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# The Jewish Education Curriculum

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The Jewish Education curriculum, developed specifically for JCoSS with the help of Hebrew University scholars in Jerusalem, is thematic.

The curriculum consists of building blocks which combine and develop over the three years of KS3.

Year 7 students study issues around the Family. Including the responsibilities of the parent to the child; responsibilities of the child to the parent, and sibling relationships. All students complete a Family History Project based on their own research into the origins of their family.

In Year 8 the focus is Peoplehood with an in depth survey of Jewish History from ancient time to the modern day; the development of the State of Israel, and an analysis of the Book of Jonah.

Year 9 students complete the Key Stage with a study of Jewish Leadership. The themes of diversity and difference, Tikun Olam (World Repair), and Bein Adam Le Chavero (treatment of our fellow humans) pervades each aspect of the curriculum.

The final unit of each year focuses on social action and the students responsibilities to actually make a difference in the world.

This thematic approach enables students to acquire a number of skills including a strong emphasis on textual analysis. We also stress the importance of the unique responsibility of all Jews to personal social action.

The teaching and learning styles used are consistent throughout the Key Stage, and reflect the values unique to JCoSS. Machloket (informed debate) is at the heart of learning, difference is celebrated and diversity respected. Texts are analysed through a plurality of methods: literary, historical, and values-oriented.

The full range of Jewish sources are used from traditional ancient texts: Tenach, Mishna, Talmud and Midrash, to more contemporary texts including that of Rabbi Louis Jacobs and Abraham Joshua Heschel. Jewish art, poetry and literature are used as primary sources. Opportunities to study independently are encouraged, to ensure that JCoSS students are fully equipped to continue their Jewish journey far beyond the school gates.

The curriculum approaches the theme of God and spirituality with sensitivity and openness. Different forms and expressions of spirituality are presented throughout the curriculum.

JCoSS attracts students from across the religious spectrum, from practising families and from secular, non-practising families. When they first enter the school, many of our students will be familiar with and able to read Hebrew, some will not; many will celebrate the Jewish festivals, some will not.

The curriculum is designed to cater for a wide variety in the knowledge base and experience of students. It is fully differentiated to meet the needs of all and provide them with support, challenge and food for thought.