

Little Stars, Big Future



**FRS's new and inclusive
education programme**

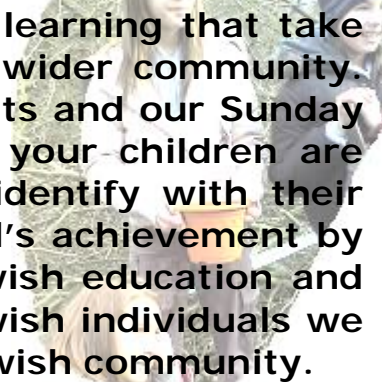
A guide for parents



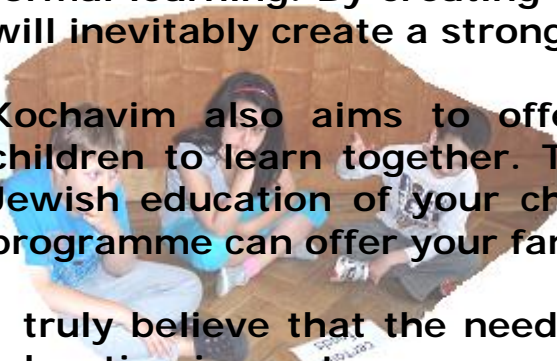
A letter from the director of education

Hello!

There has been much debate over recent years about the purpose of religion school and its place within a changing Jewish community. For many of our generation and the majority of our parents' generation, Religion School was our Jewish education in its entirety. However, with the massive growth in the number of Jewish primary schools and the opening of JCOSS in September 2010, many families no longer rely on the synagogue for education. In fact many synagogues across London have seen a massive drop in the numbers of children attending Religion School as well as the numbers of families attending synagogue on a regular basis. To this end we have rejuvenated our education curriculum and have founded Kochavim, an education programme for all those of school age.



Kochavim aims to join together all the sparks of learning that take place within our synagogue community and the wider community. Our combination of after school clubs, family events and our Sunday morning curriculum will build on the skills that your children are already developing and give them a chance to identify with their synagogue community. We aim to raise your child's achievement by offering them programmes that support their Jewish education and formal learning. By creating a group of strong Jewish individuals we will inevitably create a stronger, more engaged Jewish community.



Kochavim also aims to offer more opportunities for parent and children to learn together. This way you will also be a part of the Jewish education of your children and learn more about what the programme can offer your family.

I truly believe that the need for the synagogue to provide a Jewish education is as strong as ever. However, there is a definite need for change. FRS's completely new venture will change the way your children learn for the better.

"When we change, we grow"

Debbie Juggler

Kochavim

What is our vision?

- To create a strong sense of Jewish community
for children and families
- To make Judaism an integral part of our
members lives
- To make Jewish learning a life long and
enjoyable endeavour



How will the Kochavim day be built?

Welcome	Session 1	Break	Session 2	Break	Session 3	Assembly
9:30-9:45	9.45-10.30		10.45-11.30		11:45-12.30	12:30-12:40
A Taste of Tefillah ¹	Hebrew/Ruach		Option 1 activity		Option 2 activity	Sikkum ²

Pupils will opt into different courses to be completed throughout the year. Pupils will choose two subjects from the list below. Each pupil will have an individual timetable to follow for the academic term.

- The Storytellers
- Jewish food
- Stars from the Past
- Virtual Israel
- I can save the world!
- Arts & Crafts
- Incrediballs
- Dance

The Hebrew programme has been designed to suit Jewish Day school children, Ivrit speakers and learners of Ivrit. The appropriate Ivrit course will be chosen for your child in consultation with you. Please indicate your preference on the registration form.

At break pupils will have the opportunity to purchase fruit and light snacks and will have the use of the front playground.



¹ This welcome assembly will be an abridged version of the morning service

² This assembly would be a "what have we learnt" session. Each class would take it in turn (on a weekly basis) to perform something they have learnt from their class.

Kochavim Course Details

Block A Courses- Hebrew

Please note that children will be grouped by Hebrew ability. It is hoped that this will maximise all children's potential.

Tefillah V'Shirah (prayer and song)*

This option is for pupils who already recognise Hebrew words and letters. They will learn the prayers that are said at the Shabbat service and on festivals. Pupils on this course will also learn songs sung at particular times of year including festivals and Shabbat. We aim to teach pupils how they can use their knowledge of Hebrew to participate in FRS services.

Ivrit B' Ivrit (Hebrew in Hebrew)*

This course will be run for those who are more confident in spoken Hebrew. The lesson will be run in Ivrit with the focus on conversational Hebrew. The class will be ideal for those who have Israeli parents or those with advanced Hebrew.

Lightening learning*

This course is for those with no or limited Hebrew. Pupils in this class will learn their aleph bet and how to decode simple words and sentences. This course is ideal for pupils who want to develop their basic Hebrew.

Ruach/ team spirit

This course will be run informally and will help children learn about teamwork and co-operation. They will complete various group activities throughout the year that will improve their physical and mental acumen. This class will also learn about various events in Jewish history and why teamwork is so important.

