



WE BELIEVE IN  
OUR CHILDREN

 **NORTHWEST**  
LONDON JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



## WE BELIEVE IN BEING YOUR BEST AT NORTH WEST

Welcome to our school. North West London Jewish Day School is an exceptional Modern Orthodox, Zionist school with a strong Jewish identity and a unique and very special atmosphere.

Founded in 1945 by Rabbi Margulies, the Premishlaner Rebbe, for the Jewish Community in the area, North West is the school of choice for the local orthodox communities of Brondesbury, Hampstead and St John's Wood.

At the heart of our philosophy is the belief that 'Every Child Matters.' Whether children have special needs, require extra support in smaller groups, or are gifted and talented, every child is encouraged to strive to be the best they can be.

North West combines a strong Jewish education with the National Curriculum. We aim to give children the knowledge, understanding and life skills to help them flourish in the outside world. We believe that there is an essential ABCD of education – Academics, Behaviour, Creativity and Dialogue which produces the ideal learning environment for our children.

We have a strong relationship with parents and a very active Parent/Teacher Association. Staff and parents work towards the same common goal of investing in the wellbeing and happiness of our children.

Our dynamic Limmudei Kodesh Department is committed to delivering Jewish learning in imaginative and inspiring ways. The children live and breathe the ethical and moral teachings of Orthodox Judaism, giving them a strong sense of right and wrong.

North West is an ambitious school, committed to excellence, and just as our pupils never stop learning, neither do we. We have a rich heritage and for nearly 70 years we've worked with thousands of children to help them fulfil their potential.

The School seeks to mirror in the home life of the children the same high standards of religious observance it teaches. Parents are asked to ensure Kashrut and Shabbat observance both in and outside their homes so that there is no conflict between the standards of the School and of the home.

Our dedicated staff know every child by nature, not just by name, and are strongly committed to caring for and bringing out the best in our children, so that they develop into strong, well-rounded individuals. We believe that playing to our children's strengths is imperative in developing the children's confidence and self-esteem.

North West has strong links with the local Ashkenazi & Sephardi synagogues and their Rabbis, accommodating the different minhagim of the families within the school community.

We strive for the highest quality teaching and our achievements are consistently outstanding. Our SAT's (Statutory Assessment Tests) results rank amongst the highest in London and the UK, with children moving on to a range of top, highly regarded Jewish and non-Jewish secondary schools.

North West is a warm and happy school providing children from the local Jewish communities with an exciting and inspiring learning environment. We aim to incorporate our motto 'North West be your best,' in everything we teach our children.



# Limmudei Kodesh



**WE BELIEVE IN  
AN INSPIRING  
JEWISH EDUCATION**

## Our rich and imaginative Limmudei Kodesh programme ensures that pupils have both a strong Jewish identity and a solid background of Jewish learning.

At North West children are taught to develop a love of Judaism's laws, teachings and history and to have a thorough understanding and respect for their Jewish Heritage. Through our ethos of Torah with knowledge of the world around them, they are shown how to relate to others and understand differences both within school and in the wider community.

Our vibrant Jewish traditions and culture, both Ashkenazi and Sephardi, are celebrated in school through daily Tefillah, Kabbalat Shabbat and celebration of the Chaggim. During Rosh Chodesh assemblies older boys get the opportunity to read from the Torah and when Succot falls within the school term, children eat in the succah and use the arba minim during tefillah.

A love of Israel is instilled in our children both through marking special days in its history and by learning Ivrit from the Nursery onwards. In Year 6 children participate in a tailor made Ulpan towards the end of their last term, to help solidify and enhance the Ivrit they have learnt before they leave the school.

Parents have a crucial role in supporting the orthodox ethos of the school at home, particularly through Kashrut and Shabbat observance, as well as supporting their children in their Jewish learning. Parents are invited to attend Kabbalat Shabbat when their children are in the younger years and help their older children write Divrei Torah; parents are expected to support their children as they learn to read and develop fluency; and parents are invited to special events such as the pre Shavuot parent-child learning programme and the popular pre-Chaggim adult education evenings organised by the school.

