



Strategic Framework

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL



Modern | Thinking | Judaism



What Makes A Great School?

It's so hard to articulate what makes a great school. Of course academic performance is paramount – teaching is our core business, and at the heart of everything we do.

But for us, the same key ingredient that is responsible for making a house a home, is the intangible element that transforms The King David School into a community.

It takes the form of a spiritual connectedness that's programmed deep within our School's DNA.

Our values mirror those of the families who make up our school community - who look to us to partner them in raising curious children who question the workings of the world around them, and strive to make a positive difference.

It's this intangible element that is responsible for the development of our children into educated, compassionate, emotionally connected people.

This document was written in an effort to best articulate how we give life to our vision and our approach. In other words – our explanation of our approach to Modern Thinking Judaism.

We ensure our approach to education is always relevant and reflects our changing times – and

this involves a never-ending search for 'best in breed' programs across academia, spirituality and wellbeing. It also means attracting and retaining teachers who are instinctively comfortable within our environment, and provide a consistent approach.

This approach is incorporated within the lifeblood of our entire school community – across management, teachers, students, support staff, Council members and parents, all working in partnership.

The pillars that support the structure of our School are unique and specific to The King David School. And beneath each pillar, you will find the detail and the proof-points which explain how we deliver on our promise.

Hopefully, it resonates with you and reflects your own values of spiritual Judaism, outstanding educational programs, teaching excellence, financial security, and an engaging environment.

We urge you to read through it in order to truly know and understand what makes us a great school.

Mark Harrison, School Council President



להבין ולהשכיל

L'havin u l'haskil – To know and understand

Our motto, L'havin u l'haskil – To know and understand, is a vital reminder of what The King David School stands for. It is a simple statement that is rich in meaning. It calls to mind the Jewish people's promise to both know and understand the precepts of Torah. This promise was to take the meaning of Torah into both our heads and our hearts.

Likewise this motto calls upon us to approach our learning with our whole being. We are exhorted to move past the surface and to seek deep and lasting understandings and connections. It demands of us to approach our learning with respect and openness.

I salute the vision of The King David School's founders who were ahead of their time in so many ways. Their adoption of the School's motto was powerful in its reminder that at our core we are devoted to nurturing a lifelong love of learning.

It is with a profound sense of excitement and positivity that we look to the future to see how learning will continue to unfold at The King David School. We know that whatever the future will bring, our students will be well prepared to thrive due to their strong basis in both knowledge and understanding.

Marc Light, Principal



Vision & Mission

Our Values

MODERN

As a modern school, opportunities for excellence are increased in an environment where individuality and self expression are valued. The King David School:

- fosters the capacity to utilise 21st century technology in a safe and respectful manner;
- utilises an egalitarian approach to provide students to thrive in all aspects of school life;
- upholds the principles of democracy and multiculturalism while nurturing a strong Australian identity and a close and meaningful relationship with the land and State of Israel.

THINKING

As a thinking school, we challenge our students to Know and Understand both themselves and their place in the environment. The King David School:

- values the contributions of every member of the school community;
- provides an holistic educational approach developing excellence in academic pursuits, creativity, imagination and resilience.

JUDAISM

As a progressive Jewish school, Jewish values are at the core of our being. The King David School:

- provides rich opportunities to express values through learning Jewish tradition and observing mitzvot;
- encourages students to openly explore and question their connection to their history and heritage;
- respects personal choices made through shared learning and meaningful experiences.

Mission Statement

The King David School exists to provide both excellence and opportunity in education. It will foster the development of each individual student in its care paying careful attention and respect to his or her unique needs, abilities and aspirations. It will fulfil its goals with reference and respect to the contemporary Australian society within which it is so fortunate to exist:

- through the provision of an educational environment that is at all times challenging;
- nurturing and appropriate to the needs of its students;
- through engaging and innovative co-curricular activities;
- through close, active and practical engagement in Jewish communal activities;
- through social justice programs and interfaith initiatives.

THE KING DAVID SCHOOL WILL STRIVE:

- to be recognised as a provider of educational outcomes which are second to none.
- to deliver the highest possible standards of facilities and resources for the benefit of its students and the broader community.
- to maintain a strong community profile and to support both the Jewish and the Australian communities within which it operates.
- to develop strategic educational partnerships which will benefit students, staff and the broader School community.
- to achieve its goals within a secure and responsible fiscal framework.
- to resolutely and consistently focus on the responsibility to nurture, develop and indeed cherish each unique and exceptional child which the School has been created to serve and which it has the privilege to serve.

