Dear prospective family

Thank you for your interest in Sholem Aleichem College.

Our unique school strives to provide its students with a well-rounded, strong academic and Jewish education. Our underlying goal is to ensure that children gain “values for a lifetime”. Children need to have a sense of identity; to know who they are, where they have come from and where they are going. Our motto - “Make mine a Mentsh” epitomises the important goals of the school.

Sholem Aleichem College is a secular, Jewish school that aims to foster a love of Jewish culture, history, traditions and festivities in a secular educational setting. At the heart of the College is the study of Yiddish language and culture, Hebrew, Jewish history, traditions and customs, and literature, together with a rich and diverse general curriculum that focuses on the arts, health and physical education, literacy and numeracy.

Sholem Aleichem College aims to achieve excellence in learning and teaching by providing a secure educational environment, and by encouraging a harmonious working relationship involving the student, teacher and parent.

We believe that our school is a wonderful place of learning and opportunity. Our staff are absolutely committed to providing the very best in education and care and to ensuring that learning is a positive experience.

Please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a tour of our school. We look forward to welcoming you!

Mit Shul Grusn

HELEN GREENBERG
Principal
Sholem Aleichem College Enrolment Policy

Rationale
Sholem Aleichem College is a secular Jewish school and is an open entry school. Our student intake is not restricted to religion, locality or area of residence and we provide an inclusive broad education. Children enrolling at our school receive a smooth transition that enables them to become part of our school with a minimum of disruption and maximum support.

Purpose
To provide an efficient process of enrolment that satisfies the needs of both the students and the school.

Guidelines for Implementation
Sholem Aleichem College considers a range of criteria when offering places to students and seeks to provide procedural fairness.

Enrolment Criteria
1. All families wanting to give their children a secular Jewish Education.
2. Preference is given to families with children already at the school, or Preschool, or the child of a Sholem graduate. Please note however, that should you currently have a child in the Preschool and you remove that child from Sholem for Primary School, additional children are not guaranteed a place in the Preschool. Sholem also has the right to withdraw offers for the preschool if siblings (currently in the Preschool) are removed from the school for Prep.
3. Families are accepted according to available places once registration has been completed and the registration fee has been paid.
4. Upon acceptance of a place, all children at the College are enrolled through to Grade 6.
5. Students enrolling at our school as part of a Prep intake will be required to provide proof of age (indicating that they have turned 5 years of age by the 30th April of that year) and an immunisation certificate.
6. A child who is less than the minimum age of entry for Victorian schools but has transferred from an interstate school is eligible for enrolment. Evidence of age and full-time enrolment at the interstate school must be provided.
7. Other parents seeking early age entry for their children must make a written application to the principal.
8. Students with disabilities and impairments will be enrolled along with all other eligible children (as long as Sholem Aleichem College can adequately meet the child’s needs). Prior to commencement, a meeting must occur with the Director of Learning and a support group must be established.
9. Contact will be made with previous Schools and Kindergartens of all students seeking enrolment or transfer to discuss the circumstances of the transfer, to seek a transfer note or an immunisation certificate (if enrolling), and to discuss the child’s development and learning to date. The Principal has the authority to defer admission until after enquiries have been made with the previous school.
10. Students will be allocated to classes according to a combination of class size and student need.

When submitting an enrolment application, parents acknowledge their acceptance of the policies and philosophy of the school and their commitment to work in cooperation with school personnel for the benefit of their child.

Acceptance of an enrolment at Sholem Aleichem College indicates that parents understand their children will participate in the school’s general and Jewish studies programs.

All enrolments will be at the discretion of the Principal.
ENROLMENT PROCEDURE – Preschool

Thank you for your enquiry and interest in enrolling your child in our College.

1. In order to register your child for enrolment please complete the registration form and, together with $100 non-refundable registration fee, send to:

   Enrolment Officer
   Sholem Aleichem College
   11 Sinclair Street
   ELSTERNWICK VIC 3185

2. A tour of the College will then be arranged with the Principal and Director of the Preschool for the child and family, if one has not yet taken place.

