

Mesivta Shaarei Adirim



Parent - Student Handbook

(August 2021)

This Handbook

The purpose of this Handbook is to provide talmidim and their parents with a clear understanding of the expectations in attending Shaarei Adirim, so that each talmid can thrive and achieve maximum success in Yeshiva.

Please note the broad comprehensive nature of this handbook may be overwhelming to the reader. The reader is advised that our intention is not to give an overwhelming set of directives, rather it is an effort to be as clear as possible as to the expectations of Shaarei Adirim. We aim to offer a very structured environment, while at the same time we are very understanding and flexible in allowing talmidim to acclimate to Shaarei Adirim. We continue to be flexible within our structure for as long as we are sharing in the chinuch of our talmidim.

What is a Yeshiva

A Yeshiva is a "cauldron" where Torah values "boil". A bochur in Yeshiva becomes infused with Torah values to last a lifetime. The endless hours of learning Torah, the constant guidance from Rebbeim and the shared mission of all involved to bring talmidim closer to Torah and Hashem is what defines a Yeshiva.

What is a ben Torah

Just as a son is representative and reflective of his parents, both in his physical features as well as his mannerisms and emotions, a ben Torah is representative and reflective of his connection with Torah in his behaviour and actions.

Shaarei Adirim

At Shaarei Adirim our mission is to empower our talmidim to be true bnei Torah. Inspiring lifelong growth, through building confidence and a can do attitude, and by nurturing life skills

We aim to imbue our talmidim with self-confidence, motivation, perseverance, and responsibility, so that they may shine in their own individual way, and be inspired to succeed in all facets of their lives. We guide, nurture, and train our talmidim through real life training and scenarios, and we challenge them to develop the skills they will need as adults.

Talmidim of Shaarei Adirim Code of Conduct

- “Be where you gotta be”
- “Do what you gotta do”
- “Don’t kvetch”
- Know “There is no such thing as I can’t”

Each Bochur should strive to demonstrate expected behaviors which make up the Talmidim’s Code of Conduct.

Classroom Management

A brain surgeon in the middle of surgery cannot stop for anything that is not directly relevant to the specific surgery he is performing. Rebbeim and teachers are engaged in brain surgery for the entire class and cannot stop for anything that is not directly relevant to the class they are teaching. Therefore at Shaarei Adirim if a Rabbi feels or notices any situation that needs attention and that is not directly relevant to his lesson he will give the talmid a note to go visit Rabbi Gaffen so that the matter can be resolved. THIS IS NOT DISCIPLINARY ACTION and should NOT be viewed as such. Rabbi or teacher simply does not address any other matter during class.

This can be simplified in two statements:

1. Rabbi/Teacher does not teach and do something else at the same time.
2. Rabbi/Teacher does not listen to two people talking at the same time

Student Services

Rabbi Gaffen oversees student services - this includes daily distribution of medications, maintaining refill orders (if needed), IEP and 504 plan integration to the extent possible, maintaining up to date evaluations and assessments, and implementing and maintaining additional professional services when needed.

Medication

Any talmid who has a prescribed medication must take his medication daily including Friday and Shabbosim, as well as off Shabbosim and Fast days. Medications should be turned in to Rabbi

Gaffen for daily administering and medication regimens should be communicated to Rabbi Gaffen as well.

Mesivta Shaarei Adirim requests a full physio/edu evaluation as recent as 3 years from every talmid.

Exceptions are:

1. A talmid is in the ongoing care of a physician for a longer period of time.
2. Talmidim who have completed 1 full year in the Yeshiva and the Hanhala does not have any medical concerns

The Hanhala reserves the right to initiate the evaluation process for any bochur deemed appropriate.

Discontinuing medication or not taking medication on non-classroom days or bein hazmanim must be approved in writing by a medical professional, after consultation with a member of the Hanhala, and must have final approval from Rabbi Elbaum, unless there is health risk involved, in which case the doctor's directive will suffice.

Dress Code

The Yeshiva's dress code enables each bochur to identify himself as a ben Torah. It is the talmid's responsibility to ensure that he is in compliance with these guidelines.