Our Vision

The King David School is a progressive Jewish school established on the principles of inclusion, egalitarianism and social justice. It is committed to engendering within its students a love of learning, a deep and abiding sense of community, a strong and proud Australian identity and a close and meaningful relationship with the Land and State of Israel.



The King David School Strategic Framework

The King David School is committed to providing an Outstanding Jewish education for all Students for whom excellence and academic achievement will be a priority.



PILLAR 1

PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN THE CULTURE OF THE SCHOOL AS DEFINED BY OUR MODERN JEWISH VALUES

- place Jewish history, heritage, texts and traditions at the heart of our teaching and learning.
- celebrate the diversity amongst our student body and within the realms of Jewish life by affirming egalitarianism, individual choice and authenticity of practice.
- foster memorable and meaningful experiences that promote a strong and positive Jewish identity.
- encourage spiritual and personal growth through reflection and/or tefillah, ongoing community service and the pursuit of social justice.
- nurture a sense of belonging to and pride in the Australian and Jewish communities.
- cultivate a close and meaningful relationship with the people, land and State of Israel.

PILLAR 2

PROVIDE OUTSTANDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES WHICH ARE GROUNDED IN NURTURING THINKING AND QUESTIONING

- ensure a learning environment which lights the flame for students to strive for academic excellence, and encourages engagement and a love of learning.
- provide a diversity of learning activities whereby each student is able to recognise and develop their personal abilities and strengths.
- embed a particular focus on excellent levels of achievement in the VCE.
- emphasise the understanding of different learning styles and the different expressions of intelligence.
- promote programs relating to personal development, spiritual connectedness, and Jewish traditions.
- offer a diverse spectrum of curricular and co-curricular opportunities which enhance the education and wellbeing of the 'whole' person.
- recognise the importance of peak experiences within the spectrum of educational offerings.
- embrace information and communication technology and use it to enhance learning processes.
- provide opportunities to develop leadership skills at all levels.

PILLAR 3

ATTRACT, RETAIN AND DEVELOP QUALITY STAFF

- ensure that the School continues to be led by a Principal of the highest calibre who is sympathetic with and promotes Jewish values.
- appoint high quality staff who bring a diverse range of skills and experiences to build a community in which learning is highly valued.
- appoint staff whose vision and values are in harmony with those of the School.
- maintain scales of remuneration to attract and retain high quality staff.
- provide meaningful professional development programs and opportunities for all staff.
- maintain a system of regular review and appraisal of staff performance.

PILLAR 4

MAINTAIN AND FURTHER DEVELOP FACILITIES AND THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

- provide spaces which generate energy and engaged learning.
- invest in major capital projects and strategic acquisition of land to meet the School's needs.
- develop sustainable capital improvement, maintenance and refurbishment plans for each School precinct.
- implement best practice in safety and risk management.
- reduce waste generation, water, energy, and raw materials consumption at the School.
- implement environmentally sustainable practices in relation to the use of materials and natural resources, resulting in minimal environmental impact.

PILLAR 5

STRENGTHEN AND SUSTAIN THE FINANCIAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE SCHOOL

- shape capital and operating budgets to provide for the short and long term needs of the School.
- set appropriate fees to meet the needs of the School.
- utilise funds to operate the School in the most efficient manner.
- continue a vigorous fundraising program to support capital development, educational programs, scholarships and staff professional development opportunities.
- provide considered fee support to families where appropriate.



Early Learning Centre & Junior School

Pre-Kindergarten, Junior & Senior Kindergartens

Prep – Year 5

373 Dandenong Road, Armadale Vic 3143 Tel: (03) 9291 7979

PO Box 286, Malvern Vic 3144

Email: junior.school@kds.vic.edu.au

Senior School

Years 6 – 12

517 Orrong Road, Armadale Vic 3143

PO Box 286, Malvern Vic 3144 Tel: (03) 9291 7900

Email: senior.school@kds.vic.edu.au

www.kds.vic.edu.au

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