Limmudei Kodesh accounts for approximately one third of the school day. In Early Years (Nursery and Reception) the Limmudei Kodesh curriculum and the Secular curriculum are fully integrated. Further up the school as the demands of the National Curriculum grow, Limmudei Kodesh has separate emphasis with its own dedicated lessons. The Limmudei Kodesh curriculum is broad. In the Early years children start learning about the weekly Parasha, basic Halacha and how to read Hebrew, they then progress onto Chumash, Mishnah, Jewish History, General Knowledge and Nach. Ivrit is introduced from Nursery.

Progress is tracked through rigorous assessments, to ensure that standards remain high and on target. Dedicated support is available for any child who needs it, so that every child makes good progress.

By the end of their North West careers our pupils are well informed and knowledgeable in all aspects of Jewish life, with a strong social and moral compass. Our hope is that we will have inspired them to continue with their Jewish learning and to be committed and outstanding members of the community.



"Pupils are inspired to love doing mitzvot (Torah commandments). They are inculcated with Torah values so that they are very clear how to interact with peers in an altruistic and harmonious way."  
**STATUTORY LIMMUDEI KODESH INSPECTION**

"The knowledge and enthusiasm our daughter brought to the seder was astounding. She answered questions that were way beyond her years and sang songs at every (and any) given moment."  
**PARENT**

## School Life



WE BELIEVE IN  
BROAD HORIZONS

"Pupils are very proud of their school and behave extremely well in lessons and around the school."  
**OFSTED**



Every school is different and though they may teach the same National Curriculum, the way the school teaches and the focus they place on different aspects of education will vary from school to school.

### The Curriculum

At North West, our curriculum sets out to challenge and excite our pupils. It is constantly evolving to reflect the needs of our pupils and the changing global society. From the play-based start in Nursery and Reception, children become confident, articulate learners, rapidly acquiring the skills needed to read in both English and Hebrew, preparing them to become more autonomous learners as they progress into Year 1. From Year 1, there is a rigorous approach to the core subjects, with high academic expectations for all pupils. This is balanced by a breadth of curriculum with the non-core subjects; Arts, Humanities and Physical Education, and complemented with a dynamic Limmudei Kodesh curriculum.

Statutory Assessment Tests consistently place the school amongst the very highest achieving schools nationally. Our Year 6 leavers graduate from North West exceptionally well-prepared for the Secondary Schools of their choice. Every year a significant number are offered places at the best selective Independent Schools however, most of our pupils choose to continue their education in a Jewish school.

### Extra Curricular Activities

At North West learning isn't restricted to lesson time and there are lots of extra-curricular activities for children to get involved in, both during lunchtime and after school. Children can learn new skills like karate or chess or spend time doing things they love like drama, singing and arts and crafts.

### Behaviour

We believe that good behaviour is crucial to a happy and successful school and at North West, we have developed a wonderful behaviour system, praised by Ofsted called 'Magnificent Middot'

(personal qualities). Our Magnificent Middot give a positive framework for behaviour based on Torah values. Kindness, good behavior and effort are continually reinforced by receiving 'Middot Cards' – be that for helping a teacher tidy the classroom, helping their friends in the playground or working hard in lessons and being a good example to their classmates. The middot cards and each child's good deeds are publically displayed within the school to celebrate their achievements. Our Magnificent Middot system helps build children's self esteem as well as their motivation to continually strive to be their best.

### House System

Learning to be part of a team is a good lesson for life and we work hard at instilling this principle in the children. To support this, there is a House System at North West. When children join the school they are allocated a House. House Points are given out to children throughout the year according to positive acts - whether for good behaviour in class or academic achievement. Every term there are dedicated, themed House Point Days, where the whole school comes together working in their house teams towards a shared goal. Past themes have included science, sport and inclusion and these days are the highlight of the term, combining a healthy sense of competition and team spirit with a huge amount of fun.

