

Jewish Education Intent Statement

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.

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.

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 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.

Curriculum

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

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.

Pedagogy

At Eden children are 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.

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.

Hebrew

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 Judaism and to Eden Primary.

Israel

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 is 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. As children first learn Hebrew as a Modern Foreign Language they can transfer their knowledge and skills to the study of traditional Jewish text in Hebrew.

In Year 1 children start to learn how to read in Hebrew and this gives them a solid grounding for studying traditional Jewish text. In all classes children apply their Hebrew knowledge to the study of Jewish texts (siddur, megillah, haggadot, chumash, etc). In Years 4-6 children have specific Chumash lessons designed to develop the ability to study some biblical Hebrew texts.

God/Theology

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

Tefilah/Prayer

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.

Judaica and Sacred Objects/Books

Eden Primary has a collection of artefacts, 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.

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.

Extra- Curricular/Informal Jewish Education

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
- Shabbaton
- 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/Shinshinim Programme
- Song and Prayer Leader
- Weekly visits to the woods with Jewish content
- Creativity projects with Jewish content

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 contributes 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.