



Guidelines on Children

1. Yakar Kehilla aims to be an inclusive synagogue community. This means that children are welcome and are allowed to be children. It also means that some participants in Yakar Kehilla events are people who do not want to be around children when they are engaged in prayer or study. Yakar Kehilla attempts to strike a balance between the requirements of children and adults. Members and participants are asked to exercise tolerance and to take account of the needs of others.
2. Yakar Kehilla members sometimes organise events or play areas for children such as “Kids’ Kehilla” or a “Yom Kippur Play Room”. In all such cases, parents remain ultimately responsible for their children. In the rare eventuality that a formal creche may be organised and that responsibility may be taken by trained creche staff, parents will be asked to sign a contract in advance with the creche manager.
3. If you are the parent or carer of a child or children then you should ensure that you are watching them at all times. Alternatively, you may make a private arrangement with someone you know and trust and ask them to take responsibility for watching your child for a given period of time. If you are thinking of leaving them unsupervised then you can probably assume the level of safety on the premises used by Yakar Kehilla as that in a public park.
4. Please do not assume that anyone is supervising your child unless you have made such an arrangement. Also please do not assume that every member of Yakar Kehilla is competent or trustworthy to take responsibility for a child, even for a short time. Yakar Kehilla events are usually open to the public, and not everybody is police-checked or vetted before they attend events or services. Being a member or participant at Yakar Kehilla is no guarantee of good character or of reliability.
5. The above points mean that children can not safely be asked to leave the main hall and left to their own devices elsewhere on the premises while their parents are engaged in study, conversation or prayer. This means that the need for tolerance is all the more pressing.
6. Yakar Kehilla does not accept responsibility for the welfare or safety of children at Yakar Kehilla events. That responsibility remains with the adult who brought them on to the premises.