about each religion, their celebrations, the lives of members of that faith community, gain an understanding of the values that underpin them and relate this to their own experience and feelings, both from a Jewish perspective and a wider perspective.

Working with Families

Families and carers will be given guidance in the family Handbook about how to be supportive of our inclusive community that values and celebrates the difference religious practices in our school. In particular they will receive guidance on when they may choose to have celebrations so that they can be inclusive to all children and how to respect the dietary needs of all children in the school.

Eden will develop a program of parent workshops and classes about aspects of Jewish education and Hebrew and will inform parents about our approach to Jewish education at Curriculum Evenings each term.

Extra- Curricular/Informal Jewish Education

As the school grows Eden will develop and include in the planning of the year and the curriculum:

- Sleepovers at school with Jewish content
- Camping, residential and Forest School trips with Jewish content
- Shabbatonim

- Shabbat and holiday experiences at Eden
- Celebrations of Chaggim at Eden (parent/staff organized)
- Israeli Dancing club/festivals and other Jewish focused clubs
- Relationships with youth movements
- Guest speakers and educators

Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Education (Policy to be developed)

The school's main areas of focus (Jewish Education, Diversity, Building Community, Creativity and Inclusion) will contribute to a high standard of spiritual, moral, social and cultural education. The school aspires to excellence and innovation in this area and the curriculum and life at Eden ensures that this is achieved through creative and positive experiences challenging adventures and exploring the wider community and world.