### School Council

At North West we believe that our pupils should have a voice and we have an active School Council. The children elect representatives from Year 3 upwards who meet weekly to discuss ways in which they can improve different aspects of the school. They also run the much anticipated school talent show - North West Has Talent.

## Every Child Matters



WE BELIEVE  
EVERY CHILD MATTERS

"Those with special educational needs receive very good support which enables most to make as much progress as other pupils. Expectations for these pupils are high and this is reflected in the numbers that go on to reach the levels expected for their age by the time they leave the school."

**OFSTED**

"You have a wonderful staff who really do care about each and every child."

**PARENT**



At North West we have taken the Every Child Matters agenda to heart and have placed it at the centre of our approach to education. Our mission is to help all our children develop confidence and self belief in order for them to reach their potential, wherever their strengths lie.

The Every Child Matters department ensures that all pupils are catered for. Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), pupils who are Gifted and Talented and our growing number of pupils from French and International families for whom English is not their first language.

From the moment they start school, every child's academic baseline is tracked until the day they leave. As well as tracking academic ability, we ensure that all children's social and emotional well being is monitored and we work hard with our pupils and parents to make sure our pupils are happy, develop confidence and enjoy their overall school experience.

At North West, teachers plan lessons to meet the needs of all pupils. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that lessons are appropriately differentiated and resourced and all learning styles are taken into account, to ensure that all pupils can access the curriculum and reach their full potential.

Our Gifted and Talented pupils are supported and stretched through higher level teaching groups; participation in national quizzes and competitions such as the Jewish Book Week poetry competition; and Inter-School tournaments such as the Brent Swimming Gala and Chess Tournaments.

We believe in providing a growing range of imaginative and stimulating support plans for those children who need extra help. On the academic front this includes Literacy, Numeracy and handwriting sessions. For emotional wellbeing this includes a Social Skills Group, Lego Club, and a 1-2-1 Talking Club.

These support programs are provided with parental permission and are on offer throughout the academic year. They are run by our trained staff and are always tailored to the individual child so that their specific needs can be met.

Over the years, North West has established excellent relationships with outside agencies from the local boroughs and the NHS. We work in partnership with parents and where necessary, the Every Child Matters Co-ordinator draws on the expertise of professionals from these external agencies e.g. Educational Psychologists, Specific Learning Difficulties Specialists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists. These links help ensure that the best results can be achieved for each child.

### Child Protection

North West's warm and nurturing environment enables all children to feel safe to talk about anything that is causing them distress. We are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of each and every child in our care. We work hard to encourage an open dialogue with parents and an 'open door' policy is in place with both the Headteacher and individual teachers to help identify and resolve any issues. We have a dedicated and fully trained Child Protection team including a designated Child Protection teacher; a deputy Child Protection teacher and the Headteacher. All Staff and Governors receive Child Protection training and children are educated about matters of safety including e-safety. We also have a designated and trained CP Governor who is also on hand to help children and families if needed.

## Early Years Foundation Stage



WE BELIEVE IN  
BRILLIANT  
BEGINNINGS

"When they join the school in the Nursery, children's skills and understanding are broadly as expected, or better, for their age. They quickly become eager and confident learners and make good, and sometimes, better progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage, providing a very firm basis for their future learning."

OFSTED

A love of learning starts from the Early Years. We understand that it's a huge transition for children to come from a home environment to a school environment and a great deal of consideration has been given to ensure that our Nursery is a nurturing, happy place for children to develop at their own pace.