It goes without saying that all halachic requirements, including Minhagei Yisroel must be observed at all times. Hair length and hairstyle must also conform to halachic requirements. In addition hair must also be befitting a Ben Torah and should not be longer than 3 centimeters.

The dress code to be observed in Yeshiva and around town, and for all Yeshiva functions, both on and off campus is:

- Only solid black velvet Yarmulkas may be worn
- Hat and jacket must be worn for all Tefilos and when otherwise instructed
- Full button-down, white "dress-type" shirts with collars.
- Shirts must be tucked in at all times.
- Only the collar button may be worn open.
- Both an undershirt and tzitzis must be worn. Tzitzis DO NOT qualify as an undershirt, however non-mesh or non-see-through undershirt-tzitzis do qualify as both tzitzis and undershirt.

- Pants: Only black blue or dark grey pants. No jeans of any color; no “cargo” or “painter’s” pants; and no “baggy-style” jogging or sweat pants, no skinny pants, and no jeans style pants. No Tyro’s.
- Shoes or all black sneakers (no colored soles or other markings). Clogs (backless shoes), slippers, and crocs are not permitted. Any type of sneaker is allowed for PE and electives.
- Socks must be worn at all times, and must cover approx 6 inches past the ankles.
- No hoodies or sweatshirts are to be worn in Yeshiva or outside of the dorm, even when stepping into the back to make a phone call or running out to quickly pick something up or similar.

Park/Gym dress codes:

- Undershirt and tzitzis must be worn at all times. Undershirt-tzitzis DO NOT qualify for both when not wearing a shirt to play ball.
- No tank top or sleeveless t-shirts or undershirts, or tight fitting apparel.
- Only T-shirts befitting bnei Torah are to be worn, Yeshiva reserves the right to deem any T-shirt unbecoming a ben Torah.
- Long pants are strongly encouraged.

Dorm and sleeping:

- A shirt MUST be worn at all times.
- A robe MUST be used when changing outside of a locked bathroom
- Absolutely NO sleeping without a shirt, even when covered by a blanket.

Although the full Yeshiva dress code is not in effect bein hazmanim, bochurim MUST maintain a mode of dress befitting a ben Torah at all times even during bein hazmanim.

Cholov Yisroel

Shaarei Adirim follows the psak of Reb Moshe Feinstein regarding cholov stam, as such Yeshivos were never permitted by Reb Moshe to use cholov stam so in Yeshiva and Yeshiva's dorms Cholov Stam products are not permitted.

Electronics Policy

At Mesivta Shaarei Adirim we strive to empower our talmidim to be successful bnei Torah throughout their lives. Our Gedolim have spoken of the many dangers of different forms of technology and the potential dangers to the growth of our precious children. While technology is here to stay and the need for education in its proper use will be addressed in Yeshiva. Many items are detrimental to the goals and safety of the Yeshiva. Our responsibility to ensure the safety of each and every bochur is something we take very seriously. Therefore the following policies will be in effect:

1. No cell phones of any kind or internet and video capable devices may be brought to Yeshiva, or kept in the possession of any bochur in Yeshiva in town or out of town.
2. No internet or video capable devices or radio may be brought to the dorm.
3. Only cell phones purchased from the Yeshiva may be used during the zman. These will be available for purchase from the Yeshiva for \$75 at the beginning of the year.
4. No smart watches of any kind anywhere, regardless of connection.
5. During Bein Hazmanin and other breaks from Yeshiva Parents may decide to allow talmidim a tagged device. This includes sharing or usage of any device. In other words even parents may NOT share their untagged device with bochurim to be used.
6. **ONLY TAG IS ALLOWED, NO OTHER FILTER OR CONTROLS ARE ACCEPTABLE. Please note TAG has been proven by far to be the most successful filtration, however even TAG is not foolproof by their own admission and the best policy is no internet device being allowed unattended.**
7. No bochur may have a social media presence at any time including bein hazmanim. This includes Facebook, twitter, snapchat, instagram and all the many other platforms. If a bochur thinks there may be an exemption for him to have a social media presence, he must get prior approval from Rabbi Ausband. There are no exceptions or excuses for not being aware of Yeshiva's social media policy. If there are any questions, it must be assumed it is prohibited until an exemption is granted.

