



## JEWISH STUDIES

Students understand the concepts of free choice and individual liberty when making decisions based on religious values. Sidra lessons and weekly assemblies present students with information about how to make considered choices.

Regular assemblies are given on the parity between British and Jewish values, with a focus on issues such as democracy and acceptance of those who have different cultural and religious beliefs and values.

Gemara and Halakah lessons regularly deal with rule of law and there is reference to British law and legislation. There is always a message that, as religious Jews, students have a religious duty to uphold British law.

Active Kodesh lessons encourage students to engage in community and volunteering activities. They raise money for local charities, Jewish and non-Jewish, and engage with the local community showing respect for the people they come into contact with.

Supported by HIPE (the school's informal Jewish education team), students involve themselves in many community-wide projects including the Wings of Hope Achievement Award, the Yoni Jesner volunteering programme, First Give, volunteering for GIFT, the Project ImpACT wrapathon, the Open Door Project, the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge and many more. We are immensely proud that outside of school, many students are actively involved in charities /organisations such as the Camp Simcha retreat for children with terminal illnesses and the Shabbat Walk project with our students making weekly visits to families who may need support and company.



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Modules on religious texts and commentaries allow for discussion about the roles of man and woman, as well as allowing students to develop an understanding of women's rights. Work with Jewish Women's Aid augments the programme

Dealing with dilemmas, moral choices and understanding how to reach fair outcomes are important parts of Jewish studies and halakha.

Religious Studies students are taught to cherish and understand diversity. This extends to people outside of the Jewish faith, but also within. There is particular focus on the Chassidim, modern-orthodox and reform strands of Judaism, looking at how and why they started and what their opinions on Jewish matters are.

Halakha lessons on 'lashon hara', speaking badly of others, allows students to gain an understanding of why we should respect everybody, regardless of who they are or what they believe, and how bullying of any kind can have serious consequences on both the bully and the bullied.