



JEWISH STUDIES SUBJECT OVERVIEW

At NCJPS, our Jewishness underpins the very reason for our existence and permeates all aspects of school life. Jewish Studies lessons aim to develop intellectual, emotional and spiritual growth, and instil a pride and self-confidence in our children of their Jewishness, and of the Jewish Homeland – Israel. We demonstrate that living committed Jewish lives firmly complements British Values. We are proud British citizens, and believe that our Jewishness can, and should, enhance our appreciation for, and understanding of, our British Values and Citizenship.

“To defend a country, you need an army. But to defend an identity, you need a school. Judaism is the religion of the book” (Rabbi Sacks)

Core Threads

- Understanding the basic beliefs of the Jewish people as traditionally understood in Orthodox contexts.
- Knowing the stories and sequencing of events in the Torah through the lens of the weekly Parashah.
- Understanding the historical basis and spiritual significance of the Jewish
- Gaining an appreciation for the Jewish homeland – Israel.
- Learning to read Hebrew as an important skill in ensuring access to future Jewish life.

Links to Reading

Reading and researching information on relevant Jewish knowledge from a variety of sources e.g. books, internet and information

Inclusive Practice

- Children are invited to share their perspectives and beliefs, particularly where these differ to the Jewish faith.
- Major milestones in other religions are marked e.g. Christmas, Chinese New Year, Ramadan, Easter.
- All children participate in Jewish prayers and celebrations.
- A variety of resources are available to support children who have gaps in their background knowledge.
- Links with other faith schools are actively cultivated.

Knowing more, remembering more

The Parashah and Festivals curriculum follow a spiral cycle where all key concepts and knowledges are revisited to aid long term recall. DEAL, concept reviews, games and modern applications of ancient ideas.



Our curriculum is underpinned by our RESPECT VALUES, which are covered across all subjects. The following values are exemplified in this subject:

Resilience: Opportunities to grapple with complex life questions such as religious beliefs and our purpose in the world.

Empathy: Tzedakah, charity, and helping others, is a core Jewish value and is brought out across many Parashah and Festival lessons.

Self-awareness: Children learn to express their beliefs and opinions, and reflect on their place in the world.

Positivity: The core Jewish value of God only does good, He loves us and has a mission for all of us are reinforced constantly.

Excellence: Opportunities to emulate great Biblical leaders and great Jewish heroes throughout history.

Communication: Children articulate and share their responses to thought provoking questions on a variety of different Jewish topics.

Teamwork: Many projects are completed in groups, allowing opportunities for effective teamwork and communication.

Sequence of Learning

Early years: The basics of the Hebrew Alphabet (the Alef Bet) are introduced. Basic concepts of Jewish festivals are discussed, with particular focus on artefacts.

KS1: Hebrew reading is developed further and children learn how to decode basic Hebrew texts. Festivals themes and Parshah ideas are further developed.

KS2 Hebrew reading is reinforced. Children grapple with more complex and nuanced ideas related to the Parashah and Festivals. Children are provided with many experiential opportunities to further develop their sense of identity, belonging and pride.