



## **Menorah High School for Girls**

The Lady Amelie Jakobovits Campus, 105 Brook Road, NW2 7BZ

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Headteacher: Mrs E Pearlman Principal: Rabbi Y Levenson

Dear Sir/Madam

We are consulting on the Admissions Consultation for Menorah High School for Girls for 2021.

We would like to consult for a six week period between 9 December and 31 January inclusive.

We are requesting that all comments should be sent to me, Erica Marks, Compliance Manager [admin@menorahhigh.com](mailto:admin@menorahhigh.com) .

Yours Sincerely,

Erica Marks

*Erica Marks  
Compliance, Data Protection and Office Manager  
Menorah High School for Girls  
020 8208 0500*



# Menorah High School for Girls

## Admissions Policy and Procedures for the Academic Year Commencing September 2021

This is the comprehensive admissions policy and procedure for entry into Menorah High School for Girls.

### 1. Introduction

This policy is reviewed annually in accordance with the School Admissions Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code. The policy in force at the time that the offer of a place is made will govern your child's admission to the school.

### 2.1 Context and ethos of the school

Menorah High School for Girls is a school with a Charedi (strictly orthodox) Jewish religious designation which meets the needs of strictly orthodox Jewish families who desire a strictly orthodox Jewish education for their daughters. The school aims to instil in its students a firm foundation that will prepare them for a life of committed Torah observance. Using both Chol (secular) and Kodesh (Jewish studies) curricula, the school sets out to provide a broad and balanced education to enable its students to become confident global citizens, with strong moral and spiritual values.

The school seeks to provide a broad and balanced education based on Torah values combined with the National Curriculum.

### 2.2 Definition of 'Charedi'

*Charedi* Jews represent a distinct group within the Jewish community, distinguished by cultural differences and strict adherence to and practice of orthodox Judaism. All members of this community lead an extremely modest way of life dictated by the highest moral and ethical values. Every aspect of their lives is governed by the codes of Torah observance.

The definition of 'Charedi' is as follows:

Charedi (strictly orthodox) Judaism is defined as a lifestyle and daily practice that are governed by an unequivocal and lifelong commitment to the following in accordance with the Code of Law known as the Shulchan Aruch and its commentaries:

- Torah study by men
- *Mitzvos* observance - observance of Torah commandments
- The central tenets of *Yiras Shomayim* - behaving in private as one would do in public
- The central tenets of *Emunas Chachomim* - reverence of Rabbinic authority
- The central tenets of *Tzenius* - modesty in dress, speech and behaviour

### 2.3 Admission into Years 7 to 13

Applications for Year 7 must be made via the local authority in which you live. This can be done online through eAdmissions. Guidance can be found through the secondary admissions section of your local authority's website or by contacting their admissions team.

Late applications to Year 7 and applications for places in Years 8 to 13 will be administered by the school. All applications for such admissions should be made directly to the School.

As a Faith School, and in accordance with the School Admissions Code, if the School is oversubscribed it prioritises Charedi girls of the orthodox Jewish faith, as defined hereunder in paragraphs 2.3.1 and 2.3.2:

2.3.1 A Charedi girl must observe and practice orthodox Jewish traditions and practices as set out in 2.3.2 hereunder. With specific regard to *tznius* and internet access, the current school guidelines are



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stated in appendices A and B to this document respectively. In the event of any dispute as to whether a child meets these criteria, the decision will rest with the Rabbinical Admissions Advisory Committee of the Menorah High School for Girls Trust.

2.3.2 A Charedi girl must also have a parent or parents or guardian(s) who:

- a) have a genuine desire for orthodox Jewish schooling of a Charedi nature;
- b) observe the Sabbath and Holy Days, adhere to the dietary laws, engage in regular daily Torah study and maintain active participation in an orthodox synagogue, with, as a minimum the applicant's father performing all three daily prayers in a quorum whenever possible.

In order for an application to be prioritised within the admissions criteria on the grounds of Charedi Jewish faith, parent(s)/guardian(s) must submit a supplementary information form (SIF) proving their family's commitment to Charedi practice. The SIF also includes a compulsory confirmation of aspects of the applicant family's Charedi practice by the Rabbi of the synagogue which the parents attend or from a Charedi Rabbi who is well acquainted with and knows the family.

## 3.1 Admission arrangements:

3.1.1 The published admission number (PAN) for entry into Year 7 is 60.

3.1.2 Where the school is named in a girl's Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Statement of Special Educational Needs, that girl will be admitted to the School and will be counted against the admission number.

Menorah High School for Girls **will** set a timetable for organising and hearing appeals that:

- a) includes a deadline for lodging appeals which allows appellants at least 20 school days from the date of notification that their application was unsuccessful to prepare and lodge their written appeal;
- b) ensures that appellants receive at least 10 school days' notice of their appeal hearing;
- c) includes reasonable deadlines for appellants to submit additional evidence, for admission authorities to submit their evidence, and for the clerk to send appeal papers to the panel and parties;
- d) ensures that decision letters are sent within five school days of the hearing wherever possible.

Menorah High School for Girls **will** publish their appeals timetable on their website by **28 February** each year.

## 3.2 Oversubscription criteria:

Where applications for admission of children exceed the number of places available, girls will be prioritised on the basis of the following criteria in the order set out below.

3.2.1 Charedi Jewish girls who are 'looked after' or were previously 'looked after'. A 'looked after' child is a child in the care of a local authority or provided with accommodation by that authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989. Previously 'looked after' children are children who were 'looked after', but ceased to be so because they were adopted (or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order).

3.2.2 Charedi Jewish girls with medical or social grounds for admission to this school in particular. Supporting evidence from a suitably qualified professional will be required at the time of application.

3.2.3 Charedi Jewish girls with sisters attending the School at the time of application. A sister must live permanently at the same address as the child for whom the application is being made. This includes half-sisters, stepsisters, adopted sisters and foster sisters who live permanently as a family unit at the same address.

3.2.4 Other Charedi Jewish girls

3.2.5 Other girls who are 'looked after' children or previously 'looked after' children in accordance with the definition at 3.2.1.

3.2.6 All other girls



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## 4. Tie-breaker:

If there are insufficient places for all applicants in any of the above criteria, random allocation will be used to determine which girls will be admitted, in the presence of an independent observer.

## 5. Late applications and waiting list:

The School will maintain a waiting list for Year 7. Girls will be placed on the list in accordance with the above criteria (3.2). A girl may move up and down the list as new girls are added to it. Late applications received will be considered, ranked and placed on the waiting list. This waiting list will remain open until the end of the first academic term.

The local authority may require individual schools to admit a girl exceptionally under the local authority's fair access protocol, either outside the normal admission arrangements or in excess of the published admission number, in order to protect the interests of vulnerable children and those with challenging behaviour.

## 6. Admission of Children outside their Normal Age Group

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. It is important for parents to note that they will have responsibility for providing evidence to support their request.

If parents wish for their child to be considered for admission to a year group which is outside their normal age group, then they must:

- a) Complete the LA common application form or the in-year admission form, as appropriate
- b) Attach a letter outlining reasons for the request and all supporting letters and/or documentary evidence in support of the application.

Menorah High School for Girls will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned.

- This will include taking account of:
- the parent's views;
- any available information about the child's academic, social and emotional development;
- where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional;
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- any evidence that the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely;
- The views of the head teacher.

## 7. Appeals Process

The parents of any child refused a place at the school have a right to appeal to an independent appeal panel. This panel will be made up of people not connected directly to the school. Menorah High School for Girls operates admission appeals according to the procedure and timetable set out as follows:

For the academic year commencing September 2021, places for Menorah High School for Girls will be issued on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Any family not receiving a place and wishing to appeal, has a maximum of 20 school days from March 1<sup>st</sup> to appeal against an unsuccessful decision.

Families should appeal in writing to [admin@menorahhigh.com](mailto:admin@menorahhigh.com), with "Admissions Appeals" in the subject line, detailing the grounds for appeal, and they will be contacted within 14 days with further



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details of the appeals process. The decision of the independent appeals panel is binding on all parties.

## **8. Sixth Form Admissions**

The school does not routinely admit external applications to the sixth form, but anyone wishing to enquire about a place in the Sixth Form should write in the first instance to [admin@menorahhigh.com](mailto:admin@menorahhigh.com) with "Sixth Form Admissions" in the subject line. According to the Admissions Code, "Children have the right to appeal against an admission authority's decision to refuse them admission to a school sixth-form" and can write to appeal in their own right.



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## APPENDIX A

### ***Tznius* Guidelines for Mode of Dress**

Menorah High School for Girls is a *Beis Yaakov* school catering for girls from *Charedi* families. As such, the school expects both students and their parents to adhere to all aspects of *Halocho* and accepted custom at all times even when on holiday

The following are the school's requirements in regard to mode of dress and *tznius* in general

1. Skirts must be long enough to cover the knee at all times, including when seated.
2. Skirts must not have a slit.
3. Plain tights or pop socks must be worn at all times.
4. Leggings may not be worn even under skirts.
5. Necklines must not be open below the collar bone.
6. Sleeves must cover the elbows at all times.
7. Mothers' hair must be completely covered at all times.
8. In general, clothing must not be tight or very brightly coloured.

As regards male observance regarding mode of dress and *tznius* in general, Fathers are expected to dress according to traditional standards of modesty in men, including:

1. No excessively tight top without a jacket.
2. No excessively tight trousers.
3. Head covering at all times.
4. Socks or closed shoes to be worn during prayer.
5. Sleeves above the elbow should not expose a significant part of the upper arm.
6. Shirts should not expose the chest.



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## APPENDIX B

### Internet Guidelines:

#### Internet Access for Pupils:

Although we are well aware of the enormous contribution that the internet can make to the education of our young people, we are equally cognisant of the inherent danger, if its use is not carefully controlled. Whilst internet use in school is strictly supervised at all times, the onus is on parents to safeguard their children in a similar fashion at home.

#### **Rules for Responsible Internet Use:**

- Generally speaking, the laws of “*Yichud*” (never to use the Internet when alone) must be adhered to.
- All internet-connected computers must be kept in a communal area of the home.
- Parents must be absolutely clear about what constitutes acceptable information.
- Appropriate filters must be installed on all computers in accordance with TAG guidelines. Preferably this should be done by TAG personnel.
- Children should not have their own e-mail addresses, but rather, one communal e-mail address should be shared by the whole family.
- Access to chatrooms, online games, playstore, snapchat, instagram, facebook, youtube and all similar sites is absolutely forbidden.
- Children must be made aware that passwords, addresses, PIN numbers, credit card details, phone and e-mail details are all private and should **never** be given to anyone.
- Children must be made aware that files from unknown sources must never be opened or downloaded.
- Children must be made aware that attachments from strangers must be deleted and should not be opened under any circumstances.
- Never may any inappropriate material be passed on in any way.
- Entry into Internet Cafés and the like is forbidden at all times.

#### **Mobile Phones:**

- Pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 may not own their own phones. Regular use by pupils of parent’s smartphones is likewise forbidden.
- Students in years 10 and 11 are not permitted to own or make regular use of smartphones.
- Access to the internet must be disabled from all phones that belong to or are regularly used by our students. This should be done by TAG or by a reputable recognised company.
- It is against school policy for children under 16 years of age to belong to a Whatsapp group. In general, the school strongly objects to the use of Whatsapp.
- Any phones brought into school must be handed into the office immediately on arrival and may be collected at the end of the day.