

Headteacher: Jeremy Stowe-Lindner BA, MBA, NPQH

Further information

Learning Support

We value all of JCoSS's students equally. However, we understand that their needs, interests and abilities may be wide-ranging. All our staff, with the help and advice of the Learning Support and Extension Department, aim to ensure that each pupil has the opportunity to fully develop their skills. A staff team, which represents all subjects, works together to identify the needs of individuals and, when necessary, produces an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to monitor and review progress. Support is offered across the curriculum, in class or on a withdrawal basis, as appropriate.

Cognitive Ability Tests are held in the Autumn Term for all Year 7 pupils. These are used along with NFER Reading Tests to establish the specific strengths of each pupil. The Gifted and Talented Policy, alongside a monitoring programme, is applied by all departments to ensure that every child is extended to achieve their full potential.

Within the Learning Support and Extension Department we have specialist staff who work to meet the needs of pupils with English as an Additional Language, as well as those with educational, emotional, social or behavioural difficulties. Students with physical disabilities enjoy the security offered by our caring environment.

Our support will be adapted to meet the changing needs of the school population.

Careers Guidance

Careers education begins from a pupil's first day at JCoSS. Much of our pastoral tutorial work is geared towards creating an awareness of each child's own strengths and weaknesses. In Years 7-9 key work-related learning skills are developed and pupils are helped to make the transition to the upper school.

In Year 10 there is more emphasis on the nature of work in general, and specific skills or qualifications demanded by certain careers, and all pupils benefit from the opportunity of two weeks work experience. By the end of this year pupils will have a general idea of the type of work they might enjoy.

Interviews with our Connexions Adviser in Year 11 help students to decide their career pathway at 16+ and whether to join the sixth form or go to other establishments. All Year 11 students receive guidance on how to look for work or choose a course of further education. Information is also given on application and recruitment procedures used by colleges or employers, including wide-ranging advice on interview preparation.

Sixth Form students receive help in selecting and applying for college and university courses or employment. There are ample opportunities to visit universities, open days in large companies, hear outside speakers and admissions tutors, and to attend short introductory courses to see if a particular career appeals to them.

Work Experience

All Year 10 pupils take part in two weeks work experience during the Summer Term. This helps them gain an insight into the world of work, develop key skills and aids the transition from school to a working environment.

Work experience also helps pupils' personal and social development by increasing self-confidence, communication skills and sense of responsibility. It gives them the opportunity to apply skills learned at school to a real situation. As this can be achieved in any work situation, placements may not be linked to their future career. Most pupils find it a rewarding and worthwhile experience, whatever job they are doing.

Inspection of Documents – Freedom of Information

All Governors' documents relating to the school, which are available for parents to see, are held in the school. Parents wishing to inspect any of these documents should contact the Headteacher.

Charging Policy

JCoSS provides free education for children of all abilities. Parents are asked for a voluntary contribution to pay for Jewish Education, the unique Jewish ethos of the school, and security costs, none of which are funded by local or national governments. Voluntary contributions are in line with those charged by other local Jewish schools and for 2010-11 are £1385 per child per year.

The Governors reserve the right to charge in the following instances:

- Where a family opts for a child to have private lessons (eg musical instrument, singing, bnei mitzvot classes).
- Where a family opts for a child to enter an examination that is not a normal part of the JCoSS curriculum.
- Where a family opts for a child to participate on a school visits which is not a compulsory part of the curriculum – the family will be invited to cover the costs involved on the understanding that if there is insufficient support the proposed trip will not take place.
- Cost of ingredients/materials for practical subjects (eg Food Technology).

Personal Accident Insurance

The school's rules and procedures are designed to ensure, as far as possible, a safe environment for all who work and study here. It should, however, be noted that no environment can ever be risk-free and that the Governors' insurance cover does not include personal accident insurance for students in schools. Parents may wish to make their own arrangements for such cover.

Pears Special Resource Provision

JCoSS students with an autistic spectrum condition who meet the relevant admissions criteria, have the opportunity to receive individual specialist support for their special needs, both within the PSRP and the mainstream environment as appropriate.

Curriculum Vision

The PSRP follows the National Curriculum and can be adapted where necessary. Students are supported to work within a programme designed to meet their specific needs. Lessons and activities take place in the PSRP and, whenever possible, students attend mainstream classes. An eclectic approach is used to ensure that every student can maximise their skills. Our ultimate aim is to increase the time each student spends in the mainstream environment.

Admissions

To qualify for the PSRP students must have:

- A medical diagnosis of autism.
- A statement of special needs.
- The ability to spend part of their day within the mainstream school environment and the capacity to find full time mainstream schooling challenging.

Seven students will be admitted to the PSRP per year. The admissions will start with Year 7 and will continue in line with admissions to the mainstream school. This will ensure there is always a relevant peer group for students in the PSRP.

Facilities

The PSRP offers state-of-the-art facilities to meet current needs and potential future needs. Some of the facilities include:

- Graded classrooms designed to allow different levels of sensory stimulation that ensure relevant environments for students across the autistic spectrum.
- Therapeutic rooms – physiotherapy, hydrotherapy pool, sensory integration, music and speech therapy. These areas help pupils deal with social, sensory and behavioural difficulties.
- Specialist teaching spaces – science and technology, art and design, self-contained flat to learn independence skills.
- Multi-use large space – dining room, hall or gym.
- Family room to enable families to meet and use the internet.
- Specialist audiovisual sensory room to enable the design of individual sensory programmes.
- Quiet/soft play sensory room.