In Nursery and Reception we follow The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which concentrates on 7 key areas. 'Prime Areas' - Personal Social & Emotional Development, Communication & Language and Physical Development; and Specific Areas - Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Creativity and imagination are central to teaching Nursery aged children and our days are spent learning through arts and crafts, music, stories, role play and games. Weekly themes are used to engage and inspire the children as they learn and our learning environment is constantly changing to reflect these themes - our children 'travel round the world' learning about other countries, they investigate outer-space and amongst other things set up shoe shops, hospitals and travel agents.

In both Nursery and Reception, the children have their own dedicated outside space so that learning isn't confined to the classroom. They have the opportunity to investigate nature, grow flowers, use sand and water and develop their balance and confidence in their own adventure playground. They have weekly PE lessons where they learn basic ball skills, gymnastics and dance and weekly swimming in the school's pool.

At North West we use the Letters and Sounds Programme to teach reading and writing. And the children also learn to count and recognise shapes. A love of Judaism and Jewish Values is instilled through morning Tefillah, story-telling, songs, drama, Kabbalat Shabbat, learning the weekly Parasha and the celebration of the Chaggim. We also introduce Ivrit using the innovative Chalav U'Dvash programme.

In Reception, the teaching continues using this approach making further links between Limmudei Kodesh and Secular studies. Children are taught to read and write in English and to read Hebrew.

We have one Nursery and one Reception class with 35 children in each class. The Nursery has one Teacher

and 2 Nursery Nurses and a specialist Limmudei Kodesh teacher. Reception has two Teachers, a Teaching assistant and a Limmudei Kodesh teacher.

In Early Years the teaching day begins at 8.50am and ends at 3.45pm. Doors to the Nursery open at 8.40am so that parents are able to help their children settle before the start of the day. Our Nursery is a full day Nursery. There is full State provision for 15 hours per week and the rest of the day is completed by paid private provision. See admissions information for more details.

At the start of the school year in September both Nursery and Reception have a staggered entrance approach. The children start school in small groups over a period of a few weeks, to ensure that the foundation of their experience of school is a positive one and they are not overwhelmed by their new surroundings.

As the children go from Nursery to Reception they receive a Y6 buddy to help them settle into their new school routine and feel happy and comfortable in the larger playground. The buddy system gives the Reception children the opportunity to build nurturing friendships with older children in the school.

Children with English as an additional language are identified as they start school and are given any extra support needed. The Early Years teachers also work closely with the Every Child Matters Co-ordinator to identify any additional needs children may have.

Past OFSTED reports have graded the Early Years Foundation Stage Outstanding and have commented favourably on the warm nurturing environment. They observed that Nursery and Reception children made an extremely positive start making progress in all areas of learning.

## Key Stage 1: Infants



WE BELIEVE IN  
STRONG  
FOUNDATIONS

Key Stage One encompasses Years 1-3 (age 6-8) and from Year 1 we begin to teach the National Curriculum using a creative and hands-on method of teaching to maximise the children's learning.

At North West we go out of our way to ensure that children enjoy a smooth transition from the Early Years to Year 1. With two teachers per class together with a classroom assistant, the Year 1 Curriculum builds on and extends the experiences children have had during Early Years.

There is the gradual introduction of a more formal class structure and a greater emphasis on literacy, numeracy and computer skills

The classroom set-up provides a stimulating environment. Teaching is differentiated and on-going learning assessments ensure that every child is catered for and their individual learning objectives met.

We follow the Government's 'Letters and Sounds' programme, teaching phonics daily. Children are taught key skills in blending and de-coding words and daily guided reading helps consolidate their learning so that by the end of Key Stage One they progress to be fluent and confident readers. They are also encouraged to read for pleasure with regular visits to the School's infant library.

Throughout Key Stage One children have the opportunity to develop their investigative skills in topics such as Science, Geography, Art and History and ICT. Interactive Whiteboards and ICT are used within lessons to provide multi-sensory experiences and enhanced learning.

Our varied and colourful programme of learning and activities keeps children stimulated and engaged. This coupled with the focus on the needs of every child helps our children make good progress and reach their potential.

