

**Last Review:** June 2023  
**Next Review:** July 2026  
**Committee:** Teaching and Learning

The rationale for this policy was developed alongside the schools ethos. When representatives of the school met with representatives of the progressive communities that the school was going to serve, Rabbis from the community expressed concern that if JCoSS enabled students to have their bar/bat mitzvah at the school then synagogue membership would suffer as a result. Therefore it was agreed that if a family approached the school about a bar/ bat mitzvah the school would direct them to a synagogue. This was part of an effort for students to build a lasting and cohesive relationship with the whole Jewish community rather than just the community that exists in a school.

- JCoSS staff will not offer Bar or Bat Mitzvah classes to students. Private arrangements may be made between parents and JCoSS staff, subject to agreement by the Director of Jewish Learning or Director of Jewish Life
- JCoSS will encourage those students wanting a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration to approach their local synagogue Rabbi for lessons; JCoSS will broker an introduction to an appropriate synagogue should parents give their consent for us to do so.
- JCoSS will endeavour in extenuating circumstances to make possible a Bar or Bat at Mitzvah celebration for those students unable to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration in their synagogue.