



King David Primary School

Assembly Guidelines

Assemblies at the King David School include prayers, which adhere strictly to the Governors' Policy on Religious Studies, songs, teachings and school notices. All children in the school are invited to attend and parents do have the right to withdraw their children from prayers.

Assemblies are a time for gathering the children and staff of the school together, sometimes in one unit, sometimes as Limudei Kodesh and Parallel groups and sometimes as Foundation, Middle Phase and Upper Phase. On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays we provide extra opportunity for learning prayers for Upper Phase pupils. Within the school there are children of many faiths, but the act of worship in the King David School is according to the daily prayers of the Jewish Faith.

Assembly Time - 8.55 - 9.10 a.m. each morning.

Pupils enter the hall in silence. Appropriate music is played, or individual or small groups of pupils perform music live, except at times of year when the playing of music is inappropriate. Each assembly commences with a greeting in Hebrew and/or in English. Prayers are said in Hebrew and the words are displayed, both in Hebrew and in English transliteration, on a screen via a data projector.

Prayers:-

Each day: - Selections from ordinary daily service e.g. -

Ma Tovoo
Modeh Ani
Shema
Adon Olam
Ein Keloheino
Yigdal
Aleino

Monday: - Theme of the Week is introduced
Havdallah is made
Middot certificates awarded

Tuesday: - Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) have a separate assembly, specifically targeting their level of maturity and understanding)

Friday: - Split assemblies between Limudei Kodesh and Parallel groups
Selections from Sabbath prayers:-
Lecha Dodi

Special Occasions:-

Rosh Chodesh - From Hallel
Sad occasions - A Psalm

Festivals:-

Rosh Hashanah (New Year) - Shofar (ram's horn) blowing during the month of Ellul
Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) - Aveenoo Malkeinoo and other prayers for the Day of Atonement
Succot (Tabernacles) - Waving of Lulav (Palm)
Hoshanah Rabba (Name given to seventh day of festival of Succot) - Beating of Willow
Simchat Torah (Rejoicing of the Law) - A celebration to include a flag wave
Chanukah (Feast of Lights) - Lighting of Candles (or oil lights)
Tu B'Shevat (Fifteenth day of the month of Shevat) – Appropriate readings for the New Year for the Trees
Purim (Feast of Esther) - Reading of Megillah (story of Esther)
Pesach (Passover) - Songs appropriate to the Festival
Counting of the Omer - Days between 2nd day of Pesach and Shavuot
Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day for the Jewish Community) - Appropriate readings
Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) - Appropriate readings, dances, prayer for the State of Israel and Hatikva (Israeli National Anthem)
Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day) - Appropriate readings
Shavuot - Songs appropriate to the festival

Each week there is a new Theme of the Week, related to the school's PSCHÉ curriculum. Teachings regarding the Theme of the Week, Festivals, Mitzvot (good deeds), behaviour towards others and Bible stories may precede or follow the prayers.

The children are reminded of the dates of festivals and some of the main historical facts and customs.

Teachings include topical events and happenings as well as those with a religious and moral theme. Mitzvot and respect for others and their property are topics for discussion.

School notices e.g. Headteacher's awards, school events, reminders about litter or playing areas, are given after prayers.

The children listen to music while entering and leaving the hall. This is provided via the music centre or by children playing instruments.

Prayers

Ma Tovoo, Modeh Ani, Shema
Adon Olam, Ein Keloheino.

Songs

Assembly concludes with a song which may be related to prayer or to the appropriate Festival. Pupils leave the assembly quietly, with music playing, except during times in the year when this is inappropriate.