

# **JCoSS - Information for Consultees**

## **The overall proposal**

The Jewish Community Secondary School Charitable Trust, having obtained the consent of the Secretary of State to the publication of proposals, intends to establish a new Voluntary Aided Secondary school at Westbrook Crescent, New Barnet, Herts, EN4 8PU for 1,310 boys and girls between the ages of 11 and 19 from 1st September 2010. Included in this figure is a Sixth Form providing for 360 pupils and a Special Resource Unit (SRU) providing 50 places for pupils across the age range of the school with severe and profound learning difficulties. The SRU will include off-site residential provision for those pupils requiring 24-hour care. The school will be established to serve the Jewish community and the local community in London Borough of Barnet and adjoining Boroughs.

## **Extended use**

In addition to the core activity of the school, it is intended that the school facilities will be made available, where practical in line with planning conditions, to the local community and to the Jewish community.

## **Religious designation**

An application will be made for the school to be designated as Jewish.

## **Ethos and religious character**

The school will be a truly inclusive school, open on an equal basis to all Jewish children, irrespective of birth status or synagogue affiliation and with due respect for differing traditions, beliefs and practices. The teaching of Judaism will be a fundamental element of the school and will respect all strands and traditions of faith. The school will offer unparalleled educational excellence at all levels within a unique Jewish ethos, augmented by the teaching of wider multiculturalism. In partnership with World ORT and Norwood, leading Jewish educational and children's charities, it will include world-leading provision of information and communications technology throughout the curriculum as well as the integral, specialist 50-place SRU as outlined above. The school will also welcome members of other faiths and of no faith subject to places being available once the demand from Jewish applicants has been met.

## **Pupil numbers and admission arrangements**

The admission authority of the proposed school will be the Governing Body.

The number of pupils to be admitted to the school at age 11 from 1st September 2010 and subsequent years will be 180.

The admission arrangements will not make provision for selection by ability. A copy of the draft admission arrangements as agreed with London Borough of Barnet is attached, although this draft will require some modification in the light of the School Admissions Code which was published after the current draft had been agreed.

The school will open in September 2010 with an entry at Year 7 only and will build up year by year. The first entry to the Sixth Form - Y12 - may open earlier than Sept. 2015. The SRU will initially receive the pupils currently on roll at the Annie Lawson School, an independent special school which is to close, and will take additional pupils with statements of special educational needs as and when appropriate in addition to the 180 pupils admitted via the normal admissions process.

## **Specialism**

It is proposed that the school will specialise in Science and Technology.

## **Effect on Standards and Contribution to School Improvement**

The school will enable all students to:

- ✓ Achieve their full academic, vocational and Jewish potential.
- ✓ Understand Jewish values and ethics and how they apply to everyday life.
- ✓ Make informed choices about their personal approach to Judaism.
- ✓ Respect the importance of community and family practice and tradition.
- ✓ Contribute to the rich diversity of the wider community.

### *Innovation and Best Practice*

The school will provide stimulating and innovative facilities with which students can experience Science and ICT as discrete subjects as well as integrated across the curriculum. It aims to achieve the highest levels of independent and group work in these subjects through its association with World ORT who will introduce international best practice into the school and will support curriculum and teacher training initiatives.

### *Year on Year Improvement*

The needs of each child will be met through building skills and knowledge and the latest tools for tracking student achievement will be employed. Personalised learning programmes, a close and rigorous home/school partnership and a commitment to teacher development will ensure that all students fulfil their potential leading to annual improvements in KS 3 and KS 4 standards. A nurturing and reflective school culture will also help to bring about these year-on-year improvements.

### *Academic and Vocational Innovation*

The school will develop an innovative 14-19 curriculum designed to enable individual learning pathways and routes post-school such as Higher Education and Further Education Modern Apprenticeships. This will ensure that there is an individualised balance maintained between academic and vocational learning for each student, whilst ensuring those who are more biased to academic learning also experience vocational education and vice versa.