At NW, we include Year 3 in Key Stage One so that the transition from Year 2 to Yr 3 avoids the national trend of progress stagnation at this critical stage in their education.



"My girls (Y1, Y3) have both thoroughly enjoyed their last academic year and have made really great progress, which of course is down to the amazing standards North West have managed to achieve and maintain."

**PARENT**

## Key Stage 2: Juniors



WE BELIEVE IN  
A GREAT PLATFORM  
FOR LIFE

"Pupils achieve well from their starting points to reach standards in English and Mathematics that are well above average by the time they leave. They are well prepared for their secondary education."

**OFSTED**

"Year 6 has been the most wonderful year and my daughter has made amazing progress. The advanced maths group that she has been in has stretched and challenged her and it's been amazing to watch her confidence and her love of the subject grow. Achieving Level 6 in her Maths SATs was the icing on the cake."

**PARENT**



Key Stage Two embraces Years 4-6 (ages 9-11) and is a time which is critical for laying the foundations for secondary education and beyond. We continue to follow the National Curriculum and there is a strong focus on the core subjects of Numeracy, Literacy and Science.

For Numeracy and Literacy there are 2 teachers per class and children have the opportunity to work in smaller groups, booster or 1-2-1 sessions to maximize their learning. Science, History and Geography are taught weekly as well as having dedicated topic weeks e.g. Art Week, Science Week, Black History Day.

To help children excel, they are grouped according to ability for the core subjects and mixed ability for others - ensuring that everyone achieves their own personal best.

ICT and Technology are very much part of every lesson. All classes have interactive white boards as well as access to i-pods and each child has their own netbook to use in lesson time or for homework.

We strongly believe in learning outside the classroom and the use of netbooks has enabled all children to access online learning resources at home. During Key Stage Two, children go on at least 2 away days each year to complement topics that are covered in class. Recent trips have included visiting Hampton Court and Knebworth House to help bring the Tudor period to life.

We are always conscious of issues outside of the school's learning agenda that may affect our children. We hold seminars on E-Safety, Healthy-eating and Anti-bullying as well as covering personal health and development in PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) so that children gain important knowledge and life-skills as they develop their independence. In addition, there are a number of workshops dedicated to supporting children through the transition to secondary schools.

To help our Y5 and 6 children and their parents navigate the secondary school transfer process, North West has developed strong relationships with a number of the Jewish and non Jewish secondary schools. At the end of Year 5, pupils get the opportunity to see some of the Jewish Schools in action and at the start of Year 6, teachers from a variety of different secondary schools come to North West for an open evening to meet with Year 6 parents.

We are ambitious for our Year 6 children and to help prepare them for SATs at the end of the year, they are supported with an accelerated learning programme, helping them achieve the very best grades they can.

The end of Year 6 is an exciting time and something the children look forward to as a reward for their hard work and achievements. There is an annual school play (recent productions have included Oliver, The Wiz and Fiddler on the Roof); an Ulpan to consolidate their Ivrit; an off-site residential trip where children get to try new experiences and get a taste of life away from home, surrounded by their friends and teachers; and a final leavers Siyum and prize-giving.

By the end of their North West careers, the children are ready to spread their wings and move on to their new schools equipped with the teachings, confidence and solid foundations they have gained from their time in the school.

## Progress and Assessment



WE BELIEVE IN  
PERSONAL AND  
ACADEMIC PROGRESS

We believe that continual assessment is vital to learning, it's the only way we can make sure that our children are gaining in knowledge and understanding and making progress.

Our guiding principle is that Assessment helps teachers and children know what level the children are at and what the next steps in their learning are. Assessment gives vital information for staff to plan the best way forward to ensure every child makes as much progress as possible.

