

## Worship Policy



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## **1. Roles and Responsibilities**

The responsibility for implementation of this policy rests with the Executive Headteacher. In view of the strategic importance of this policy, the Executive Headteacher will retain operational management, responsibility and evaluation of this policy.

## **2. Suggested Audience**

All school staff, students, parents/carers and governors.

As part of their school induction or professional development, all school staff will participate in training which enables each person to be familiar with the principles and procedures outlined in this policy.

## **3. Introduction**

Leeds Jewish Free School (LJFS) vision states: *‘Our vision is to offer provision in Leeds that ensures high academic standards, a strong moral ethic, a joy of learning, high aspirations and an expectation to contribute to the local community. This will be underpinned by a strong Jewish ethos. Every student will leave the school having enjoyed their education, achieved well and, if Jewish, proud of their faith, heritage and community.’*

The ethos, customs and practices of the Jewish faith will strongly influence every element of this school, although other faiths will be recognised, in line with the school’s inclusive ethos.

Education Acts over the last twenty or more years have specified that all maintained schools in England must provide a daily act of worship. Independent schools are not bound by these acts except where the school has a defined religious character which is reflected in the Trust Deeds for the school: The Jewish faith is defined within the Trust Deeds and all other key documents relating to this school.

Parents and carers have a statutory right under section 71 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 to withdraw their children from RE lessons and Collective Worship in all maintained schools, including faith schools. The position for independent schools such as LJFS is less clear and in reality, few parents exercise this right. Nevertheless, it may be useful to record this right within this policy.

## **4. Statement**

Leeds Jewish Free School has a religious character set firmly within the Orthodox Jewish tradition, which has worship as an integral part of the school’s vision, mission, ethos and practices. The school will support parents in the development of the Jewish faith, educating their children through inspiring teaching to

produce high levels of progress, achievement and well-being.

This policy sets out the parameters for Worship in a school which is all inclusive and admits students with all faiths and none who wish to be educated within the rites and practices of the Orthodox Jewish faith.

## **5. Aims**

Worship will:

- Allow students to celebrate and take note of the life of the school in the presence of G-d.
- Contribute to students' spiritual development
- Enable students to gain knowledge and understanding of the Jewish faith
- Give opportunities for students to explore and share the beliefs of others
- Contribute to students' moral, social and cultural development
- Create opportunities for students and staff to exercise leadership and be creative in terms of Worship
- Enable students to look out to the wider world and promote Community Cohesion

## **6. Organisation**

Worship will be organised in such a way that each class will gather for an assembly each week led by staff, students, external agencies or clergy.

Special festivals in the Jewish calendar year e.g. Pesach, Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Chanukah will be celebrated with Worship as appropriate.

Important points in the life of the school will be marked by celebration in Worship e.g. new Year 7 students, leavers' service etc.

## **7. Daily Collective Worship**

We offer reflection and religious prayers daily with a whole school assembly once a week.

## **8. Assemblies**

Whole school assemblies will take place to celebrate key Jewish Holy days and festivals, which will include:

- Yom Kippur
- Rosh Hashanah
- Pesach
- Succot
- Shemini Azeret / Simchat Torah
- Chanukah
- Tu Be shvat
- Purim
- Shavuot

## **9. Review date**

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Executive Headteacher.