*All Ivrit Courses:

Pupils in Ivrit classes will be expected to complete approximately ten minutes of homework every night throughout the week to ensure that their grasp of Hebrew develops at a steady pace.

Special Interest options

These courses are open to pupils of any age and ability.

I can save the world!

This course will focus on the importance of Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Pupils will carry out various projects involving the FRS community and the wider world. Pupils who complete this course have an increased awareness about their relationship and responsibilities to the community and the wider world.

The Storytellers

This course will use Jewish texts in English to improve your child's reading skills and appreciation of reading. This course will feature a large number of biblical stories as well as novels from Jewish history and Israeli society.

There is no knowledge of Hebrew required for this course.

Jewish Food

Pupils on this course will learn the basic laws of Kashrut and will learn how to make traditional Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Israeli food. Pupils will develop their knowledge on health and nutrition through active participation.

Virtual Israel

This course is for those who are interested in the State of Israel and computers. It will encompass the history and geography of Israel as well as the culture and lifestyle of the diverse range of Israeli people. Pupils will complete virtual projects on the state of Israel and develop their IT skills. This is an ideal opportunity for children who love using computers to learn about the State of Israel and its people.

Stars from the past

Pupils will be able to use language and actions to explore and convey how Jews reacted to events in Jewish History. Through Drama pupils will learn how to portray emotions and themes in acting and singing. This course will focus on both biblical and modern Jewish history, from Abraham and Moses to Golda Meir and Hannah Senesh for example.

Art & Crafts

Pupils will develop their knowledge of living Judaism through art. They will build on their creative skills using a range of materials and processes and will be able to distinguish between different types of art. Pupils will be able to experiment with ceramics, clay (making chanukiyot), glass, paper mache and batik (challah covers).

Incrediballs

Through the rules of football, cricket, rounder's and dodge ball, pupils will be taught the importance of teamwork and also improve their hand eye co-ordination and ball skills. They will develop a growing awareness of the need for keeping active and healthy. Pupils will also develop their own ideas on implementing team strategies by looking at ways that the Jewish community can and have worked together.

Dance

Through examining celebrations in Jewish history, pupils will develop an understanding of the importance of movement and of using their bodies to perform actions, convey stories and emotions. Pupils will also develop knowledge of sequencing their movements, learn how to choreograph their own routines and how to respond to different types of music.



Choosing your courses

Option choices

Block A	Block B Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tefillah V'Shirah• Ivrit B' Ivrit• Lightening Learning• Ruach/ team spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jewish Food• Incrediballs• Virtual Israel• Dance• Stars from the Past• Art & Crafts• I can save the world!• The Storytellers

1. Pupils should choose one option from block A
2. Pupils should choose two options from block B

Parents should also indicate two reserve choices in case their first choices are over subscribed

Class Groupings

In order to offer more choice to pupils we are collapsing the year groups into three main groups, all named after different regions of Israel:

- Kvutzah Galil- Years 1 & 2
- Kvutzah Negev- Years 3 & 4
- Kvutzah Sharon- Years 5 & 6

Kochavim's Code of Conduct

1. Regular attendance is expected and necessary for your child to benefit from our programme. We will take the register at every session. If your child is consistently late or absent, we will contact you to see how we can help your child progress.

Please note:

If there are problems of persistent absence parents and child/ren will be invited to meet with the Director of Education to try to resolve any issues.

2. Kavod (respect) is a central part of the ethos of the Kochav Programme. Pupils will be expected to show kavod to all staff and fellow pupils at all times, and staff will treat all pupils and parents with care and respect.
3. Kavod must also be shown to our building and our local neighbours. Everyone is expected to tidy up after themselves and dispose of rubbish or recycling safely.

In return, we guarantee...

1. We will communicate with you regularly to update you on your children's progress in all areas.
2. We will inform you immediately if there are any concerns regarding your child's behaviour and development.
3. We will discuss any proposed changes to the programme with you at meetings set with sufficient notice for everyone to attend.
4. We will endeavour to instil a love of Jewish learning and living in your child/ren through well-planned programmes of high quality.
5. Your child/ren will be well prepared for bar/bat mitzvah and to take part in Jewish communal life.



Kochavim

Registration form

Section 1- Personal details

Child's full Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Mobile number: _____

Primary School attends: _____

School year (September 2009): _____

Each child will get a Kochavim T-Shirt. Please circle the size below

4-5

6-7

7-8

9-10

10-11

11-12

Section 2- Option choices

Block A- _____

Block B

1. _____

2. _____

Reserve choices

1. - _____

2. - _____

Please note that you will be contacted if the combination of courses that you and your child have chosen is unavailable.

The information above will be used to establish your child's timetable. You should have already received an enrollment form for the Kochavim programme. That information will be passed onto your child's teacher to help them plan their lesson appropriately

I have read and understood the Kochavim's code of conduct and will support my child/ren in following this code

I understand that the cost of enrolling my child/ren in Kochavim will be added to my synagogue bill (the total cost for the academic year 2009-10 is £124.08)

Parental name (please print) _____

Date: _____

Parental signature _____