These policies are subject to change as needed. Any bochur who knowingly breaks these policies will be subject to disciplinary action including but not limited to confiscation and destruction of the device and a \$1,000 fine*.

This fine will need to be paid from the bochurs own money, NOT his parents or anyone else's money. If the bochur does not have the means with which to pay he will need to get a job to pay the fine.

** The severity of these issues is the cause for this extreme action. In the event a fine is given, the money will be gifted to a local Tzedaka and not refunded.*

Leaving the Dorm

Talmidim are not permitted to leave the dorm after they have been dropped off for the evening. The exception is Tuesday evening and erev Shabbos. Please see below for Tuesday and erev shabbos guidelines

Perimeter for Tuesday & Friday

Tuesday evening and erev shabbos, bochurim are allowed to go to specific stores only (Jewel-Osco, Keshet Stam, Tel Aviv Pizza, Kol Tuv groceries, North Shore Bakery, Great Chicago, Dollar Tree on Devon, Tel Aviv bakery, Hat Box, and Christina Cleaners). These excursions which are within the perimeter must be in groups of two or more, and must be called in and logged on VM before they depart and again upon return. All excursions other than the 10 listed above, must receive a verbal approval each time. A previous trip's approval even on the same day is not enough.

Visiting the Dorm

No outsiders, other than students from Shaarei Adirim, are allowed in the dorm.

Dorm Search

In order to ensure the ruchniyas and gashmiyas safety of all our talmidim, all dorms are subject to search at any time by the Hanhala.

Dress Code around Town

Bochurim must maintain yeshiva's dress code during after-hours, off-shabbosim, and bein hazmanim.

Visiting Houses of non-Yeshiva Friends

Visiting houses of non-Yeshiva friends, including past talmidim of Shaarei Adirim is not permitted, unless otherwise approved. Socializing with talmidim who have been asked to leave Yeshiva is not permitted.

Yeshiva Property Damage

Intentional damage of Yeshiva property or KCT or the dorm will be billed to the bochur who is responsible for the damages. In cases of dispute regarding who is the responsible party, Yeshiva reserves the right to make a final determination. Yeshiva will assess the damage and bill accordingly, additional charges equal to and above the value of the actual damage may be assessed

Hanging things on walls in dorms

No bochur has permission to hang or post anything on the walls of Yeshiva or the dorm without permission.

Writing on walls and furnishings

Intentionally writing on the wall or furnishings of yeshiva even personal desks is subject to a cleanup and restoration fee of \$100 and higher.

Ordering Food to Yeshiva

Bochurim may order food to Yeshiva from local establishments. Food must not be delivered during class time. Yeshiva reserves the right to issue continued guidelines or revoke this permission if needed.

Lockers

Bochurim are assigned lockers. Lockers belong to Yeshiva and are subject to search at any time.

White Boards

Only Rebbeim and staff are permitted to use the whiteboards unless specific permission has been granted.

Davening 5 Pointers

In order to set our talmidim up for success, the following conditioning is in place during tefilla.

- No walking out during davening
- No talking during davening
- Stand when the tzibur stands, and sit when the tzibur sits
- Hats, jackets, and tefillin must be worn until the end of davening
- Bochorim must remain in their table area throughout davening

Bathroom During Davening

If a bochor needs to use the bathroom during davening, he must get approval first. There is no leaving davening after the beginning of the second ashrei, during mincha or maariv.

Soda, Slurpees, and Sugary drinks

Slurpees, Soda or sugary drinks are not permitted in Yeshiva or the dorm at any time without express permission from Rabbi Ausband or Rabbi Elbaum.

Upstairs in KCT

Talmidim have no permission to be upstairs in KCT at any time for any reason. Talmidim are to enter and exit through the rear left door of the building **ONLY** and to proceed immediately downstairs upon entering.

Campus

Yeshiva is a closed campus, and no bochor may leave campus for any reason without permission.

Curfew

Curfew for 9th and 10th grade is 10:45pm, 11th and 12th grade 11:00pm. No bochor should be on the phone after curfew, even if it's with his parents.

Smoking/Vaping and Alcohol

Are not permitted. First time offense will be subject to a four week suspension, 2nd time offense will be subject to an 8 week suspension and so on 16 weeks, 32 weeks - you get the picture we don't tolerate it.

