בס"ד

Avigdor Hirsch Torah Temimah Primary School

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Principal/Menahel: Rabbi E. Klyne MA (Ed.) **Headteacher: Rabbi Y. Freeman BSc.**

Information for Visitors

Welcome to Torah Temimah!

Torah Temimah Primary School (TTPS) is one of three orthodox Jewish maintained primary schools in the London Borough of Brent[1]. TTPS is a single form entry boys-only school with around 210 pupils aged 3–11.

Mission statement

Torah Temimah Primary School exists to provide boys from the orthodox Anglo-Jewish Community with a high quality orthodox Jewish education coupled with National Curriculum studies imbued with Torah values, enabling all boys to take their place in and contribute to broader society.

Our aim is to enable children to develop into fulfilled young people with a deep understanding, love of and commitment to orthodox Jewish faith, learning and practice, who are able and committed to make a positive contribution to an inclusive society. A warm, welcoming and respectful Jewish environment enables our children to develop strong Jewish values and a love of Torah and Jewish life within the modern world. We embrace the British Values[2] as being timely expressions of values that are deeply rooted in Jewish beliefs and principles.

Demographic and social context

The school primarily services the north west London Jewish communities of Golders Green, Hendon and Edgware in the London Borough of Barnet. However, some pupils live further away. Only a small number of pupils live in the London Borough of Brent and none are very local to the school. The school is over-subscribed, typically averaging around 50 first-choice applications for 25 places in the Nursery class, which is the point of entry for most pupils.

The proportion of pupils eligible for the pupil premium / free school meals is very low. However we have a significant number of families with social challenges, such as large families, overcrowding and very limited incomes, which impact on their children in school. The proportion of pupils with special educational needs is around the national average, although there can be wide variations between year groups in this respect. A large majority of pupils are from homes where English is the first language.

Where the school stands in the Jewish religious spectrum

TTPS is a *Chareidi* (strictly Orthodox Jewish) school with an ethos that stresses the primacy of Torah, life-long learning and steadfast religious observance, while engaging positively with the modern world. We derive our ethos and values from the timeless values and teachings of the Torah, as transmitted through orthodox Jewish tradition. This ethos pervades all aspects of our curriculum and

[1] The others are Michael Sobell Sinai PS and North West London Jewish Day School

[2] The British Values include a commitment to: democracy; the rule of law; individual liberty; and mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith.

our work. It is upheld and clearly communicated daily by the staff through promoting Torah values. Our *Va'ad Hachinuch* (Rabbinic board) interprets and rules on all matters relating to the applicability of these values and teachings, and the school's Governing Board and senior leadership team follow the directions of the *Va'ad Hachinuch* in all matters.

The school respects all authentically orthodox Jewish traditions, but does not recognise the validity of non-orthodox expressions of Judaism. The school teaches children to view all people as children of God and to treat them with respect, regardless of differences between us in how we live or in our race, faith or cultural traditions, and to develop into tolerant, active, contributing citizens of the broader community and nation. A key Jewish value is the maxim *"Do not do to others that which is hateful to you."*

The school prides itself on the excellent work ethic and high achievements of its pupils, their outstanding moral, spiritual and social development, and their high standards of conduct.

All boys are from strictly orthodox Jewish religious homes, and have minimal to zero exposure to popular culture (film, TV, music, spectator sport, popular children's and adult literature, computer games etc.). Our shared school values do not approve families having television, access to the internet or social media for entertainment or social purposes, or secular newspapers or magazines. Instead there is a strong focus on a rich and varied life and culture, centred on family and community, that includes many festivals and special days celebrated together, and emphasising lifelong study and learning especially of sacred texts, prayer, good deeds, personal moral development, and contributing to others through acts of kindness, caring and charity. The school fully supports, upholds and promotes this ethos.

Visitors may find the BBC introduction to Judaism useful:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/.

The Curriculum

Pupils follow the full National Curriculum, which we term '*Chol*'. Over 50% of the longer-than-average school day is devoted to Jewish Studies, termed '*Kodesh'*, which includes classical Hebrew, *Chumash* (Pentateuch), *Mishna* and *Talmud* (the Jewish Oral Law), practical Jewish living, the religious festival cycle, and other topics. Jewish beliefs, values and moral principles are interwoven through this curriculum. Wherever possible, we endeavour to create strong and explicit links between the *Chol* and *Kodesh* aspects of the curriculum, so that each supports, enhances and deepens understanding of the other. We provide a wide range of extra-curricular clubs at lunchtime. Because the school day is already long, we do not provide after-school clubs.

Spiritual, moral, social & cultural education, and British Values

The school ensures through its curriculum and values that pupils are prepared well for life in modern Britain. Pupils develop attitudes, skills, attributes and values that equip them excellently for life, and enable them to make informed free choices as adults. This is reflected in the good and frequently excellent results in the KS2 National Curriculum tests, in their high standards of personal conduct, in the very positive feedback that we receive from destination secondary schools, in the excellent GCSE and higher academic qualifications that the vast majority of our pupils go on to achieve, and in the nearly 30 years' track record of former pupils entering the workforce in a broad range of community service positions, professions, businesses and trades.

