

**MISCELLANEOUS MATERIAL**

30.x.64.

The Secretary,  
The Religious Advisory Committee,  
43, Hilltop Road,  
Liverpool 16.

Dear Mr Segal,

I have sought the advice and guidance of Councillor J. Norton as Chairman of the Board of Governors concerning the question of arranging for the closure of the King David School at 2-40 p.m. on certain Fridays during the Winter Term. He has now considered the matter and has asked me to inform the R.A.C. that he is deeply disturbed at the proposal of the Religious Education of the School being still further reduced by the scheme suggested at the recent meeting between the R.A.C., Dr Herman and myself. He feels that he cannot commit himself to accepting the implication contained in the scheme beyond agreeing to a temporary acceptance of it until the Board of Governors are able at their next meeting to discuss the matter, and desires me to state that any such temporary acceptance cannot be taken to imply binding the Governors to acceptance in the future. He has also asked me to inform the R.A.C. that the Governors would feel bound to take into consideration this reduction in the hours of Religious Education in the School on any future occasion that the R.A.C. might prove critical either of the standard of Religious Education or the amount of time devoted to it. Finally, I have been asked to draw the attention of the R.A.C. to the previous agreement negotiated on this matter only last year between Councillor Norton and Rabbi Flitnick whereby it was found possible to continue Religious Education throughout the year and yet provide for pupils who lived at a distance from the School to leave in good time, and to add that Councillor Norton finds it difficult to understand why this agreed system could not have continued to function equally satisfactorily this year. I should be grateful if you would acquaint the members of your Committee with the contents of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

B  
(B.A. Fisher.)

RELIGIOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

43 Hilltop Road,  
Liverpool 16.

9th November, 1964.

Councillor Norton,  
Chairman of Governors,  
King David School,  
5 Oxford Street,  
Liverpool 7.

Dear Councillor Norton,

We have received a letter from Mr. Fisher, and as it is confined to conveying your views, we prefer to take up the points raised in the letter directly with you.

Mr. Fisher conveys your concern at seeing the religious education still further reduced. You are, of course, aware that every since the opening of the King David School, our deep and abiding interest has been to increase, rather than decrease, the time allotted for religious education. If there has been any diminution of it, it has been under the strongest protest from us.

If, therefore, we make this suggestion regarding an early closure of the School on Friday afternoons, it is evidently because we regard the practical observance of Judaism, in this instance, the Sabbath, of greater importance than theoretical instruction in its tenets. In any case, only five or six Fridays in the year are involved, and we consider the sacrifice of any Religious Education involved well worth the gain in the religious outlook of the School. We should, in fact, be obliged if the Headmaster used the fact as a demonstration of the earnestness in which the School and the religious authorities view the observance of the Sabbath and the importance of children using the time to prepare for, and to attend the Sabbath Eve Services.

Moreover, according to the suggestion we made to the Headmaster, of curtailing the Friday morning assembly, it should be possible to close the School at 2.40 without loss of Religious Education time.

We have raised the matter again this year because the experience of last year was not satisfactory. We also note the eagerness with which our suggestion is seized as a justification, in advance, for any weakness in the School's Religious Education. As already mentioned, the five or six periods that might be involved in a school year should not make all that difference. If there is a weakness in the religious effectiveness of the School, it is rather due to the lack of a positive Jewish attitude that we should expect from the School, and this is but one example of it. Moreover, we strongly

P.T.O.

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resent the tone and character of this letter and its contents. It shows a complete lack of appreciation of the aim we are all working to achieve, viz. effectiveness of the School as a religious factor in the education of our children.

This is an important point over which we should have expected instant and unqualified co-operation, instead of long protracted negotiation, the throwing up of obstacles and veiled intimidation

Yours sincerely,

Copy to Mr. Fisher.



REPORT ON PART-TIME RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN  
LIVERPOOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL AGE PUPILS

by

Rabbi Dr. Chaim Simons, Director of Jewish Studies  
King David High School, Liverpool.

December 1973/Tevet 5734.

Introduction

Apart from the King David High School, Religious Education is provided in Liverpool for high school age pupils by the following organisations:- The Liverpool Talmudical College (the Yeshivah), the Liverpool Talmud Torah Schools (the Talmud Torah), the Liverpool Amalgamated Synagogue Classes (the Amalgamated Classes) and the Childwall Hebrew Congregation Religion Classes (the Childwall Classes). All these institutions are attended both by pupils who attend the King David Schools and by those who attend non-Jewish schools in Liverpool. In the report issued by Judah Slotki and Gerald Normie in June, 1973 they recommend that the Talmud Torah, Amalgamated Classes and Childwall Classes should be combined to form one unified institution, to be known as Merseyside Amalgamated Talmud Torah - MATT.

