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“I am delighted to extend my very best wishes to all of you at Simon Marks Jewish Primary School. The pupils are exceptionally fortunate to be studying at such a truly wonderful school.”

Chief Rabbi, Dec 2020

Welcome

**On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils
I am delighted to welcome you to
Simon Marks Jewish Primary School.**

This prospectus is designed to provide parents and carers with valuable information about our school, our values and our ethos.

Simon Marks Jewish Primary School is a one-form entry primary school in Hackney. We are close to Stoke Newington train station and local bus routes. Stoke Newington is a vibrant and diverse area and our children reflect the amazing cultural diversity of London. We cater for children between the ages of 3 through to 11.

Simon Marks is part of the United Synagogue family of schools. We recognise that our children come from a variety of Jewish and other backgrounds. The religious



character of the school is that of modern orthodox Judaism. We have pupils from all faiths and cultures under our roof and we share the moral values that run through all faiths. We welcome families from all backgrounds.

At Simon Marks we have high aspirations and expectations. We inspire children to attain their very best and we want our children to be confident and lifelong learners, always remembering that learning should be fun!

Ms G. Metin Asdooyuran
Headteacher



Our Vision and Ethos

Simon Marks is committed to ensuring that every pupil leaves our school with high aspirations, and is a confident and competent member of society. We are driven by the concept of lifelong learning. Central to our success is the significance we attach to the relationships between the school, the parent body and the local community.

Simon Marks is a school where learning is fun. Our children want to learn and develop a stamina for learning through an exciting curriculum which values everyone.

We are committed to providing a caring, happy and welcoming environment which meets the needs of each child. We ensure that all children have equal access to a broad and balanced curriculum

that includes interaction and appreciation of the arts.

Our learning community is facilitated by a leadership structure which clearly communicates the purpose and direction of the school.

We aim to prepare children for a changing world through wisdom – ancient and modern with Jewish and British values exemplified by:

תורה עם דרך ארץ

'Torah im derech erez'

Torah with a worldly outlook

We are committed to inclusion, believing that every child has the right to succeed, no matter what their starting point.

Our Curriculum

At Simon Marks we have a skills and knowledge-based curriculum. Our children know 'why' they are learning something and what relevance this learning has on their lives. The National Curriculum sets out our guiding principles and programmes of study.