The school actively promotes through the curriculum respect and a sense of responsibility for the broader British and global community and its rich diversity, as well as through charitable fundraising for a range of good causes. This is all achieved without compromising on the core values and sensitivities that underlie the school's Orthodox Jewish religious character and ethos, and which place acceptable limits on the explicit content of some areas of the curriculum. The school's position is that the core values and sensitivities must be respected and adhered to, while ensuring that pupils develop the broader generic skills, attributes, independence and attitudes that will enable them to engage positively with sensitive topics at a more developmentally appropriate stage.

The pupils' extremely well-developed spiritual development is evident in the wide range of opportunities provided for them to reflect and empathise with others. Through wider community and global initiatives, pupils develop a commitment to equality in its many dimensions, and learn to empathise with others, and to respect other people while recognising differences of faith, culture, ethnicity, ability and lifestyle. Our curriculum actively promotes consideration of a broad range of moral issues and values, and the fundamental British Values specified in the government *Prevent* strategy and in equalities law are interwoven throughout the curriculum. The school promotes very good relationships with all parents and encourages visitors and speakers from a range of backgrounds and experiences.

We have communal worship every day, including whole class, phase groups or key stages together.

Our School Council meets regularly and children play an active part in charity initiatives, including collections and donations of money and other goods for both Jewish and non-Jewish causes.

Visiting speakers

We welcome a broad range of visiting speakers for Assemblies, specific curriculum-related lessons, and special events. We have a separate policy and guidance for visiting speakers to help ensure the visit is a success.

Visiting Torah Temimah

We aim to make our visitors feel welcome. Please do not hesitate to let us know how we can assist you and make your time in our school more productive and comfortable.

To obtain our **Term Dates** for the current year please contact the school office**.** Our term dates (including half terms) do not coincide with those of our neighbouring maintained schools as we close for many of the Jewish festivals, the calendar dates of which vary from year to year. For most of the year we close early on Fridays, as well as on the last school day prior to some Jewish religious festivals, to allow pupils and staff to prepare for and observe the Jewish Sabbath and festivals: these closing times are indicated on the Term Dates document and can not be extended. For confirmation and to check for any further changes please contact the school office.

Security: We reserve the right to ask all visitors for robust photographic proof of identity and of their *bona fides,* and to refuse access where we have reasonable grounds for doing so. Our security guard may require bags etc. to be searched. We ask for your understanding and cooperation. Our building and its environs are monitored by recorded CCTV.

Food and drink: As a Jewish school, we respectfully request that visitors do not bring non-kosher food onto the premises. However, we are happy to provide a kosher light lunch and refreshments to

visitors on request at least a day in advance. We may charge for this service at cost price. If you wish to bring your own food, kosher food is available at a large number of retail outlets in Golders Green and Hendon, about 10 minutes' drive from the school. Details of some of these outlets are available online by searching for "*kosher food NW11*".

Access for people with restricted mobility: Unfortunately, only the main part of the ground floor of the building (some classrooms) is fully disabled accessible, with level access and no steps. We have a disabled-accessible ground floor toilet for visitors. Our building is a Grade 2 listed building and we are limited in our ability to make adaptations. Access to the first and second floors, which includes classrooms, the hall, offices and meeting rooms, is via staircases only. We have limited meeting rooms (the largest is on the second floor) but we are usually able to make a small room available for visitors' use, sufficient for 2-3 people. This may be in an outdoor wooden cabin (complete with power and heating) or portacabin, and access to these rooms may mean negotiating a lip at the door or may be via one or two steps.

ICT: We have a good on-site secure wifi network with internet access and we are happy to provide wifi access to visitors on request. We request that visitors do not use mobile phones in classrooms, corridors or areas where children are. Please turn phones to a silent/vibrate setting when entering the school.

Site and travel: The school is housed in a converted former synagogue which is a 1930s grade 2 listed building. Information about the school and its history, and that of the building, is on Wikipedia at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah_Temimah_Primary_School. However, that is not an official school web site, and the school is not responsible for its content.

We are located at: **Parkside, Dollis Hill, London NW2 6RJ**. We have no on-site parking spaces. There is normally on-street free parking available within easy walking distance of the school. Please do not use the car park of the neighbouring estate as this is private property. The closest tube station is Dollis Hill (Jubilee Line), about 800 metres / 10 minutes' walk away across Gladstone Park. Bus routes 232, 245 and 332 pass nearby.

School day: Staff arrive from about 8.10 a.m., as many attend daily synagogue services near their homes. It is not usually possible for staff or visitors to arrive earlier than this. The school day starts at 8.45 a.m. Lessons finish at 3.30 p.m. in Early Years, 3.45 p.m. in Years 1–3, and 4.30 p.m. in Years 4–6. On Fridays between October and March we finish earlier, depending on the time of sunset, to allow pupils and staff time to get home and prepare for the Sabbath.

Dress: Torah Temimah is an orthodox Jewish school and we ask visitors to respect our values in their mode of dress. We request that male visitors dress 'smart casual' or formal, and that Jewish male visitors cover their head with a *kuppel* (skullcap) (not required for non-Jewish visitors). We request that female visitors, both Jewish and non-Jewish, dress smartly and modestly with high necklines, at least mid-length sleeves, and legs covered to below the knee; skirts or dresses are preferable to trousers. Thank you for your understanding and sensitivity.

We look forward to welcoming you!