3. After completing the tour, your child will be placed on the waiting list for Preschool.

4. A letter offering your child a place at the Preschool will be mailed to you early in the year prior to when your child is due to commence preschool. Should you accept this offer for enrolment, an enrolment fee of $900* will be required to secure the place in our Preschool.
   * $450 refundable after completion of Prep and $450 refundable after completion of Grade 6, once a refund form is submitted and approved.

5. Once we have received confirmation of your acceptance of the place, you will be mailed an enrolment agreement to be completed and returned with:
   a. a copy of your child’s Immunisation Certificate and History Statement; and
   b. a copy of your child’s birth certificate

Should you have any questions about the enrolment procedure, please don’t hesitate to contact our Enrolment Officer on 8527 3000 or email enrolment@sholem.vic.edu.au

Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.
ENROLMENT PROCEDURE – Primary School

Thank you for your enquiry and interest in enrolling your child in our College.

1. In order to register your child for enrolment please complete the registration form and, together with $100 non-refundable registration fee, send to:

   Enrolment Officer  
   Sholem Aleichem College  
   11 Sinclair Street  
   ELSTERNWICK VIC 3185

2. A tour of the College will then be arranged with the Principal for the child and family.

3. On completion of the interview and tour, a formal offer for enrolment at our College will be sent to you (or an offer for your child to be placed on the waiting list).

4. Should you accept this offer for enrolment, an enrolment fee of $1050 will be required to secure the place in the Primary School.  
   *$600 of this fee is redeemable against Term 1 Fees and $450 is refundable after completion of Grade 6, once a refund form is submitted and approved.

5. Once we have received confirmation of your acceptance of the place, you will be mailed an enrolment agreement to be completed and returned with:

   a. a copy of your child’s Immunisation Certificate and History Statement; and  
   b. a copy of your child’s birth certificate

6. An Orientation Process will then be established with the new student.

Should you have any questions about the enrolment procedure, please don’t hesitate to contact our Enrolment Officer on 8527 3000 or email enrolment@sholem.vic.edu.au

Evaluation
This policy will be reviewed as part of the school’s three year review cycle.
**Mission Statement**

At Sholem Aleichem College we recognise each child as an individual, with unique abilities to be nurtured, talents to be discovered and needs to be met. We believe in the education of the whole person so that our children can be knowledgeable and creative, socially, spiritually and ethically aware, and contributing and fulfilled members of the local, Jewish and global community.

We provide a challenging education in a caring and safe environment where children can develop their self worth and sense of responsibility.

We support and enrich the diverse abilities and talents of our community by providing a broad academic and co-curricular program.

We work together as a team. Strong interpersonal relationships between staff, children and parents create a supportive and encouraging community.

We believe every child should have the opportunity to experience success and to develop a love of learning.

We provide an inclusive Jewish education incorporating the teaching of Yiddish and Hebrew language and culture. Our trilingual immersion program inspires our children to discover the joys of learning about the world around them. We foster a love of Jewish culture, history, traditions and festivals in a secular educational setting.

We promote the teaching and learning of values for a lifetime.

**College History**

In 1935, the Melbourne IL Peretz Sunday School, and later in 1947, its sister Sunday school, Sholem Aleichem, were established. These Yiddish schools were inspired by the forward thinking Tsisho schools of Eastern Europe.

Many leaders of the school movement recognised that for Jewish children in Australia to have a truly Jewish education, for them to become bi-cultural and have a passionate sense of Jewish identity, there was no substitute for a day school. They envisaged an important new link in *der goldener keyt*, (the golden chain of Jewish tradition). They saw their dream realised when the school opened its doors to ten Prep children in 1975.

Sholem Aleichem College began in Elsternwick in 1947 as a Sunday school, which taught Yiddish and Jewish studies. The Kindergarten was established in the original building in 1951. In 1975, Sholem Aleichem College was constructed around the original house and became a day-school offering education from Prep to Grade 6. The current Preschool was built in 1976 and extended its operating hours in 1995.