The design of the building will also reflect this by ensuring that there are no unhelpful demarcations, which hint at any two tier system.

### *Flexible Learning for all Abilities*

The 14-19 curriculum shows the school's commitment to inclusion. A creative range of academic, vocational and technical subjects will be offered to all students. The timetable will be flexible to allow for mixed options, as well as a varied number of subjects to be taken, allowing for all abilities and needs including Gifted and Talented students. The accommodation schedule shows how flexibility with spaces will meet the needs of a wide range of students and subjects.

### *Partnership with World ORT*

The school will introduce international best practice into both the provision and teaching of ICT and science and technology as well as in all areas of vocational education. This will be done in partnership with World ORT.

World ORT is one of the largest non-governmental education and vocational training organisations in the world, which teaches 280,000 students annually in 800 educational institutions in 60 countries.

World ORT works for the advancement of people through training and education, providing communities with the skills and knowledge to: cope with their environment; foster economic self-sufficiency; build a sense of identity through Jewish education; increase social mobility through the teaching of technology.

### ***Partnership with Norwood***

The Special Resource Unit within the school will be operated by Norwood.

Norwood is a registered charity and is widely respected as the UK's leading Jewish children and family services organisation. Norwood is currently responsible for the operation of the Annie Lawson School in Berkshire, whose pupils will be integrated into the JCoSS SRU unit.

Norwood will use its established expertise to provide special needs education for children within the Unit and provide ongoing advice and support to the mainstream school and its pupils on all special needs provision.

## **Contribution to Community Cohesion**

### *Diversity of Provision*

The primary purpose of this proposal is to increase diversity of provision and address parental choice. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that it provides, for the first time in the UK, for an inclusive, cross-communal Jewish school that will give parents a choice which is not currently available.

The school will be the first inclusive Jewish secondary school in the country and will deliver on the government's vision of good faith schooling. It will materially assist in developing added cohesion in the Jewish community and, if the number of Jewish applicants is less than the number of available places, in the wider local community.

### *Building Bridges*

The school will take its place among the Network Learning Community of Barnet schools, interacting, contributing and sharing with the wider world, teaching and respecting all world religions and will be a significant development in UK faith schooling.

### *Creating Choice*

The school will meet the significant and growing demand for an inclusive Jewish secondary school and will fill a major gap in Barnet's secondary education faith school provision. For the first time, the large Jewish population in LB Barnet and surrounding areas will be able to choose to which Jewish Secondary school to send their children. The school's unique religious ethos and admissions policy means that the school will be accessible to many families who, because of the admission policies currently adopted by the other Jewish maintained secondary schools, do not currently have access to a Jewish secondary school. It will, therefore, significantly widen the choice available to such families.

### *Unique Jewish SEN Provision*

The school's Special Resource Unit will create parental choice in the heart of the community for the many local Jewish families who require special educational support for their children. By co-locating the SRU within the school, students with SEN will be able to attend the same school as their siblings. This represents a major improvement to family life and is an exciting and significant step forward on the inclusion agenda. The school will work in partnership with Norwood in its provision for all students with SEN, with and without statements, and will have access to the extended range of services and facilities offered by Norwood.

### *Links with other schools and colleges*

The school will seek to work collaboratively with other local schools and colleges, especially to facilitate delivery of the 14 to 19 curriculum and to provide extensive academic and vocational training opportunities.

## **Travel Arrangements**

JCoSS recognise the important and sensitive issue of travel arrangements. The school has prepared a stringent green transport plan to cover travel to and from the school. Its aim is to maximise the use by pupils and teachers of public transport, walking and cycling, and to significantly minimise private car use.

The centrepiece will be a park and stride scheme centred on the New Barnet station transport hub. Public trains and buses and, if needed, privately hired and paid for coaches from areas of North London not served by convenient public transport routes, will drop off all pupils at this point. They will then walk the final 900 metres to entrance the school through a pedestrian only access on Westbrook Crescent.

