



Office of The
CHIEF RABBI

Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP)

2023 Update for schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi - Schools Admissions 2024/25

Below is some helpful information to aid parents and guardians wishing to apply to Jewish schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi for their children for 2024/25.

A brief introduction:

The Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP) gives applicants the chance to demonstrate Jewish practice when applying to schools where a CRP forms part of the information to be supplied at the time of application. Parents and children complete this for nursery and primary applications, and the child does it for secondary entry in years 7, and 12.

Collecting CRP points allows you to prove that you are eligible for a faith place at the schools you are applying to that require a completed CRP form.

You will need to collect points on your CRP form. There are different ways in which you can do so, details of which you will find below.

New CRP Process 2024/25:

In a response to Covid-19, the CRP Process introduced new options for collecting points in 2020. These alterations were included as it was understood that collecting points from shul attendance alone could be challenging for some in a Covid-safe context.

If you completed a form in the last two years, you will see that the process has been reviewed and updated, as these emergency measures are no longer required. Please see below for details of these changes.

How many points do I need to collect?

Some schools will require 4 points, and some will ask for 6 points. Please make sure you check with each school you are applying to. Regardless of the number of points required, the same options on the form apply to all applications.

What do I have to do?

You need to collect **either 4 or 6 points** to have achieved your Certificate of Religious Practice. On completing different options, and therefore sections of the form, you will need to have these authorised as stipulated on the form. See the table below for details on the four options.

Points can be collected from any of the following categories. All choices are optional. A minimum of 4 or 6 points is required to achieve the CRP. There is no benefit from earning more than the required amount of points.

Option	Action Required	No. Points Available
Attending Synagogue	Register with your synagogue	8 visits = 4 points 4 visits = 2 points
Volunteering within the Jewish Community	Approach a communal, charitable or welfare organisation. Examples of options: https://www.theus.org.uk/category/us-chesed	2 points
Participating in Jewish Educational activities	Approach a Jewish educational institution. Examples of options: https://www.theus.org.uk/	2 points
Participating on the Tribe CRP Judaism course	Apply directly to Tribe: https://www.tribeuk.com/article/crp-2023	2 points

Once I have completed the form what do I do?

All sections of the form that have been completed require verification this can be achieved with either a certificate/issued letter where appropriate or needs to be signed by the person authorised by the organisation concerned. If you cannot obtain a signature in person, a letter can be provided by the person who would have signed it on behalf of the organisation confirming that you completed that section.

Once finalised, submit the CRP together with the other forms required as part of the application process directly to the school. If you are in any doubt what forms you need to complete, please check with the school that you are applying to what forms you are required to submit. Failure to send in the correct forms properly completed may compromise your application.

In detail:

1. What do I have to do?

When applying to a Jewish school or nursery under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, you will need to have completed a CRP. A copy must be sent directly to the school or nursery together with relevant supporting documents and the school's Supplementary Information Form (SIF). You should keep a copy of the CRP and its relevant supporting documents for your records.

Criteria for obtaining points on a CRP include attendance at shul, involvement in Jewish education, volunteering for a Jewish organisation and attending the Tribe CRP Judaism course.

2. How do I collect points by going to shul?

If you choose to collect points from your shul attendance you will need to register with your chosen shul. Please contact the shul office to register your collection of CRP points. Different shuls operate this in different ways. You will be added to a system that the shul uses to keep track of pupil's attendance. This data will be recorded and available to you when completing your CRP form.

3. What is the timeline for the whole CRP process?

Date	Reception/Primary applications	Year 7 applications	Sixth Form applications
01/11/2021	Earliest date for participating in Volunteering and Jewish Education projects		
21/04/2023	Recording shul attendance commences		
May - July 2023	Tribe CRP Judaism Courses running in various locations. See Tribe website for more details of your local course		
12/09/2023	Tribe CRP Judaism Course at Borehamwood & Elstree Synagogue. See Tribe website for booking details		
21/10/2023		Last week to record shul attendance	
31/10/2023		Last date for Volunteering and participation on Jewish Education programmes	
31/10/2023		Deadline for applications to schools	
06/01/2024	Last week to record shul attendance		Last week to record shul attendance
15/01/2024	Last date for Volunteering and participation on Jewish Education programmes		Last date for Volunteering and participation on Jewish Education programmes
15/01/2024	Deadline for applications to schools		
Late Jan / Early Feb 2024			Deadline for applications to Sixth Form (check with the school you are applying to)
February / April 2024	Places offered in February		Conditional places offered in April

4. When can I collect points from attending shul?

There are set dates when points from attending shul can be collected. The dates are as follows:

- For people applying for nursery and reception, the start date for collecting points by attending shul will commence on April 21st 2023, and will close on January 6th 2024.
- For people applying to Year 7, the start date for collecting points by attending shul will commence on April 21st 2023 and will close on October 21st 2023.
- For people applying to Year 12, the start date for collecting points by attending shul will commence on April 21st 2023 and will close on January 6th 2024

5. If I want to collect points from attending shul, how does it work?

A volunteer on each Shabbat will keep a record of who has attended. However, each shul manages the process differently. Please be assured that your shul will communicate with you once you have registered to give you more details on this part of the process.

6. When can I collect points from attending shul?

You can collect points from attending shul on a Friday night *OR* Shabbat morning. Please check with the shul you wish to attend for which services attendance can be recorded.

Not all shuls will be offering to collect points at both services.

You can only record attendance for 1 service per week, so you cannot record attendance for Friday night *AND* Shabbat morning on the same week.

