

BIALIK COLLEGE

A solid Jewish foundation

AT Bialik College, Jewish learning takes place in a way that allows students to take ownership of the way they celebrate their heritage and religion, while reflecting on how they can express this as a Jew living in Australia – as part of their immediate community, and as part of their family.

Stories, songs and role-play are the vehicles for the youngest children in the ELC and primary school to encourage a passion for Jewish history, culture and traditions. With a child-centred approach, all aspects of Judaism are woven into the fabric of daily life at Bialik, including tefillot and Hebrew so that students advance through their school years with a solid Jewish foundation.

Questions are encouraged in both

formal and informal learning situations. As a Jewish school with a pluralist ethos, it understands that every family in the community has its unique expression of Judaism and so every child will have questions relevant to his or her understanding.

As students progress to years 4 and 5, Jewish learning is linked to concepts that are relatable and relevant to them. For instance, when exploring the stories of Adam and Eve and Cain and Abel, students investigate the ways in which the characters did or did not take responsibility for their actions. They relate this back to themselves, looking at how they intend to take responsibility in their own lives.

They also discuss how responsibility is a fundamental quality demonstrated

by a competent leader and how this value can be carried out in their own leadership endeavours. In this way, key Jewish concepts become integrated into their learning and their lives.

As a proudly Zionist school, Bialik fosters a love for – and connection to – Israel, the Israeli people and the Hebrew language. For more than 75 years, the college has been teaching 'Ivrit B'Ivrit, an idea that deeply engages students in the language and increases their understanding. Primary students can also join the bilingual stream in years 4 and 5, where all lessons are taught in Hebrew.

A core belief of Bialik College is respect for individual choice of expression when it comes to Jewish identity. Principal Jeremy Stowe-Lindner



A love of Israel is fostered from the earliest years at Bialik.



Kabbalat Shabbat in Bialik's ELC.

succinctly captures this sentiment: "Bialik's healthy approach to Judaism best reflects the plurality of our thriving and dynamic Melbourne Jewish community."