**General Information for parents**

**Security**

We take security very seriously, particularly in these testing times. We have a security officer, a well-equipped and fully trained security team, and we work closely with the Community Security Trust (CST) and the local Police to ensure our children are safe when attending classes (and at all other times when our Synagogue building is in use).

We expect all parents of children attending Religion School classes to know how our security policies operate in this respect – the security rota and instructions are sent to parents before each term.

**Communication with parents**

WhatsApp groups for class communication with parents are being developed.

**Bagel Rota**

At the beginning of each term you will be able to choose your place on the rota. Thereafter, allocation will be made.

**Parking**

There is no parking on the Synagogue premises as the area in front of the Synagogue is used by the children during playtime. Parking outside the Synagogue must be on the Synagogue side of the road, even if only dropping off children, to avoid causing problemswith the Synagogue’s neighbours.

**Absence**

If your child is unwell, he/she should not attend the Cheder until completely better. If he/she has had a temperature, this should be normal for 24 hours before attending Cheder. Please do not let your child attend if he/she has a cold or diarrhoea. Please let your child’s class teacher or the Cheder Administrator cheder@wimshul.org know of any absence in case of illness or of any absence of more than one week.

**Mobile Phones**

Please ensure your child is aware that use of mobile phones is not allowed in class. If brought to Cheder, phones should remain in school bags and used only in emergencies or if instructed by the class teacher for use with school work, eg. research for a project.

**Snacks**

Your child will need a snack for break time. Please note that no meat products, meat or tref-flavoured products such as prawn flavoured crisps or sweets containing gelatine (eg. Haribo) should be brought in for reasons of kashrut. All store-bought snacks should be clearly labelled as ‘suitable for vegetarians.’ Because of the risk posed to children by nut allergy, all products containing nuts are also banned from the Cheder.

**Break time**

Please be aware that all pupils must go out of the building for the main break time unless it is raining, in which case a space inside will be designated for them to play. As the weather gets colder, it is vital that they come in with a coat. Please note that the nursery playground is out of bounds to all children except those in Playshul, and the Gan/Aleph/Bet classes.

**Tzedakah**

Every class collects tzedakah money eacb week for donation to a charity or charities that is/are chosen by the children. We would be grateful if you could send your child with a small coin or coins to put in the class Tzedakah box.in order to teach the importance of charitable giving. We also have a large box in the lobby for dry foods for Merton homeless organisations.

**Books**

The cost of textbooks is included in the fees but a charge will be made for lost Hebrew books.

**Homework**

Whilst homework is not usually set until the Emunah (year 8) class, it is difficult for the children to retain and build on what they have learnt without some reinforcement between weekly lessons. Some class teachers will email home worksheets for the children to look at during the week, preferably together with their parents.

**Departure/ Pick Up**

All children must be collected from inside the Synagogue gates for safety reasons. Gan, Aleph and Bet children should be collected from outside their classrooms.

**Lost Property and Equipment**

We do not ask children to bring in writing / colouring equipment as so much gets left behind. Boys are asked to bring a kippah if they have one and girls may also wear a kippah if they wish. All property should be clearly labeled. Lost property can be recovered from the lost property box in the downstairs cloakroom.

Please note that the Wimbledon Synagogue Religion School cannot be responsible for the loss of any valuable item brought to the Religion School by children.

**Communication with parents**

Every week parents will receive a ‘News from the Cheder’ email as well as an update email from the class teacher. Nitzanim, the Cheder Newsletter, is produced monthly other than in July and August. It is sent with Kehillah, the Synagogue magazine. We welcome contributions from parents and children, and we hope that you will find the information and photos contained in this newsletter interesting and

relevant.

Please note that from time to time the teachers will send other information that requires your response.

Urgent communications and reminders takes place by email so it is important that you inform Diane Barnett of any changes to your email address immediately.

**Further information**

Please feel free to contact Diane Barnett, the Cheder Administrator, with any queries or concerns on 020 8947 8200 (Monday – Thursday 7.00am – 9.00pm) or email cheder@wimshul.org

**Wimbledon School Policies**

Full Cheder policies covering Anti-Bullying, Behaviour and Child Safegarding, as well as Health and Safety as it affects the Cheder, can be found on the Synagogue website [www.wimshul.org](http://www.wimshul.org/) under Education.