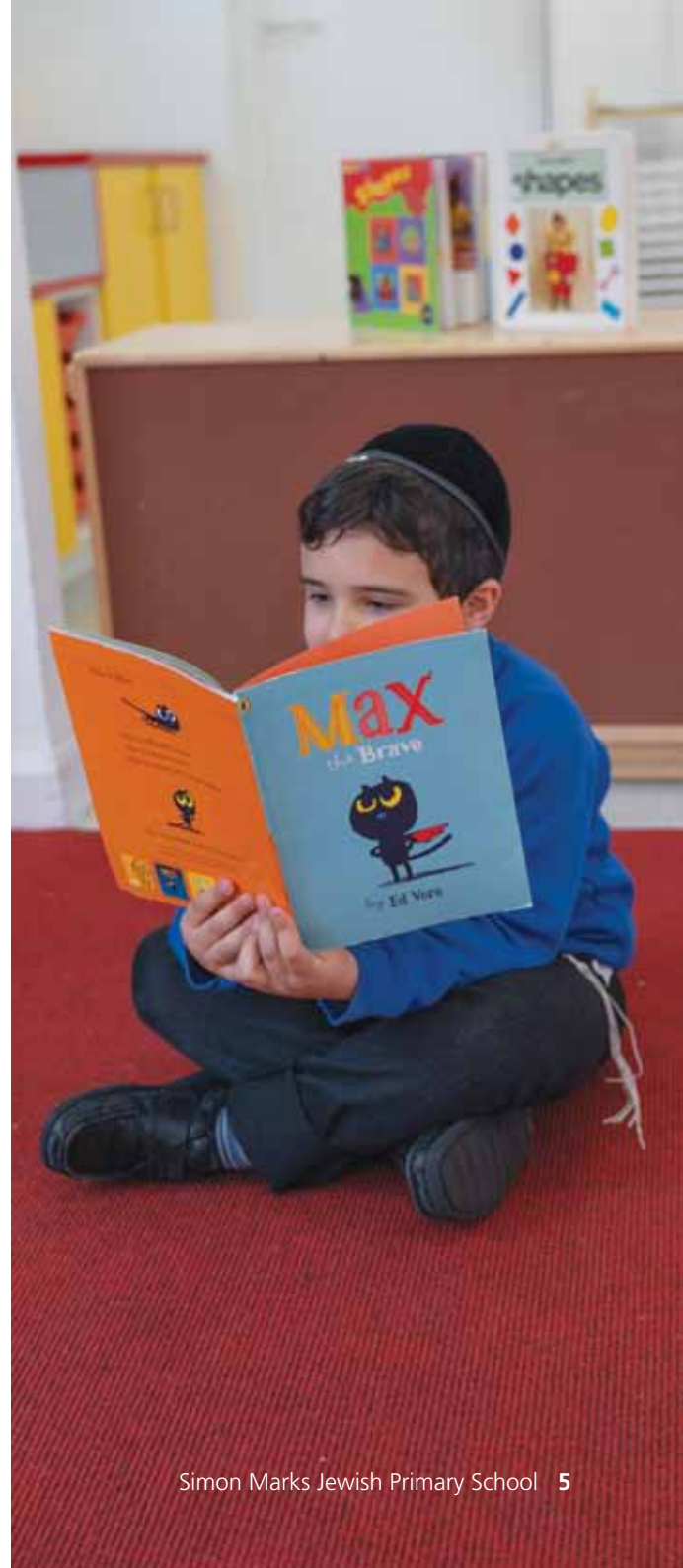
We aim to ensure our pupils meet the end of year expectations and standards so that they are ready for their next stage of learning. We integrate Jewish studies into our curriculum and make links between the two where possible. In addition we have two hours of Jewish studies per week built into our curriculum. Our modern foreign language is Hebrew.

We have high expectations of our pupils and their outcomes are always in line with, or surpass national expectations.

We always provide parents with opportunities to come into our school, either to spend time in classes or to join our exhibitions of pupils' work. Examples include Art and Science day exhibitions.

Physical Education is very important to us. We include The Daily Mile (thedailymile.co.uk), Brain Gym (braingym.org.uk) and other physical activities in our daily curriculum.

We are committed to enabling our children to develop musical skills. We have peripatetic teaching available in school and our pupils regularly perform in school and in the local community.



The School Day

School times/Supervision of children before and after school

The school day runs from 8.55am through to 3.30pm for full-time pupils.

The bell sounds at 8.55am and staff come into the playground to collect children in their lines to go into their classrooms.

Playtime is between 10.30 and 10.45am.

Lunchtime runs from 12.30-1.30 pm for Years 2-6.

Early Years and Year 1 start lunch from 12.00pm.

Although the school gate is opened from 8.45, it is parents' responsibility to ensure children are supervised until the class teachers come down to collect them.

Breakfast Club

The school offers breakfast club, run from 8.00am until school starts. There is a daily cost for this.

Children have a selection of cereals and toast, followed by table-top activities to further develop social skills.

Once children are collected from their teachers at the end of the day, supervision is handed over to the adult collecting the children.

Staff will get to know parents and other adults collecting children, (if you need someone else to collect your child you must let the office know in advance).

The school always has two security guards on duty throughout the school day.



Enhanced Curriculum

Pupil Voice

Pupil Voice plays a big part at Simon Marks. Our curriculum is designed to encourage debate and discussion. Pupils are asked to explain their reasoning as well as answer questions in lessons.

