

Jewish Life and Learning Review 2022 Frequently Asked Questions

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. What has happened in the review so far?

During July and August, the community engagement section of the consultation was conducted through surveys, workshops, 1-1 interviews or a survey to the wide community. We heard from just under 400 people about what they value and what they want to see from the JLLP

Results from these have been shared with the Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) who are discussing the outcomes.

3. Who is involved with the consultation review?

The Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) is comprised of 27 people recruited during the nomination process carried out in May and June this year from a combination of two methods:

- Direct invitation to ensure various key organisations are represented
 - PHC, Dianella Mizrachi 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 was also sought to achieve diversity of:

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

4. What did the consultation report find and what suggestions are within it?

44% of people wanted to see a decrease in focus on the JLLP, 34% wanted to see an increase and 16% wanted it to stay the same.

It was clear that the school was seen as essential in helping the students to have the skills and knowledge to express Judaism to their individual level of observance. Judaism is a defining factor of Carmel School which included the love of Judaism, knowledge and history and the ability to practice Judaism.

There is a desire for the school to contribute to the sense of the community by understanding and acknowledging the different levels of observance.

The desired changes in the program matched the respondents' personal level of observance: more religiously observant, the more likely to want an increase in the level of adherence, less observant, the more likely they were to want a decrease in adherence.

5. Can I get a copy of the consultation report?

The broader consultation report can be downloaded from the website.
The outcomes of the SRG meeting will be released once the SRG has reviewed it.

6. What is next in the review process?

The next step in the process will involve the Principal and Director of Jewish Studies, together with the teaching staff, exploring how they shape the JLLP, which will be presented back to the SRG for comment, prior to finalising in October for presentation to the Board for review/sign-off in November 2022.

7. When will the findings being implemented?

You will be kept informed of the final outcomes towards the end of this year; any major changes that involve staffing would take place in 2024.

8. 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.

9. 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].