

## Visitor's Guide to Beis Yaakov Primary School

Welcome to Beis Yaakov Primary School! We hope that you enjoy your visit. As this may be your first visit to an orthodox Jewish school, we thought that it may be helpful if we explain a little about the way we live and work in our school community.

Beis Yaakov is a voluntary-aided, single sex school within the London Borough of Barnet. We cater for girls between the ages of 4 and 11 from strictly orthodox Jewish families living in NW London. Parents choose this school because our ethos closely mirrors the values and life styles of their homes.

The society in which our girls live is a very protected one. They do not watch television and many do not have access to national newspapers or libraries. Pop culture is unknown and exposure to other religious experiences very limited. Prayers and blessings are an integral part of daily routine and are recited at the start of the day and before and after many activities and events.

The children are used to a strict code of dress, food and personal conduct and everyone who works here is expected to promote and support them. Slang and street vocabulary is not permitted in any situation.

These codes are governed by religious laws and we ask all visitors to adhere to them:

- Men and women may not shake hands nor touch in any other manner.
- (Men try not to walk in between two woman and vice-versa)
- Jewish men wear skull caps or hats.
- Ladies must wear skirts, trousers must not be worn.
- Skirts should cover the knee when seated and have no slits or vents.
- Tops should cover the collar bone and elbows and be of an opaque material.
- Married Jewish ladies must cover their hair.
- Stockings or tights must be worn.
- The school is an orthodox institution which values Jewish religious teachings.

Therefore:

- We only accept the biblical interpretation of creation as expounded
- by rabbinical teachings
- The age of the universe is accepted as 5778 years old
- We do not teach or discuss evolution in any form
- The term BC is written as BCE ( Before the Common Era);
- AD is represented as CE (Common Era)
- The Millennium had no place in our teaching
- Sexual matters may not be spoken about in any context
- Personal relationships must not be discussed at all.
- All references to TV programmes and the Internet should be avoided
- The teachers discuss current affairs according to the ethos of the school
- Jewish expressions are common place in everyday language. If you don't
- understand something, please feel to ask.

We follow strict dietary laws. Although you are welcome to consume your own food on the premises, we ask that you bear the following in mind:

- All foods must have an appropriate Kosher supervision label. Please feel free to seek advice
- Only dairy or vegetarian food may be brought in
- A paper covering should be placed between your food and any tables
- Do not be offended if your offer of food is refused. People keep different levels of Kashrut observance

This is just a short guide. Please feel free to ask questions.

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