We have a very active School Council. School Council members lead class council meetings and feedback ideas between the school leadership and pupils.

We have a team of Peer Mediators in the playground – these children have been trained in conflict resolution and playground games. They are a constant support and role model for other children in the playground and around school.

We also have Green Team members, with responsibility for ecology and gardening. We encourage efficient use of electricity and we make our own compost for use in gardening sessions throughout the year.

Art Ambassadors play a key part in ensuring activities are relevant and thriving during play and lunchtimes.



After School Club and Clubs

We provide after-school clubs for our children. These clubs vary each term and are built around what our children enjoy doing. These are often sports-led activities and art-based clubs.

We also offer booster classes for pupils who can't get enough of school work!

Inclusion

Simon Marks is a fully-inclusive school that welcomes families from all backgrounds. We strive to enable our children to know about about and celebrate being citizens of London.



Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

Simon Marks is a mainstream school but we welcome everyone and always consider whether we can meet the needs of pupils with specific needs and disabilities.

We offer a rigorous tracking and screening process to identify children who may be falling behind or have specific needs. This identification of needs, followed by assessment enables us to intervene and address problems.

Often, learning difficulties are relatively minor and can be overcome by providing tailored support for children in the classroom. Pupils with minor needs will be set Personal Learning Goals (PLG) – these are short, meaningful targets which are achievable between 6-8 weeks.

Where a child has a greater need and/or a child needs specialist or additional support, then further action is required. In some cases this triggers a statutory assessment of a child's needs with a view to putting together an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). We always liaise with families and work with them.

Hackney Council has a 'local offer' of provision for children with needs and the school is part of the local authority. Further information is available at simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk/ and hackney.gov.uk.

School Lunches

We provide a daily fresh and hot meal. Prepared and cooked on the premises in our kosher kitchen, we provide healthy, well-balanced meals. Our kitchen is meat only, dairy foods are not permitted.

We do not allow packed lunches on site as they might compromise Kashrut requirements. School-prepared packed lunches are available for trips.



Water

Keeping hydrated is very important. We encourage all children to drink water at play and lunch times. Water is always available but we also encourage children to bring a bottle of plain water to school which can be used during class times.



School Uniform

All pupils are required to wear our uniform which enables them to look smart and have a proud school identity. The uniform is seasonal, with subtle differences for summer and winter. School jumpers and pullovers can be purchased through our school office.

Children are not permitted to wear jewellery and pierced ears must be decorated with small studs only. Children with long hair should tie their hair back, this is for the children's own safety in school.

We allow children to wear a watch at their parents discretion. We do not accept any responsibility for lost watches.



simon marks
jewish primary school
ת.ד.ג.מ.כ.ס.



Supporting our school

Voluntary Contributions

Like other Jewish faith schools, we have a voluntary contribution scheme to ensure the continuation of vital elements of the school's curricular and extra-curricular activities. Our Charitable Trust supports the school by collecting voluntary donations from the parents and wider community and gifting them to the school.

The school offers a variety of enriching educational services which are not covered by the local authority. These include:

- Daily Tefillah and the weekly celebration of Shabbat
- Chumash education via Pajes (Partnership of Jewish Schools) curriculum designed to motivate and inspire pupils in their understanding of Torah
- Learning about the festivals throughout the Jewish calendar
- A Consultant Rabbi in residence who oversees Jewish Studies

It is essential that parents contribute, as these activities cannot be funded by the school.

The Simon Marks Jewish Primary School Trust funds 10 per cent of all capital works necessary to maintain and improve the school buildings. This is an obligation for all voluntary aided schools. Your donations provide vital support to make the school a better place.

And finally

We would like to thank you for taking the time to read through our prospectus. We are justifiably proud of the reputation Simon Marks enjoys as a welcoming and

exceptional school. We hope that the information provided in this prospectus is helpful and gives you an insight into our school.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school and working in partnership with you.



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www.simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk