

Jewish ethos of KTC and implications for Staff

Hand-out from New Staff Orientation Day 25.1.17

If you have any questions on the below, please see Rabbi Chaiton, Rabbi Milecki or Dvora Moss.

Philosophy and Ethos

Yos

- KTC is a Jewish Orthodox Chabad ethos school
 - o All policies, procedures and systems are underpinned by and must align with this ethos

Festivals and Special Dates

- Shabbos & Yom Tov/Festivals
 - o Holy days dedicated to prayer, study, spiritual growth, family and friends.
 - o Many restrictions including no use of technology, no writing, no cooking and many more.
 - o School is closed for the duration of Shabbos & Yom Tov. Staff may not be on school grounds.
 - o Staff should not email staff, parents or students.
 - o When assigning homework, please note that students will not be able to complete assignments on Shabbos and Yom Tov.
- Rosh Chodesh (27 Feb & 28 March)
 - o Extended morning prayers
 - o Primary school assemblies
- Special Days in Term 1
 - o See 'Jewish Festivals and Special Days' table

Typical 'strange' things you will see

- Tefillah/Davening
 - o Every Jewish male is obligated to formally pray three times a day and females are obligated to pray twice a day. This impacts on school life. Time is set aside for this to take place during the school day. Students are obligated to participate. During regular school times this involves the morning service called Shacharis (all students) and afternoon service called Mincha (for BHS only), however, on camps and excursions this will include the evening service called Maariv (for boys only) as well.
- Yarmulka/Kippah
 - o Skull Cap. The boys need to always have their heads covered with a Yarmulka. This applies for all college activities. (There are exemptions for certain sport activities such as swimming).
- Tzitzis
 - o The Torah commands males to wear fringes on the corners of a worn four-cornered garment. If a person is not wearing a four-cornered garment, no Tzitzis (fringes) are necessary. But in order not to lose the command of fringes, it is an established custom that males wear a four cornered garment with Tzitzis on each of the four corners.

- All boys are obligated to wear Tzitzis at all times. (There are exemptions for certain sport activities such as swimming).
- Tefillin
 - These are special boxes containing specially written sections of the Torah. They are bound onto the arm and head by means of leather straps and are worn generally during the morning service. These are of considerable sanctity and should be treated as such.
 - All boys 13 years old and older must wear Tefillin each morning (except for Shabbos and Yom Tov).
- Brochos/Bentching
 - All Jews are obligated to say a blessing both before and after eating any food item.
 - In Primary school, students bensch (the after blessing) together at the end of recess (at line-up) and during lunch (at the end of lunch-eating).
- Mezuzah
 - A religious ritual object containing parchment with biblical passages written on it and is affixed to the right doorpost of all rooms, except toilets.

General Restrictions

- Kosher
 - Prepared or Made Fit. This refers to any food that has been prepared according to Halachic (Jewish Law) requirements. If food has not been prepared accordingly it is called Treif (non kosher) and may not be eaten.
 - At KTC we abide by the highest level available called Mehadrin. In addition, all dairy items must be Chalav Yisroel.
 - All food items brought into school for students must be approved by Jewish Studies Head.
- Music/books/performances
 - Must be approved by Jewish Studies Head.

Dress Code

- Female Staff
 - Skirts must be long enough to cover the knee, whilst sitting.
 - Splits in skirts must be no higher than knee level.
 - Skirts, blouses, tee shirts etc must not be very tight and/or transparent.
 - Necklines must not be lower than the collarbone.
 - Torso must be covered. This also applies when raising ones arms.
 - Sleeves must cover the elbow.
 - Any printing on clothing must be appropriate.
 - No pants or footless/threequarter tights are to be worn under skirts.
 - Married Jewish Studies staff must have their heads fully covered with no visible hair showing and legs fully covered at all times.
- Male Staff
 - Long trousers, no jeans.
 - Dress shirts and tie.
 - Any printing on clothing must be appropriate