

Jewish Life and Learning Program Review

Frequently Asked Question

1. What is the Jewish Life and Learning Program?

The Jewish Life and Learning Program (JLLP) is the reason for the existence of Carmel School. The Program forms one of the foundational points of difference between Carmel School and other independent schools. It defines the formal and informal education students receive about the Modern Orthodox Zionist Jewish religion, ethos, and community life. As such, it is essential for this program to cater for the diverse needs of our Jewish community.

2. Does this mean Carmel School is going to stop teaching Jewish Studies or be less Orthodox in its approach?

No. Carmel School is founded on the principles of Modern Orthodox Zionist Judaism and remains committed to this approach.

Yet, as the only Jewish School in Perth, we need to cater to satisfy the diverse needs of the families that we serve, from the more religiously observant, to more traditional and secular families.

This review is helping to better understand HOW we teach Modern Orthodox Zionist Judaism rather than if this will remain our focus.

3. Why is the Jewish Life and Program being reviewed?

While we are proud of our existing program and what it has delivered for students to date, as the only Jewish school in Perth we need to ensure the program suits the evolving nature of how Jews practise and sustain Jewish continuity and identity.

Ensuring the JLLP meets the needs of the community is essential to be able to attract and retain a broad cross section of students.

As such, this engagement is designed to understand what, if any, adjustments need to be made to the JLLP.

4. What is being included during the engagement?

The engagement is seeking to understand student, parent, and broader Jewish community needs from a JLLP. We want to explore the must have, should have, and could have elements of a JLLP and provide recommendations to the Carmel Leadership Team and the Board.

Note: The engagement will not design the program, as this will be left to our experienced educational team.

5. Why are you developing a Stakeholder Reference Group?

Ensuring we canvas the opinions of our community is very important to us. We need to find out more about the diversity of views, voices and ways of engaging with Judaism that are present in our community and a reference group is the most effective way to do this. We will bring together a representative group of community members over a series of sessions, to deeply explore the future of a strong Jewish Life and Learning Program and help make strategic recommendations to assist the School and staff as they look at the program design.

6. How will the Stakeholder Reference Group be chosen?

The 25 person SRG will be recruited using a combination of two methods:

- Direct invitation to ensure various key organisations are represented
 - PHC, Dianella Mizrahi Shule, Northern Suburbs Hebrew Congregation (Chabad)
 - Carmel Leadership Team and Staff
 - The Carmel Board
- An Expression of Interest (EOI) process. This will be used to identify:
 - Parents from various student age ranges (current, recent past and prospective)
 - Students (both current and OKC alumni)

Membership will also seek to achieve diversity of:

- Gender
- Age
- Cultural background
- Different types of religious engagement/observance

7. How can I nominate to be part of the Stakeholder Reference Group?

Nominations are open between 30th May and 9th Jun, and you can visit the Carmel School website to complete the nomination form. To nominate you need to be able to commit to attending all the following workshop dates, plus do any pre-reading required.

- **Meeting One** (19th June, approx 3hrs, most likely in the morning)
- **Meeting Two** (11th September, full day)
- **Meeting Three** (16th Oct, approx 3hrs, most likely in the morning)

8. What if I am not part of the Stakeholder Reference Group?

The reference group is only one part of the engagement project. There will be other opportunities for people to attend a workshop and complete an online survey, to ensure that everyone has a chance to contribute to this important project.

9. Who is running the consultation process?

Joel Levin from Aha! Consulting has been contracted to lead the engagement process to help us to deliver a robust and transparent engagement project. Joel is a fellow and Board member of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) and has designed and run engagement programs around the country and internationally. Joel is also a former primary school student of Carmel School, so he has some context for the conversations we will be having. For more information see www.ahaconsulting.net.au

10. How do I find out more information?

For more information, please feel free to contact Dr Julie Harris, Principal [julie.harris@carmel.wa.edu.au] or Simon Lawrence, Director of Jewish Studies [simon.lawrence@carmel.wa.edu.au].