In this report we shall be analysing the various part-time Religious Education facilities being offered to high school age pupils in Liverpool and their possible integration into MATT. We shall also consider the feasibility of integrating the curriculum of MATT with that of the King David High School and the staffing requirements for the high school age pupils in MATT.

Part-time Religious Education presently being offered  
for High School Age Pupils

1. Yeshivah: It is very pleasing to record that there is an ever increasing number of boys studying at the Yeshivah. Almost all of these are from the King David High School. There are also a few from other schools and now a few boys from the Primary School have been admitted. It is most important that boys should be encouraged to join the Yeshivah.
2. There is unfortunately no parallel institution to the Yeshivah for the education of high school age girls. About a couple of months ago the girls in the top stream of the second year at the King David High School requested additional R.E. lessons in their own time. Accordingly Mr. Yahalom has been giving some lessons after school to these girls. With the amalgamation of the Hebrew Classes, it is recommended that this group be put within the framework of MATT.

Apart from some private groups, the only other tuition which appears to be available for specifically high school aged girls is a group within the aegis of the Amalgamated Classes. This group consists of three girls from the King David High School aged about fifteen who are taught on Sunday morning only by Rabbi Dr. Solomon. An effort must be made to ensure the continuation of a group of girls of such an age should Rabbi Solomon leave Liverpool in the near future.

It is therefore suggested that within the framework of MATT there should be two classes specifically for high school age girls as follows:- (i) age 12-14 (ii) age 14+. Other girls from both the King David High School and other secondary schools should be encouraged to attend. The hours and number of times it would meet per week would have to be decided. As far as possible, care should be taken to prevent any duplication of work covered in the curriculum of the R.D.H.S.

Continued/

3. Classes for the preparation to O-level Classical Hebrew are at present held under the aegis of the Childwall Classes. There are two classes taken by Mr. S. Kaufman and each meets for one hour during the week. The first of the classes consists of eight fourth-year pupils (age 15) all from the K.D.H.S. who are being prepared for the 1974 examination and the second consists of four third-year pupils (age 14) all from the K.D.H.S. and these are being prepared for the 1975 examination. These classes should also be put within the framework of MATT.
4. A Barmitzvah class is held under the aegis of the Amalgamated Classes and this meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4.30 and 5.45 p.m. (Between 4.30 and 5.15 Rabbi Woolf teaches this class general R.E. and from 5.15 - 5.45 Rev. Malits gives Barmitzvah tuition - the idea being that by giving Barmitzvah tuition, the pupils will also come to the first part of the lesson.) At present there is one pupil in this class (from the K.D.H.S.) although about six months ago there were three. The continuance of this type of class meeting during the week within the framework of MATT could be considered.
5. The number of high school age pupils at present attending the various Hebrew Classes is unfortunately very small. We all know too well that when pupils join a High School (or sometimes even before that time) they cease attending Hebrew Classes, mainly because they think they will receive sufficient R.E. in the High School or the parents think it will overtax the minds of their children who are now doing High School work. It is important to explain to the parents the inadequacy of the R.E. given at the High School and how this needs to be supplemented by additional tuition. (The maximum amount of R.E. tuition given in the K.D.H.S. is in the first year and this consists of only 3½ hours per week. On going up the School, this amount radically decreases)

The number of high school age pupils who regularly attend one of the present Hebrew Classes on a Sunday morning approximate to the following:

	Talmud Torah	Amalg.	Childwall	Total
K.D.H.S.	6	0	0	6
Other high schools	4	5	1	10
Total	10	5	1	16

(The above table does not include pupils who attend the O-level Classical Hebrew Classes or Rabbi Solomon's girls' class).

The various classes of the Talmud Torah in which the high school pupils are in consist of mixtures of K.D.H.S. pupils of various years, primary school pupils and pupils of non-Jewish high schools. In all fairness, however, the numbers are too small to be able to separate out these various groups.

With regard to the feasibility of the integration of the MATT curriculum with that of the K.D.H.S., it would appear at present that even with the amalgamation of the three sets of Hebrew Classes, the number of the K.D.H.S. pupils would be too small and their standards and ages so varied as to make an integration of curricula an impractical proposition at present. This important matter should not of course be discarded and with the hoped for success of MATT, the numbers of K.D.H.S. pupils attending will increase. The integration of curricula should then be carefully planned to present as little overlap as possible.

As a suggestion, at present, there should be two classes in MATT, catering for high school age pupils. Possibly one of these classes could also contain some advanced pupils from the top class of the primary school. However, these points can only be decided after considering the quantity and quality of the pupils involved.

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6. Syllabuses which I have written for Religious Knowledge O-level and CSE have recently been accepted by the appropriate boards. In order to enable pupils not attending the K.D.H.S. to study for these examinations, classes could be arranged within MATT to cater for these pupils.