Assessment is also used to measure and track standards, and the progress of year groups and other specific groups, like children for whom English is not their first Language (EAL) or children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

In Nursery & Reception baseline assessments are established at the start of each year through observation. A Learning record is kept for each child, which holds teachers' observation notes, photographs of the children learning in their classroom environment and samples of pupils' work. Parents and the children themselves also contribute to this record and all this information is used to assess the children's progress and demonstrate how their learning progresses through the Early Years.

Assessment in some form or another happens on a daily basis throughout the school and is an integral part of school life. This ongoing assessment and monitoring informs teachers of individuals' progress over time and helps identify any areas of difficulty which

may need additional support. In addition, termly pupil progress meetings are held with the Headteacher, the deputy Headteacher and relevant teachers to ensure every child progresses well.

Our partnership with parents is vital and we have an ongoing dialogue where we talk about our expectations for each child and their progress and achievements. At the beginning of the new school year – or before the beginning for the younger classes – there are Curriculum Evenings where parents meet their child's teachers and hear about how they can support their child's learning in the year ahead.

Parents are also invited to Parents' Evenings where they can discuss the progress their children are making with their teachers. Teachers give parents a short summary of the child's current levels, an indication of the progress they are making and any targets which have been set so parents have a full picture of how their children are doing. Parents are always welcome to make appointments to discuss their child's progress with their class teacher at any time if there is anything that is concerning them. Formal written reports are issued in the summer term at the end of the School year.



"The school has developed a very effective system for tracking the progress of pupils. This has become a powerful tool in ensuring that all make good progress and none is left behind."

**OFSTED**

## The School Community



North West has a vibrant school community and has strong links with both the local Jewish community and our wider community.

Over the years the school has developed close relationships with the local synagogue communities and their Rabbanim are regularly invited as special guests at key school events. This close relationship gives our school community an added dimension and gives our children the opportunity to learn from a wide range of knowledgeable, inspirational leaders and educators.

Our school choir is made up of all children from Years 5 and 6 and performs throughout the year at old age homes and communal events. They visit Jewish Care's Young Court Sheltered Housing Unit and Sage Nursing Home annually, interacting with residents and seeing how music and happiness can enhance people's lives.

Over the last few years different classes in the school have been involved in Interfaith and International twinning programmes organised by Tzedek and The Three Faiths Forum. These twinning programmes give the children a vital understanding of the wider world, other religions and an opportunity to appreciate differences. It also teaches them how to be good proud Jewish citizens who make a contribution to the world around them.

North West has an active Parent Teacher Association which organises events throughout the school year. From fun days to international coffee mornings, zumba evenings to swimming galas, our successful events give parents the opportunity to get to know each other whilst soaking up the school's atmosphere.

These activities galvanise the strong feeling of togetherness that exists throughout the school among the staff, pupils, & parents, and creates the sense that North West is itself a strong community not just a school.



WE BELIEVE IN  
COMMUNITY

## Chessed



At North West we aim to instill the values of kindness, compassion and generosity in our children and teach them the importance of helping others.

Our wonderful Chessed Committee is made up of children in Year 6, and is a key part of the school. It encourages children not just to raise money but to give their time and think of other ways to help those less fortunate.

Each term a different charity is chosen both within and outside our community. Over the past few years the children have supported charities like Get Kids Going (a charity which helps Disabled Children participate in Sport), Chai Cancer Care, Great Ormond Street Hospital and World Jewish Relief.

North West is an active participant in Mitzvah Day and has been involved in many different activities from writing letters to soldiers in Afghanistan to collecting for our local refugee community.

Our school community collects clothes and coins for World Jewish Relief, stamps for WIZO and regularly donates food for GIFT initiatives and toys for Camp Simcha's Toy Drives. Projects like these are invaluable in showing children that everything has value, even things we no longer have a need for.



WE BELIEVE IN  
MAKING THE WORLD  
A BETTER PLACE

"The school is a very harmonious community and pupils' social, moral, cultural and spiritual development is promoted extremely well."  
**OFSTED**

## Contact

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LONDON JEWISH DAY SCHOOL