Legal and illegal substance use

Are grounds for automatic expulsion.

Shabbos Schedule

All in town and out of town bochurim are expected to partake in the full Yeshiva shabbos schedule, including seudos, any sedorim or oneg.

Seudas Shlishis

All in town and out of town bochurim are expected to participate in seudas shlishis in Yeshiva.

Motzaei Shabbos

All in town and out of town bochurim are expected to participate in motzaei shabbos sedorim. Bochurim must come to the seder in a regular Yeshiva approved dress code. In town bochurim may have a parent text Rabbi Ausband to be excused.

Travel to and from Yeshiva before and after the Zman

All travel arrangements must be made so that talmidim do not have to leave early before breaks or return late. Please note breaks are already extended to be able to accommodate travel time needs. Any variance MUST be first be discussed with the Hanhala. Making travel arrangements without first receiving a variance is done at the risk of any loss that may be suffered if the Hanhala does not approve requested variance.

Motorized Transportation

Bochurim are not permitted to control any form of motorized transportation, both for themselves or others, while Yeshiva is in session for any reason.

Driving Policy

Bochurim are not permitted to drive while Yeshiva is in session for any reason.

Everybody Dorms Policy

Shaarei Adirim has an "EVERY BOCHUR DORMS" policy. What that means is as follows: Every bochur, regardless of in town or out of town, has the same guidelines for their "dorm". Some "dorm" in the dorm and some "dorm" at home, but the policies are the same:

Some but not all of the practical ramifications of this policy are:

1. In town bochurim must conform to the Electronics Policy even when they are home, and are only permitted to use approved electronic devices and phones in the evening, while Yeshiva is in session.
2. Online and offline computer games as well as all game devices are not permitted while Yeshiva is in session.
3. In town bochurim may not drive, even while at home on days that yeshiva is in session.
4. In town bochurim may not attend any concerts while yeshiva is in session.
5. In town bochurim must get permission from the Hanhala before accepting any waitering jobs over Shabbos.
6. In town bochurim must go to bed at their grade level curfew time.
7. No substance abuse of any kind is permitted and Yeshiva's substance abuse policy is applicable even during hours away from Yeshiva.
8. In town bochurim may not have a cell phone with texting capability on days that yeshiva is in session.
9. Yeshiva follows the psak of Reb Moshe Feinstein regarding Cholov Stam, as such Yeshivos were never permitted by Reb Moshe to use cholov Stam so in Yeshiva and Yeshiva's dorms Cholov Stam products are not permitted. However Reb Moshe did permit the use of Cholov Stam in the home and as such bochurim who dorm at home may partake of Cholov Stam products at home if that is already your minhag.

Profanity and *nivel peh*

Language and verbiage must always be befitting a ben Torah. Any talmid using profanity will be subject to a minimum 24 hour suspension. The Hanhala reserves the right to determine what is profanity. *Nivel peh* may also be subject to 24 hour suspension or more.

Yeshiva Environment

Mesivta Shaarei Adirim maintains a Yeshiva environment befitting bnei Torah at all times. Therefore the Hanhala reserves the right at any time to restrict any behavior, mode of dress, use of technology, as well as any action form of discussion, language, communication, gesture, or anything not mentioned in this handbook that the Hanhala deems unbefitting bnei Torah and a Yeshiva environment.

Please sign this page and return it to the Yeshiva:

I _____ have read this handbook, understand it's content, and agree to uphold and maintain the policies and guidelines outlined in this handbook so long as I am enrolled in Mesivta Shaarei Adirim. I further agree to be bound by the policies and to the consequences delineated within this handbook so long as I am enrolled in Mesivta Shaarei Adirim.

Student Name: _____

Student Signature: _____

I confirm my son has read and understands the Mesivta Shaarei Adirim Parent Student Handbook, and agrees to uphold and maintain the policies and guidelines outlined in this handbook so long as He is enrolled in Mesivta Shaarei Adirim. He further agrees to be bound by the policies and to the consequences delineated within this handbook so long as he is enrolled in Mesivta Shaarei Adirim.

Parent Signature: _____