#### Staffing

Although all the ordinary classes within MATT should meet simultaneously, the specialised classes (i.e. O-level, senior girls etc.) can meet at different times throughout the week. This will have the important advantage that the same teachers can teach both an ordinary class and specialised class(es). On this basis two teachers should be sufficient to teach all the classes involving high school age pupils.

#### Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements are due to Dr. M. Goodman, the Headmasters and members of the Staff of the Talmud Torah, Amalgamated Classes and Childwall Classes for information supplied to enable me to compile this report.



Minutes of the King David High School Staff Association meeting  
Tuesday 11th October 1977

Present: Sm Br DS St Bt Co Me Gs Sh Ey Ph Wn Pa Rd Nn On Fl Ra Kr  
Bn Bw Hs Ra Mo Sn Tn Kt

Apologies: Jy

1. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record.

Matters arising from the Minutes

2. The Association expressed its appreciation to the Headmaster for bearing in mind its suggestions concerning Friday timetable arrangements for this Autumn term.

Congratulations were also offered to Miss Fugh on her marriage.

3. Tea Fund. It was reported that the income so far this term had been £17 and the expenses £20, therefore members of the tea club could expect to be approached shortly by Miss Sheckman for the October subscription of £1.

Business

4. Governors' Meeting Report. Mr. Kitt reported that he had been warmly received at the Governors' meeting. His position was that of observer, as was that of the Parents' Association representative. The Governors expected him to be present throughout all meetings. Names of individuals were not to be used in reports either to the Staff or to the Governors. The Governors saw the arrangement as a two-way channel whereby the staff could be approached by them as well as vice-versa.

The question arose in discussion of these arrangements as to how far the Staff Association Representative should be expected to instigate action following Governors' meetings, seeing as his position was regarded as that of an observer. It was agreed that emergency meetings of the Staff Association were at all events to be avoided and that matters affecting conditions of employment should be pursued through respective Union channels.

It was left to the discretion of the Staff Representative whether information resulting from Governors' meetings should be circulated between Staff Association meetings.

4. Reports to Governors by Heads of Departments. It was decided that discussion of this matter should be deferred to the next Staff meeting. The Governors' suggestion seemed a somewhat clumsy idea and other means of communication of information on teaching aims and methods, to a wider audience, would be looked upon with more favour.

5. Report on Parents' Association meeting. The Chairman of the Staff Association conveyed the Parents' Association's willingness to assist the staff in whatever way possible. He pointed out that the Parents' Association had various functions, carried out, for instance, by a Press Officer, Liaison Officer and Catering Committee. A suggestion was made that the Catering Committee be approached for assistance in the provision of refreshment for teaching staff on Parents' Evenings.

Staff were invited to the Parents' Association Dinner Dance, at a cost of £5 per head.



A prize for Endeavour had been suggested by the PA, to be presented at Speech Day.

The Parents' Association had suggested more organised end-of-term activities in the Summer Term, and the Headmaster had pointed out the difficulties for Staff at this time. He said that help would be appreciated to enable staff to concentrate on their exam marking, reports, etc. at this busy time of the year, if the idea was to be pursued.

6. Volunteers for Founders' Day Committee. Rabbi Simons volunteered. Mr. Nixon expressed willingness to attend one meeting to represent the needs of the Christian pupils. It was suggested that a sub-committee was required to consider the problem of hymns acceptable to both Jewish and non-Jewish children.

Meeting adjourned 1.20 pm. To be continued Tue. 18th October 1977

Meeting of King David High School Staff Association 18th October 1977  
(continued from 11th October 1977)

Present: Sm Br DS St Co Gs Ey Rd Wn Ph Kr Kt Fa Fl Sh Bt RS Tn  
Sn Bn On Pa Mo

Apologies: Jy

7. Staff Christmas Party. The idea of an end-of-term evening party on the same lines as the last one was generally accepted. Mr. Owen agreed to approach the NALGO Tennis Club and report back to the next meeting. A late licence was to be requested, though not essential.

8. Holiday Dates. It was pointed out that the July 12th meeting of the Staff Association had minuted that Staff Association members had agreed to accept Rabbi Simons' authority to decide on the holiday dates required for Jewish festivals. A complaint was made that October 20th 1978, one of the dates considered essential by the Jewish Studies Staff, had been removed from the holiday calendar by the Governors to accommodate the wishes of the Primary School staff. It was also suggested that the method by which the dates were finalised was unconstitutional though the final authority of the Board of Governors to decide on the holiday dates was unquestionable. It seemed surprising to the meeting that the Governors do not seem to consult the Jewish Studies Staff.

9. Mr. Dale. A query was made as to whether any further information was available. It was agreed that information would be requested immediately following the special meeting of the Governors on Tuesday 25th October.

Meeting closed 1.10 pm.