



Est. 1954

תלמוד תורה פרדס Pardes House Primary School

Moshe Bude House, Hendon Lane, London, N3 1SA
T: 020 8343 3568 E: office@pardeshouse.com W: www.pardeshouseprimary.com

בס"ד

Founding Principal:
Rabbi E Halpern רבי'ל הרצל

Menahel:
Rabbi S Roitenberg שליט"א

Headteacher:
Rabbi J Sager MA B.Ed NPQH FCTT

Our story...

Providing solid foundations – Creating tools for growth – Building confidence for the future

Pardes House is an expanding Orthodox Jewish, voluntary-aided primary school of over 350 pupils (boys only), aged 4-11, the majority of whom join the school from the private Nursery on the same site. The school holds eco-schools status and the Gold award for sustainable travel. Pardes House is also a partner of UK Parliament Week, the recipient of an award from the Speaker of the House of Commons and has among its dedicated staff, the winner of the Barnet Schools British Values Project award (2018).

Founded in 1954 as an independent Jewish boys school, the school became voluntary-aided in 2001. After a difficult first few years of the new millennium, the school moved into its current Ofsted 'Good' status in 2011, renewed by letter in 2014, reinforced in a further HMI inspection in 2016 and again with a highly successful inspection in May 2021.

A significant proportion of the school day is dedicated to the Jewish Studies curriculum, taught alongside the National Curriculum, the breadth of which is covered through class lessons, special weeks, activity days, assemblies, outings and more! To accommodate the dual curriculum, the school day is long: 8.40 – 4.15 for all pupils and 8.40 – 5.00 for Years 4 – 6 on Wednesdays. Extended services are provided after school through sports clubs, fencing for fitness club, a Jewish Studies club and computer-coding club, with a breakfast writing club for Year 2 in the Spring and Summer terms.

Most pupils at the school have English as their first language but 55 pupils (15.7%) have English as an additional language. The school currently has five pupils with an Education Healthcare Plan and in recent years, Pardes House has firmly become a school of choice for parents of children with SEN and EHCPs from different parts of London, whether wishing to enter Reception or enter other year groups in the school. There is a mix of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds in the school's families and there are 14 pupils (4%) on Pupil Premium - less than the national average. The school has a low mobility of pupils (outgoing) but regularly receives requests and applications for casual entry into all year groups.

The school underwent a very successful inspection by Ofsted on 5th and 6th May 2021, being once again graded 'Good'. There were many areas of praise for the school. These included the inspectors observations of leaders ambition for pupils, strength of teaching of early reading and phonics, checking and reinforcing of previous learning, the building on previous knowledge, manners and conduct of the children, behaviour – including tolerance and respect for each other, wider learning opportunities for children as well as general breadth of the curriculum for which care and consideration is given, positive attitudes from pupils towards their school experience and the wholly positive and happy response from surveyed parents too.

Also of real note for what the inspector observed was the collaborative strength of the staff, investment in staff professional development and the strength of the 'give and take' between senior leaders and other staff. The positive climate throughout the school was noted as well as wider leadership, including that of governors, strength of early years, safeguarding, leadership of SEN and the support given to those pupils.





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SINCE THE HMI INSPECTION

With an ever-expanding and successful school, the demands on the school have grown too. Since the inspection took place, a Sensory Room has been completed, to help meet the needs of numerous children for a variety of reasons. The Headteacher has made a point of ensuring that all staff understand that the school cannot stand still and sit on its successes. Ambition continues to be high and this is reflected first and foremost in the expectations of staff, that then filter down to pupils.

Qualified permanent staff occupy all teaching positions in the school. There is a diverse mix of teachers, including experienced teachers and NQTs, all from different backgrounds, countries, cultures and religions. There is a full complement of subject leaders and other minor leadership roles, with effort and investment ongoing for all staff via various forms of CPD.

The Local Authority, parents and governors hold the school in high regard. It is also held in respect by other schools and communal organisations. The school has a very good reputation locally regarding the education of the pupils, continued high and improving attainment, behaviour, SEN, pupil respect and the school's leadership. This is reflected in the rising school roll, now numbering 350 pupils, a heavily oversubscribed Reception year group and a waiting list in almost every other year group. The demand for places continues to be in part a reflection on Pardes House as a school of choice in the Orthodox Jewish community.

Together with increased staffing levels, the rise in places necessitated major improvements to the school's physical learning environment (still ongoing). In recent years this included a full renovation of the school building, new playground fitness equipment, a new SEN support unit, a sensory room and more besides.

MOVING FORWARD

With the support of the Senior Leadership Team, staff continue the drive to improve the quality of teaching and learning and raising standards, through a number of short-term and long-term initiatives. The key headline focus for staff in the 2021-22 school year is *'Recovery, Reset, Renaissance – The 1%'* – about taking yet further small steps individually and large steps collectively to make our school even better than it already is. This builds on last year's focus of *'making every second count'* as well as on the outcomes of our recent Ofsted inspection. The school continues to work very closely with Local Authority school improvement partners. Under the leadership and urging of the Headteacher, the school will drive forward once again from the start of the 2021-22 academic year.

Pardes House is most definitely a good school and dare we suggest even better than that! This is based on the Ofsted report, the very good to excellent outcomes and progress made by pupils – all boys (evidenced in our attainment data), good-to-outstanding teaching, high expectations of excellent behaviour (reflected in comments by those outside the school and in our own records), effective leadership and outstanding levels of spiritual, moral and social development in the pupils, including educating pupils about other religions, lifestyles, cultures etc.





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With the support of Governors, the distributed Senior Leadership Team, supported by enthusiastic, professional teachers and other staff, the school continues to move forward. The Headteacher and Menahel (Head of Religious Studies) work closely together and ensure the school's ethos pervades both sides of the curriculum, while continuing to discuss, develop and implement further activities etc around promoting Fundamental British Values.

At Pardes House, we never stand still. We have a clear understanding of what needs to be done to improve yet further; researching, investigating, developing and taking any and all opportunities to improve progress and outcomes for our pupils any way we can, while helping our pupils and staff as we come through the COVID pandemic, while still preparing them for life in Modern Britain.

It's September 2021 and that is our story, for now...