7. What counts as Jewish Education for the section 'Participating in Jewish Educational activities'?

Attendance at Shiurim, Jewish nurseries, Jewish primary schools and Jewish adult educational courses are all examples of accepted educational activities.

8. What is the process for applying to Sixth Form?

The deadline for Sixth Form applications varies from school to school. You must complete the Year 7+ CRP form, but rather than October 31st being your deadline, you are able to continue collecting points until January 2024. Please check with the school you are applying to for details of their date for application and any particular CRP forms that should be used.

9. What is the Tribe CRP Judaism Course?

In response to Covid-19, this course was originally run online. The course will now be run in various United Synagogue shuls, by local Rabbis and teachers.

The course is open to all applicants from any community. It will consist of six sessions of 45 minutes, covering topics relevant to Jewish customs and practices, festivals, kashrut, etc. All six sessions need to be completed in order to satisfy this section of the CRP form.

For primary applications, the parent/guardian must attend the course, and for secondary, the parent/guardian and child should attend.

The next course is commencing on the 12th September 2023 at Borehamwood and Elstree Synagogue. Go to the Tribe course page for booking information.

<https://www.tribeuk.com/article/crp-2023>

For any further information or support call Tribe on **020 8343 5656**

10. I have missed one session of the CRP course due to unavoidable circumstances, what can I do?

It is a requirement to attend 6 sessions to collect 2 CRP points for attending the Tribe CRP Judaism course. In extreme and unavoidable circumstances, a catch-up session can be offered.

You can catch up on **one session only**. If you miss another session you will not have met the requirements to collect the points. Email crp@theus.org.uk regarding a catch-up session which will be organised following the completion of all the courses.

11. I am a member of a synagogue, so why do I have to complete a CRP?

In order to be a member of a synagogue, one has to pay a fee. To become a member of an orthodox synagogue one has to be halachically Jewish. The Supreme Court ruled that synagogue membership cannot be used as an admission criterion.

12. Does this apply to all schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi?

Almost all Jewish faith voluntary aided (state), free schools, academies, independent schools and independent nurseries have CRP requirements, whichever religious authority they are under.

13. Have all schools adopted the same CRP?

In 2020, a large group of the schools and nurseries under the religious authority of the Office of the Chief Rabbi, both primary and secondary, adopted the same CRP. However, not all schools have adopted the same CRP form.

It is important that you check the CRP requirements, including the number of points needed for each school or nursery to which you are applying.

14. Where can I get the CRP forms from?

They will be available from each school's office and/or website and the school's local authority.

15. What are the new four CRP sections?

1. Shul attendance on Friday night or Shabbat morning
2. Jewish educational activities
3. Voluntary Jewish communal, charitable or welfare activities
4. Completing the Tribe CRP Judaism course, a specially prepared course that is approved by the Office of the Chief Rabbi.

(Each section of the form has its own specified criteria that must be fulfilled and period of time in which it must be completed).

16. Who needs to have participated in or attended at a particular activity to complete the sections of the form, parent/guardian or child?

For options 1-3 (Shul attendance, Education, Volunteering) at secondary level, only the child's participation is to be recorded, whereas at nursery and primary, it is the child and/or their parent/guardian.

For the Tribe course, at primary level only the parent/guardian would attend each session. At secondary level both parent/guardian and child would attend each session.

17. What if my child already has a sibling in the school?

Each child must earn their own CRP points for applications to schools. The process was altered in 2020. Siblings of a pupil who had previously established faith eligibility for admissions were not required to complete the CRP form. This was created during the crisis to assist making the process easier in an already stressful situation. As we have got used to the circumstances that we are living in, it is now possible for all to complete the form as was previously required.

18. I am not sure about volunteering. What are the options?

Volunteering means giving your time, not your money. You could consider volunteering for a Jewish communal organisation or charity, and many of these organisations are always open to accepting more volunteers. You can also volunteer for your local synagogue, by being on a rota, taking part in their care activities, or through US Chesed. You cannot, however, volunteer for any school you are applying to, for the United Synagogue Head Office or the Office of the Chief Rabbi. For more ideas and suggestions please look at the [Jewish Volunteer Network](#) website and the [US Chesed](#) pages on the US website.

19. How can I volunteer as if I cannot spend time away from home?

There are many volunteering opportunities which can be carried out from home, e.g., by phone, on the internet, etc. Many communities have Care Coordinators. The US Chesed team will be pleased to support you.

20. In order to undertake voluntary work, will I need a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check?

In some instances, it is necessary to have a DBS, specifically if you intend to volunteer to work with children or vulnerable adults. It will be best for you to ask the organisation with which you volunteer.

21. Will my child receive preferential treatment if we achieve more than the required number of points required for school admission?

No, there is no benefit to obtaining more than the number of points stipulated on the form. If you do not achieve the required number of points this year (for example, obtain 2

points), you can still apply but would be ranked lower down in the list of applicants. The CRP is not an examination, but a method of establishing whether the child/family practises the three pillars of the Jewish faith, prayer, education and acts of kindness

Please note some schools ask for 4 points, and some ask for 6 points. Make sure you are clear on the number of points that are required for the school you are applying to.

22. I am applying for an in-year transfer, how does the process work? (including moving from abroad)

If you are moving your child during the school year, you must provide a letter from an acceptable Rabbi who is known to the family and who can state that the student/family is appropriate for attendance to the school you are applying to.

The letter must be sent on headed paper. Acceptance of this letter is at the discretion of the school being applied to.

23. I've still got questions about the CRP, which I don't think you have answered. What can I do?

For more information, please contact the schools directly. Details can be found in the [schools](#) listing.