



**ST KILDA HEBREW CONGREGATION INC** REG. NO: A1256

ABN: 26 428 090 013

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Office hours Mon to Thu 9:00am - 5:00pm, Fri 9:00am - 1:00pm

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July 2016  
Tammuz 5776

Dear Bnei Mitzvah and families

### **St Kilda Shule – Bar Mitzvah Programme 2016/17**

We hope you are all enjoying your winter holidays.

You are receiving this letter as you will be celebrating your Bar Mitzvah at St Kilda Shule in the next 12 months and we, as a Shule, are very excited to be part of your special occasion.

We are also very excited that you will be part of the 2016/17 St Kilda Shule Bar Mitzvah programme.

The current programme is for the boys celebrating their Bar Mitzvahs before July 2017.

#### **Details of the first session**

Date: Sunday 31 July 2016

Time: 5.00 to 6.00 pm

For the first 10 minutes, parents and boys are invited for a 'meet and greet' and a short information session on the Bar Mitzvah programme and expectations

Boys then remain for their first session until 6.00pm

Where: St Kilda Shule Danglow Centre

Who: Rabbi Glasman will be taking this session

#### **About the 2016/17 Programme**

The 2016/17 Programme is designed for boys celebrating their Bar Mitzvahs at St Kilda Shule in 2016 and 2017. Our programme, run by our own Rabbis Yaakov Glasman and Hillel Nagel, is designed with two intakes per year. You will be joining the mid-year intake with boys who are the same age as you.

Our programme is designed to be educational, interactive, practical, and above all fun. While we cover all aspects of the Jewish calendar, Jewish life cycle and Jewish tradition – it will not be the curriculum covered in Jewish day schools. The programme will imbue the boys with life lessons about Jewish identity and leadership and also enable them to form lifelong friendship with other boy and girls from the St Kilda Shule community.

The Bar Mitzvah programme runs alongside its sister Bat Mitzvah programme and both programmes join together a number of times throughout the year for activities and excursions.



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We are conscious of the fact that the Bar Mitzvah year is a very busy year –school, sport, extra-curricular activities and, of course, attendance at each other’s functions– however, we know that this unique programme will benefit the boys both now, as they become young Jewish adults, and in the future as they become an integral part of the community. Therefore, we ask that the boys and their parents make every effort to attend and support each of the elements of the programme.

### **We have designed the programme as follows:**

- Bar Mitzvah programme – Weekly interactive programme (with activities, presentation and excursions) run:
  - 3 weeks a month on a Sunday (or other weeknight to be agreed with BM group)
  - Final week of each month on a Shabbat morning. This component allows for you and your son to become comfortable with the conduct of Shabbat services.
- Shammes roster programme, where the boys are rostered to assist with the distribution of honours and learn leadership
- Sunday morning Tefillin breakfasts approximately every 4 to 6 weeks

A general overview of the programme and curriculum is enclosed with this letter.

Many of the topics described in the course are presented through a special programme called “Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) for Teens” - a worldwide course designed for Bar Mitzvahs boys entering their teenage years. It is an interactive and thought-provoking course. We have used this programme in the past and it has been very successful.

A new part of the course, run very successfully last year, is a professional photography course which teaches the boys photo taking skills. They use these skills in a competition in which they present a photo collage in the Shule’s sukkah. We plan to run this course again in late 2016.

### **Our key goals for the programme include:**

- To make Shule, and in particular St Kilda Shule, a comfortable environment and a positive experience for the boys and their families. We hope that in years to come, the Shule will be a ‘home away from home’ where the boys can find a place to pray, to meet people, to find support when needed, to share their happy occasions and to feel they are part of the community.
- Jewish social interaction with boys and girls from a range of schools and backgrounds and we hope that our programmes will imbue the boys with a sense of community and friendship that will last for many years ahead, especially with their fellow young congregants of the St Kilda Shule family.



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## Child Protection Policy

St Kilda Shule is a child-safe environment in which all staff and volunteers are screened where they may have access to children.

The Shule was one of the first Shule's to implement a policy (in Jan 2013) to safeguard the interests of vulnerable people persons, which includes minors (under 18) amongst others. The policy, amongst other things, prohibits our staff and volunteers to be alone with a vulnerable person. While this is not normally an issue for our classes, we need to reiterate certain rules that *may* apply each week:

1. For drop off, the child to arrive for our Bar/Bat Mitzvah classed must wait with the parent until second child arrives or child to wait at gate in view of camera (to avoid security risk). We note that in most cases the Bar Mitzvah class will be already in session when the first girl arrives for the bat Mitzvah class, as these two classes are staggered to start ½ hour after the previous one. Therefore, one of our staff will advise if the parent can leave.
2. If only one child turns up to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah session, having waited sufficient time, then the session will be cancelled and the parent will be asked to take the child home.
3. For pick up, the last child to be picked up must wait with one of our staff at the gate in full view of the camera if there is no one else on the premises. We note that in most cases the Bat Mitzvah class will still be on the premises when the Bar Mitzvah class concludes. Therefore, one of our staff may stay on the premises with the last boy to be collected and near the ongoing Bat Mitzvah class.
4. As per previous communications, we will be having frequent Shabbat programmes (instead of the Sunday for that week). This should normally present no problem for our policy as the group is large and there are lots of people on the premises. However, should the group be small on any particular Shabbat, the programme will be held in the Board room off the foyer of the Shule. This ensures that other people are near to, and may pop into, the programme.
5. The "Protection of Vulnerable persons" policy also precludes our staff or volunteers being on their own with a minor even in the minor's home. That means that if one of our staff or volunteers is assisting your son/daughter with his/her Torah reading, Haftarah or Dvar Torah OR it is agreed to conduct this session in the home of our staff or volunteer, then another person will need to be present (it could be the parent, another child or a spouse of our staff member, who happens to also be home) and able to pop in unannounced into the room where the session is being conducted.

We always remind parents at the commencement of the new programme of this policy.

We look forward to welcoming you in our programmes and please call Rabbi Hillel if you have any questions (on 0424 018 080 or [hillel.nagel@gmail.com](mailto:hillel.nagel@gmail.com)).

Best wishes

Rabbi Yaakov Glasman  
Rabbi Hillel Nagel



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**BM PROGRAMME CURRICULUM**

JLI Course (3 part series)	Life on the Line (ethical dilemmas in Judaism) I love Israel Hollywood Idol
Excursions & Incursions	Matza Bakery Sofer/Tefillin making Melbourne kosher manufacturers and eateries Shofar factory Sukkah building and decorating Shabbatons
Shammes Programme	Boys will be rostered on a rotation basis as the shammes where they will assist the Gabbai to run the service and Torah reading
Shule Youth services	Monthly Shabbat morning programme During these services, we will also learn the prayers that the boys are expected to know as part of their Bar Mitzvah at St Kilda Shule
Sunday Tefillin Breakfast	Every 6-8 weeks approximately
Photography short course	Short professional photography course Presentation of Bar Mitzvah Photo Competition