



Kingston Liberal Synagogue RELIGION SCHOOL BROCHURE



Welcome ברוכים הבאים

Shalom and welcome to Kingston Liberal Synagogue, our community. This brochure has been put together to welcome new or prospective family members and to give you an insight into our children's learning at Kingston Liberal Synagogue. Kingston Liberal Synagogue is a vibrant, joyful community, actively celebrating Judaism in a progressive context, dedicated to meeting the spiritual, cultural, educational and social needs of our members. We hope that you will choose to join us.

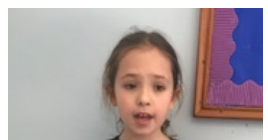
Children's learning at KLS



Our Cheder or Religion School here at KLS, is called *Beiteinu*, which translates to, 'our home' in Hebrew. But Beiteinu is much more than just a name; it's a concept of Jewish education. We believe that it is the duty of every Jewish community and each Jewish family and to ensure the future of the Jewish people. This



task takes many forms, as many as there are movements or communities, and at



Beiteinu we take this duty very seriously. At Beiteinu, we want to equip our children with strong Jewish knowledge so that they feel comfortable and confident with their Jewish identity; to enable them to grow and develop their Jewish knowledge, understanding and confidence so that they can join in, or lead services at KLS; and to prepare them for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah when they reach the age of 13, and beyond into adulthood. We aim to prepare the children to lead productive Jewish lives as adults, so they can make their own choices and who will, in turn, want to pass our traditions on to the next generation.

At Beiteinu, we welcome children of all ages, starting with *Kinderlech* (Yiddish for 'children') which is our Toddler Group (for our very youngest members aged from birth to four years and who meet once a month), right up to our *Kabbalat Torah* class for post *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* age children. In addition to these classes, we also have *Kita Aleph* which also meets monthly, for children aged 4 and 5. Meeting weekly, we have *Kita Bet*, aged 6-8, *Kita Gimmel* ages 9 and 10 and, of course, our *B'Nei Mitzvah* class for children aged 11 and 12.



Unlike many other synagogues, Beiteinu at KLS takes place on Saturday morning rather than Sunday. We believe this gives the children a greater connection to the synagogue and our community, where they are welcomed by members of the congregation, both young and old. Once a month during term time, the Shabbat morning service is a Family Service, which the Beiteinu children join and participate, along with their parents, carers and the rest of the congregation.

Our Head Teacher, Carolynne Farrer, in conjunction with our Rabbi, Rabbi Lev, has created an outstanding curriculum for each year group, which combines elements of Jewish knowledge, such as the Festivals and Jewish history as well as topics such as Living Judaism, Jewish Lifecycle and stories from the Torah.



As they move up the classes, they'll join many discussions covering topics such as the ethical take on pressing issues, aligning Jewish past with Jewish present, together with charitable projects. They'll learn from our great volunteer teachers, all of whom are members of our community, some of whom have supported our teaching for many years. Most weeks will include Hebrew literacy lessons, allowing our students to be able to read competently from the *Siddur* (service prayer book) with increasing fluency to be able to confidently participate in services, no matter which synagogue they are at.

But as well as being our synagogue's religion school, Beiteinu is also a place where your child will meet other Jewish children, something which is even more important here in Surrey where there are fewer Jewish families, and give them opportunities to build life-long friendships. Our children and their parents are indeed creating a real community on their own.



Your child will learn how to stand on the *bimah* (platform) and speak in public and feel confident in front of a congregation. Reading from the *Torah* scroll is always an exceptional boost to

their confidence. The children will also have the opportunity to study ancient texts at an age-appropriate level, which makes their learning relevant to them in today's world. There are no exams, no grades, no pressure - your children will just learn a lot about their heritage and prepare them for the future in a fun, safe and relaxed environment.

If you would like your child to attend Beiteinu, you will need to apply for membership of the synagogue as a 'Household' Member. As a self-funding charity, membership of Kingston Liberal Synagogue includes the cost of attending Beiteinu, services and events which are offered term time throughout the year. Please contact the office for further information: office@klsonline.org.



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