To maximise the use of park and stride, the school will require all prospective new parents to sign a 'travel contract' with the school, detailing how they intend their children to travel to JCoSS and committing to using the park and stride for private car drop off and pick up. Only in very limited circumstances will parents be allowed to pick up directly from the site, in which case parking will be on site, away from local roads.

# JEWISH COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOL

## Draft/Admissions Policy

The Governing Body acting by its Admissions Committee will admit a maximum of 180 boys and girls each year at age 11 without regard to aptitude or ability.

Places will automatically be allocated to siblings of children with statements of special educational needs already attending the school whose needs are being met wholly or mainly in the school's Special Resource Unit.

Subject to this the Governing Body will apply the following priorities

### **Priority 1**

**First** priority will be given to Jewish children, defined throughout this Policy as children of parents who are members of or qualified to be members of a recognised synagogal body including but not limited to, the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues, the Assembly of Masorti Synagogues in Great Britain, the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, the Federation of Synagogues and the United Synagogue.

### **Priority 2**

**Thereafter**, priority will be given to non-Jewish children whose parents can demonstrate commitment to a faith or involvement in recognised religious activities

### **Priority 3**

Any places remaining available will be allocated to any other applicants.

### **Over-subscription criteria**

In the event of over-subscription within any category of applicant, the Governing Body will apply the following criteria in the order shown in order to decide which pupils to admit:

For applicants within priority 1

- a) Children with a statement of special educational needs naming the school or who the Admissions Committee reasonably believes will receive such a statement before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year of intended admission
- b) Jewish children whose social or medical needs are needs that the school can reasonably meet and which are such that they cannot be met sufficiently at another school. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to produce supporting evidence from a doctor, social worker or educational welfare officer and this is required no later than the closing date for applications
- c) Jewish "looked after" children meaning children who are within the definition in S. 22 Children Act 1989, i.e. children who are in the care of a local authority or are provided with accommodation by that Authority, but including Jewish children who although not "looked after" children within that definition have accommodation provided for them by a Jewish care home or care organisation.
- d) Jewish children who are not considered to be halachically Jewish by the admission authorities of all other Jewish secondary schools within reasonable proximity and who are therefore not eligible for entry to those schools
- e) children who have a sibling at the school
- f) children irrespective of residence attending any of the following schools, namely Akiva, Clore Shalom, Clore Tikva and children resident in the London Borough of Barnet attending a Jewish primary school

- g) children whose parents can demonstrate a commitment to Judaism. For the purpose of this criterion, attendance at a Jewish school will be disregarded. The Governing Body will publish a non-exclusive list of examples of activities that it would regard as establishing commitment
- h) all other children within the priority category

#### For applicants within priority 2

- a) Children with a statement of special educational needs naming the school or who the Admissions Committee reasonably believes will receive such a statement before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year of intended admission
- b) "Looked after" children meaning children who are within the definition in S. 22 Children Act 1989, i.e. children who are in the care of a local authority or are provided with accommodation by that Authority
- c) children who have a sibling at the school
- d) all other children within the priority category

#### For all other applicants

- a) Children with a statement of special educational needs naming the school or who the Admissions Committee reasonably believes will receive such a statement before 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year of intended admission
- b) "Looked after" children meaning children who are within the definition in S. 22 Children Act 1989, i.e. children who are in the care of a local authority or are provided with accommodation by that Authority
- c) children who have a sibling at the school
- d) all other children

#### **Tie-break**

If in applying any of the above criteria there are more applicants with equal priority than there are places available offers up to the number of available places will be made to those whose permanent residence is nearest to the school as the crow flies.

#### **General**

The admissions committee reserves the right to make its own enquiries to verify any information supplied by applicants and may request further information from parents in order to establish social or medical needs or commitment or involvement with their religion.

If it subsequently appears that a place has been offered in reliance on information that subsequently is shown to be materially incorrect or misleading and that the place would not have been offered had the information been correct, the Admissions Committee may withdraw the offer.