



London School
of Jewish Studies

2023 LSJS National Jewish Education Conference for primary school teachers **‘Create, Innovate, Celebrate’**

The excitement and positivity of 160 Jewish Studies teachers was profound, as they joined together for the first in-person LSJS Primary School Jewish Studies conference in three years. Now in its twelfth year, the conference provided our JS teachers with an intensive and inspiring day, with a focus to ‘create, innovate and celebrate’ Jewish education. LSJS partnered with, and was sponsored by UnitEd, an Israel Ministry of Diaspora initiative, which works to strengthen Jewish education in the Diaspora. This year, we were privileged to host 24 European educators from Jewish schools in twelve cities across Europe, including Tallin, Dusseldorf, Bucharest and Stockholm.



**L to r: Esther Colman, Dr Helena Miller, Joanne Greenaway, Emily Shapiro (UnitEd),
Atara Kenigsberg (UnitEd), Rabbi Dr Raphael Zarum**



We were honoured that the Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis, launched the day with a keynote address, and reminded all present of the invaluable role they play in the future of Anglo-Jewry. He challenged our teachers to continue to innovate and develop creative approaches that provide relevance to the next generation, whilst remaining grounded in the values and teachings of our rich tradition.



Chief Rabbi Sir Mirvis addresses a packed room

Our teachers had the opportunity to hear from both home-grown and internationally renowned educators. The twenty-one inspirational workshops on offer included sessions about the incorporation of technology in the teaching of Torah, creative ways of bringing the weekly parasha to life, and talking about G-d in our classrooms. The day culminated with three dynamic TED talk presentations that left our teachers excited to implement their learning back in their classrooms.

David Wilk, Head of Jewish Studies at North West London Jewish Day School in Willesden, said: "This has been an absolutely fantastic day. Even though I've been a teacher for many years, the sessions today have given me new insights to take back into school".

Joanne Greenaway, CEO of LSJS, said: "For me, this is what Jewish education is all about. Taking a day out of the routine to come together, be inspired and learn from one other will pay enormous dividends in the teaching and learning that happens in our schools. There are so many exceptional educators in our community and having a chance to learn from them has been a privilege. The participation of teachers from all over Europe was enriching and we are grateful to UnitEd for bringing us together".

Conference co-chairs Dr Helena Miller and Esther Colman were delighted to see how many practical ideas for different areas of the Jewish Studies curriculum could be adapted for use in school the very next day. In addition, Dr Miller said: "Jewish education is not just what we teach, but how we teach it. Our teachers are role models for the children in their schools, and today's conference showed how important that is for every classroom".

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