Sholem Aleichem College has flourished into a world recognised centre of Jewish and Yiddish education – a tribute to the vision of its founders.
Philosophy of the College

Sholem Aleichem College fosters awareness of all aspects of Jewish life with a particular emphasis on the promotion of Yiddish language and literature, Hebrew and Jewish culture “veltkhe yiddishkayt”- a secular approach to Jewish history, traditions and customs, ethics and values. Our purpose is to cultivate in our students a passionate sense of Jewish identity and a sense of belonging to the world-wide Jewish people with special ties to the Australian Jewish community and the State of Israel.

The school aims to develop in our children, as the basis of lifelong learning: excellence in the skills of numeracy, literacy, oracy and social adaptability. We do this by providing a wide range of educational experiences that acknowledge individual differences in a caring coeducational environment. Our goal is to help each student realise his or her potential, building confidence, motivation and self-discipline. We foster well-rounded development by actively involving our children in an exceptional music education program, as well as providing outstanding opportunities for development through the performing and creative arts, sciences and sport. The school also provides a trilingual language program – English, Yiddish and Hebrew.

The school aims to provide the best possible educational environment, which enables excellence in learning and teaching.

We support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy including a commitment to elected government, the rule of law, and equal rights before the law.

Sholem Aleichem College creates a secure learning environment by encouraging a harmonious working relationship involving child, teacher and parent. We build a sense of belonging and cooperation by promoting mutual respect, in line with our belief in the ideals of freedom of religion, speech and association, peace, openness, tolerance and social justice.

The College’s Jewish Studies Philosophy

The study of Jewish languages, Yiddish culture, Jewish history and traditions, Jewish ethics and customs (under the all-encompassing concept of “Yiddishkeit”) is the heart and soul of Sholem Aleichem College. Therein lies our uniqueness and that which distinguishes us from any other Jewish Day School in Australia.

Sholem Aleichem College puts great emphasis on its multifaceted Jewish Studies program. The program fosters awareness of all aspects of Jewish life with a particular emphasis on Jewish culture, Yiddish language and literature, Hebrew language as well as Jewish history, traditions and customs, ethics and values. Our purpose is to cultivate in our students a passionate sense of Jewish identity and a sense of belonging to the worldwide Jewish people with special ties to the Australian Jewish community and the State of Israel.

The LOTE Program at Sholem Aleichem College aims to give our students the ability to communicate in Yiddish and Hebrew and to appreciate the richness and diversity of Yiddish culture. As a result, our students are able to understand their cultural and historical heritage. Our students leave the school with a strong sense of their Jewish identity, as well as an understanding of Australia’s multi-cultural and ethnically diverse society.

Sholem Aleichem College seeks to instruct its students in all facets of Jewish life. We celebrate all the Jewish festivals, underlining the intrinsic ethical and moral lessons of these festivals. Our children are taught Jewish History from biblical to modern times and are given a sense of the continuity of that history and of how the Jews have survived as a people for thousands of years.
We teach our children to appreciate the beauty of the Jewish experience and its traditions so that they feel comfortable with their Jewishness and proud of their heritage. The Jewish Studies Curriculum reflects the secular approach of Sholem Aleichem College towards Jewish life.

As Jewish languages are an essential part of Jewish identity, our aim is to make our children truly multilingual. Yiddish and Hebrew are both taught as living languages.

Yiddish is taught as a vibrant language, so that by the time the children leave the school, they can read and converse in Yiddish. The study of Hebrew (using state of the art resources including the Tel Sela and Tel Am Programs) as well as the role of the State of Israel in Jewish life ensures that our students are well prepared to continue this learning at any Jewish secondary school. Appreciating these vital components of their Jewish heritage and identity is also important.

