

ATOI 2023 FAQs

TRAVEL

Can my child sit with their friends on the plane?

Students must sit where their ticket is allocated, as per airline regulations. Seats are allocated by the airline not JFS. Students are not permitted to change seats on the flight to Israel or the return. This is for the safety of all passengers, to enable a quick boarding time, to ensure that specialised meals get to the correct individuals, and so as not to cause a Chillul Hashem.

What is the process is for my child staying on in Israel and not flying back?

Please email your group leader and Mrs K Thomas (thomask@jfs.brent.sch.uk) to inform them that your child will be picked up at Ben Gurion Airport on Thursday 20th July. Please give full details of who will be picking up your child and their contact details. The exact timings will be communicated to you and must be kept to.

Can my child come to school alone/early on departure day?

No, students must be accompanied by a parent/guardian when dropped off at school on departure day and must only arrive at 14:00.

Students are not required to be in school on Friday 21st July.

Who will look after passports and money?

These will be handed in to one of the group members of staff when you drop off your child. Passports will be kept in a centralised safe for the duration of ATOI. Money (Shekels only) is to be placed in two envelopes and will be given out at the start of each week of the trip.

Do we need to provide a meal for them to eat at the airport as they won't be getting on the plane until quite late, or will they be allowed to buy food at the airport?

Students will get dinner on the plane. They will not be able to buy food in the airport, you can send them with (kosher) snacks if you wish.

Do we lock suitcases?

No - airport security will always need to be able to check a case if they wish.

What emergency address do we put on the suitcases?

Israel Experience - HaAskan 3, Jerusalem, 937 8010

Are they allowed an iPad for the plane journeys?

Only devices that cannot connect to the internet will be permitted throughout the trip. Your child alone will be responsible for their valuables and for opportunities to keep them charged.

Day 1 of the itinerary says they are going straight to the Kotel (before check-in). Will girls need to change into skirts?

Girls will not have to change, but may do so if they wish. If they wish to change into skirts/dresses/smarter clothes please pack these at the top of their case and they will be able to take them out on arrival.

PROGRAMMING

If my child does not want to do an activity on the trip, are they able to sit out?

No student will be permitted to miss any part of their group's itinerary except for in extreme extenuating circumstances. Students sitting out take staff away from the group, affecting ratios and our ability to care for the group as a whole.

Can students visit family and friends whilst on ATOI?

No, and family/friends must not arrange to meet the group. There is always a chance that timings or venues may change last minute and this can pose a safeguarding risk to the group.

How much freedom do students have and how are they protected?

Groups are in constant contact with Israel's Cheder Matsav (Situation Room) who advise groups as to where they can and can't go, and to all elements of physical safety including extreme weather. The group will also be accompanied by a security guard/medic on hikes.

Students will have no unsupervised free time, and when out and about they will always be with a group and have clear boundaries.

When will we find out what room are child has been allocated?

Your child will find out on arrival at each hostel/hotel. We intend to place your child with at least one person from their requested list.

THE JEWISH NATURE OF THE TRIP

What happens on Shabbat?

A highlight of ATOI is always spending two Shabbats in a group together with friends. To create a full Shabbat atmosphere, expectations, guidelines, and dress code are outlined in advance. Students are expected to respect these and do their best to work with and enhance the Shabbat atmosphere.

Is my child expected to pray?

Following breakfast every day is a compulsory slot dedicated to Tefila (prayer) where students will be able to choose between a formal orthodox service or an explanatory discussion group.

Some elements of prayer on Shabbat will be compulsory, but again these will be aided with explanatory content, learning, and fun activities.

What about Siddur and Tefilin?

Your child is expected to bring a full Siddur, which can be used on the weekday and Shabbat. We recommend the blue Koren NCSY Siddur (Tribe Editions) or the green Rabbi Sacks Siddur. Boys are also expected to bring Tefilin and will have the opportunity to put them on (or learn to) in a variety of settings. **If your child will need to have a siddur or tefilin provided by the school, please send them to speak to Mr Cohen in Y116 in person.**

DRESS CODE

Is it correct that girls can wear trousers and shorts?

Yes, girls can wear trousers and shorts. Shorts and skirts must meet the same length requirements as skirts in school (i.e., to the knee).

Do the children need to take a water bottle with them?

It is highly advisable that your child have their own reusable (ideally 1 litre +) water bottle for the trip. They will be provided with a plastic bottle in Israel, which they can look after and refill, but having their own bottle on top of this is advised.

What can my child wear on Shabbat?

We expect a smarter level of clothing on Shabbat in honour of the day. This means no sportswear or denim. Girls are expected to wear a dress or skirt during formal programmes. Boys should wear a polo or buttoned shirt and smart trousers or shorts during formal programmes

Can you explain the advice about swimming shorts for girls?

On a water hike, girls will need to wear clothing which can get wet, but which they are also able to walk in (e.g. swimming shorts and a dark coloured t-shirt). If they wish, they can wear swimming attire underneath (e.g. a bikini) as it might be more comfortable than underwear.

Only when visiting a separate swimming area will they be allowed to wear swimwear only (and then only if weather permits - i.e. if it is too hot they will need to keep a t-shirt on).

Do the children need to wear old t-shirts while swimming?

This will depend on specific situations such as location and temperature/UV intensity. Please do pack a couple of T Shirts (light sports tops/dry-fit are a good idea) your child can swim in if required.

COMMUNICATION

Will students be allowed to keep their phones? How will I be able to communicate with my child during the trip?

Phones will be collected at the start of the trip and kept safe. They will be given out 2 to 3 times per week, one of which will be Friday afternoon. Parents will be kept updated via the Facebook groups. Students should bring cameras to capture memories.

How can I communicate with group leaders directly?

Group 1 leaders: Rabbi D Karp karp@jfs.brent.sch.uk and Mr B Kagan kagan@jfs.brent.sch.uk

Group 2 Leader: Miss L Sage lauren.sage@jfs.brent.sch.uk

Group 3 Leader: Mr R Cohen Rafi.Cohen@jfs.brent.sch.uk

Group 4 Leader: Mr R Smart smart@jfs.brent.sch.uk