



# 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 FCCT

*70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year*

## *Our story...*

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

**Pardes House** is an in-demand Orthodox Jewish, voluntary-aided primary school of 356 pupils (boys only), aged 4-11. Founded in 1954 as an independent Jewish boys school (we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year), the school became voluntary-aided in 2001. The school has been graded 'Good' by Ofsted since 2011, renewed in 2014, reinforced in a further HMI inspection in 2016 and again with a highly successful inspection in May 2021. 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 staff, a winner of the Barnet Schools British Values Project award.

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 through early morning prayer and pastoral breakfast clubs and through after school sports clubs and a fencing club.

Most pupils have English as their first language but 56 pupils (15.7%) have English as an additional language. The school has 7 pupils with an Education Healthcare Plan and in recent years, Pardes House has become a school of choice for parents of children with SEN and EHCPs from different parts of London, whether for Reception or other year groups. There is a mix of social, economic and ethnic backgrounds in the school's families, with 22 pupils (4%) on Pupil Premium – below 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 in May 2021, once again graded 'Good' and with a truly excellent report. There were many areas of praise for the school. These included leaders ambition for pupils, strength of teaching of early reading and phonics, 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 note from the inspector was the collaborative strength of the staff, investment in staff professional development (which has led to internal promotions) 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.

### **SINCE THE 2021 INSPECTION**

With an ever-expanding and successful school, the demands on the school have grown too. A Sensory Room has been completed, to help meet the specific needs of various pupils. The Headteacher continues to ensure that all staff understand that the school cannot stand still and sit on its successes. Ambition continues to be high, reflected in the expectations of staff, that then filter down to pupils.





Est. 1954

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The school has a diverse mix of teachers, including experienced teachers and teachers newer to the profession, and from different backgrounds, countries, cultures and religions. There is a full complement of subject leaders and other minor leadership roles, with continued investment for staff via various forms of CPD. In November 2023, two new Key Stage leaders will be appointed to support the leadership and management of our growing school. These are expected to be internal appointments, reflecting the school's continuing investment in its staff and in their professional and career development. The school has a trained Pastoral Leader, delivering emotional literacy support to specific pupils and an early morning breakfast support group for particular pupils. Therapists provide a wide range of support across the school.

The Local Authority, parents, other schools and communal organisations hold the school in high regard. The school has a very good reputation locally regarding the education of the pupils, behaviour, SEN, pupil respect and the school's leadership. This is reflected in the continual, heavily oversubscribed Reception year group and waiting lists for other year groups. The demand for places continues to be in part a reflection on Pardes House as a school of choice in the Orthodox Jewish community.

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, revamped playground, including 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, including two new Key Stage leaders, 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 and personal research. Our two key focus areas for the 2023-24 school year are: 'integrating and applying SPAG skills in writing' and 'bringing it all together'. Our headline focus this year, refreshed every year is 'Turning the key'... *Education is the key to unlocking a world of possibilities and opportunities. We just have to help children turn the key.* This builds on previous headline aims for our school as well as building on the outcomes of Ofsted inspections, our own self-reviews and continuing to work 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 2023-24 academic year.

We are most definitely a good school and dare we suggest even better than that! This is based on the last Ofsted report, the continued very good to excellent outcomes and progress made by pupils (all boys), 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.

The Senior Leadership Team and Governors, supported by enthusiastic teachers and other staff, ensure 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 develop and implement further activities etc around promoting Fundamental British Values.

At Pardes House, we never stand still. We know 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 still preparing them for life in Modern Britain.

*It's September 2023 and that is our story, for now...*