As we run an integrated program all the Jewish festivals and national events are studied and commemorated in both the General and Jewish Studies programs. Rosh Hashona, Yom Kippur, Sukkes, Simkhes Torah, Chanukah, Tu B’Shvat, Purim, Pesakh, Yom Haatsmaut and Shavuot are studied and experienced at all levels – from Preschool to Grade 6. Sholem Aleichem’s birthday, Yom Yerushalayim, Lag B’Omer and Tishah B’av are also part of the Jewish Studies curriculum as is Yom Hashoah, which is dealt with at an age appropriate level.

Jewish history, traditions and ethics are taught from a secular perspective from Preschool to Grade 6. Jewish history and Bible stories (Tanakh) are taught informally from Preschool and formally from Grade 1 onwards. The curriculum begins with Adam and Eve and Abraham and Sarah and follows the ebbs and flows of Jewish History leading to 1,000 years of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, the establishment of the modern State of Israel to our own vibrant Australian Jewish community.

Sholem Aleichem College offers its own Bar/Batmitzvah program. This begins during Grade Six studies and continues, out of school hours, for part of Year 7, culminating in a Bnai Mitzvah Ceremony.

The aim of the Sholem Aleichem College Bar/Batmitzvah program is to increase the student’s ability to make Jewish choices for themselves and to take up responsible citizenship in the Jewish community as they leave Sholem Aleichem College and enter adolescence.

The Bar/Batmitzvah can serve to complement a traditional synagogue oriented ceremony or stand on its own as an entry to adult Jewish "citizenship" if the individual family so chooses.
Yiddish Language Studies

Aims

Sholem Aleichem College aims to develop in our students a fluency in and love of Yiddish language and culture. Through language immersion our students will gain a deeper understanding of their rich cultural heritage. This program will provide them with another tool to further their Jewish expression and identity. It is envisaged that through the program the children will be personally enriched. They will be able to perform in Yiddish and will be able to go out into the community confident in their understanding of Yiddish and their own language skills.

Structure

Yiddish is taught daily at Sholem Aleichem College at all levels including Preschool. Prep study Yiddish / Jewish Studies five lessons per week, Grade 1 and 2 study Yiddish / Jewish Studies six lessons per week, and Grades 3 to 6 study Yiddish / Jewish Studies seven lessons per week.

Method and Materials

In the lower grades a thematic approach is used to teach Yiddish – integrating themes from the General Studies curriculum. Our children use internationally prescribed textbooks as well as supplementary worksheets and activities. Yiddish learning programs and word processing programs are used in the Sholem Aleichem College computer lab.

As Yiddish is taught as a vibrant language at Sholem Aleichem College, oral work is an integral part of our language learning program. Creative writing in Yiddish is experienced by children in the upper grades. The children work both individually and in groups and experience both formal and informal creative learning experiences. The children also interact with native Yiddish speakers, both within the school itself and in the larger Melbourne Jewish community.

Adaptation groups are available for those children experiencing difficulties in Yiddish and to help integrate new students into the mainstream Yiddish/Jewish Studies classes.

Hebrew Language Studies

Aims

The program aims to instil in the students a love of the Hebrew language and to bring enjoyment to their Hebrew learning experience. Students should become curious about the use of Hebrew in modern Israeli society and through the language, develop an interest in and so become familiar with, cultural and Jewish life in Israel.

It is envisaged that the children will feel competent in their understanding of language taught in class and that they will experience personal development through the program. We hope to develop each student’s confidence in her/his own abilities. The program prepares students who graduate from Sholem Aleichem College to integrate into Hebrew learning programs in all Jewish Secondary Schools.
Structure

All students from Preschool to Grade 6 receive Hebrew tuition. Preschool and Prep students have weekly sessions that immerse children in Hebrew song, dance and basic language.

Students in Grades 1 and 2 receive two sessions per week, in Grades 3 and 4 it's three lessons a week and in Grades 5 and 6 they receive four. They work through prescribed texts and workbooks as well as supplementary worksheets and activities. The program involves both group and individual work, including both formal and informal creative learning experiences. A thematic approach to the language acquisition program is used. This runs concurrently with textbook study.

Methods and Materials

Tel Sela and Tel Am are state of the art programs and resources implemented in our Hebrew curriculum. The program provides a balance of formal and creative areas and includes reading, translation, grammar, stories, songs, dances, drama, poems, games, flash cards, art, computer group and individual work. We encourage children’s involvement in the learning process and welcome any books and resources relevant to our learning program.
The Preschool General Studies Program

Our aim is to provide a positive learning environment that will promote the developmental levels of each child. Developmental programs are planned with an emphasis on ‘Learning Through Play’ and ‘Individual Children’s Needs.’ The development of the ‘Whole Child’ is at the core of our planning.

Children’s play, when guided and planned for appropriately, enables the process of learning and development to occur in a relaxed and positive way. Through play children explore, discover, and experience. Play is the work of childhood and it is through this medium that young children attempt to make sense of the world around them.

- The program integrates Jewish Studies at all times
- Individual room programs are planned on a weekly basis
- The programs are displayed in individual rooms for parents to read
- Staff are responsible for monitoring the individual development of each child. Parents’ feedback and involvement is valued and is an essential component of communication between staff and families.

- Staff will initiate and facilitate regular and ongoing communication with parents concerning their child
- The program will often be supplemented by the incidental, unplanned events that arise daily
- Experiences offered are open ended with an emphasis on the process not the end product
- The children are able to create, invent and extend upon their innate curiosity
- The program encourages the children to be sensitive, caring and respectful of the health and safety of others
- The children have an opportunity to solve problems, make safe choices and develop their independence skills
- The children are stimulated and challenged in all areas of development
- An opportunity will be provided for children who wish to play in a quiet area of the room

The Preschool Jewish Studies Program

Sholem Aleichem College Preschool is a Jewish Preschool that promotes Jewish languages and culture. We aim to create in each child a sense of belonging to the Jewish People, and to expose them to the special role that Israel has in Jewish life, within the framework of living in multicultural Australia.

We provide our children with an immensely rich Jewish education, which is integrated into daily routine. Jewish festivals are taught and celebrated, and Shabbes is observed every week. Stories from Jewish history and the Bible are also taught. The children learn Hebrew, mainly through song and dance, while Yiddish is taught daily in both formal and informal sessions. Yiddish vocabulary is further extended with the learning of songs, poems and dances and the playing of games. Throughout the program, Jewish symbols, values and ethics are emphasised wherever possible in ways that are enjoyable and meaningful.

As a part of Sholem Aleichem College, our Preschool is a secular institution, and we believe that religion is a personal matter. We feel that the teaching of blessings or other religious ritual is the prerogative of the parents and the home. Our broad approach exposes the children to a variety of ways for expressing their Judaism; cultural, religious and traditional. We aim to foster an understanding and acceptance of differences within the Jewish and broader community. In this way we hope to develop within the child an appreciation and awareness of the richness of their heritage.

Parents will be invited to participate in the celebration of some of the festivals and will regularly receive a sheet of “Shabbes Questions” that reflect some of what the children have learned in Jewish Studies during the week. There will also be a number of Jewish Studies incursions during the year.
**Preparation for Primary School in Senior Preschool**

Our Senior Preschool to Prep transition program starts from the beginning of Senior Preschool. The children develop a familiarity with the school environment, the teachers and the other children by attending the Primary school for various activities and assembly visits.

An orientation evening is held for parents and new parents each year, allowing families to hear, in some detail, the goals and programs of the teachers. It is also an opportunity for parents to ask questions.

In terms 3 and 4, the Senior Preschool children visit the primary school and meet the primary teachers. The prep teachers visit the kinder on a regular basis to get to know the children and work on preparing the children for school, together with the Preschool staff.

We also encourage a buddy system where we invite the Grade 4 children to spend time in the Senior Kinder. The aim is for the children to get to know each other to help make the transition to Primary School as smooth as possible. By the time the children start school relationships have been formed.