



**Borehamwood
& Elstree Synagogue**
Our Community

Certificate of Religious Practice - Information

If you have any questions with this process please E-Mail schooladmissions@borehamwoodshul.org. The office is not able to handle any queries related to CRP by telephone.

If you have any other CRP related queries, not relating to Synagogue Attendance, you need to contact the school(s) to which you are applying.

To have your child's attendances recorded, they need to be registered on our online system.

Go to The BES Online CRP system at <https://www.onlinecrp.co.uk>.

Please note that the dates on which we operate CRP recording are determined by the schools, and usually run from early May until their application deadlines. If you need to have attendances recorded outside of these dates, please contact us on schooladmissions@borehamwoodshul.org.

More information on the process for obtaining CRP attendance records at BES can be found on the following pages.

Certificate of Religious Practice

Following the judgment in the Supreme Court Jewish schools have adopted a religious practice test for admissions.

The schools will be asking you to complete a Certificate of Religious Practice (CRP), which includes verification of synagogue attendance. Please be aware that although most of the Jewish schools have similar CRP requirements, it is essential that you contact each school to which you are intending to apply to obtain their CRP form and confirm their exact requirements. In some cases it is possible that Shul attendance alone will not be enough to qualify you as a "Priority Applicant".

We are therefore asking that everyone, whether a member or not, who wishes to have their attendance at synagogue verified for school admissions purposes complies with a set procedure (see below), which includes:

1. Pre-registration of attendance

2. Making oneself known to an authorised official when attending. Desks for registration will be available at the following locations and times.

- In the Main Shul foyer, or just outside, which from the start date (likely to be early May) will be available from 10.15am to 11.00am on Shabbat mornings only (this may change to 10.30am to 11.00am late in the year).
- In Yavneh College, the desk will be in the lobby by the main staircase, or just outside the Yavneh Synagogue, and will be open at the same times as Croxdale Road.
- On weeks when there is a Hashkama service, cards will be available for collection on request in the service from 8.00am until 8.30am.
- On weeks when there is an early toddlers service at Croxdale Road, you can attend this service and have your attendance recorded for CRP without having to wait for the end of the main Synagogue service. To do this, you must collect your card as soon as the desk opens and proceed immediately to the service, to be there when it starts. Anybody who arrives late to the early toddlers service will NOT be able to post their CRP card until the normal time at the end of the main Synagogue service.

Please note cards will only be available at Croxdale Road OR Yavneh, depending on which option you select when you register.

You will be handed a personalised card which you will need to keep until the end of the service when you will be able "post" it back in the box which we will provide. In line with most other United Synagogue Shuls, we will not be recording attendances on Friday nights.

3. Receiving a Letter of Attendance (to attach to your CRP form) only if attendance has been verified. Most schools will allow a CRP letter generated by our system printed by you at home, but a few still require a letter printed and signed in the office. The up-to-date list of which schools require this is in the online CRP system. All letters contain a check code to allow the schools to confirm their authenticity.

NOTE: Attendance will only be recorded on those Shabbats as detailed in the Schools' Admissions procedures and will not include any Yom Tov, including Yom Kippur. Please check with the schools to which you are applying to confirm the dates they will accept for CRP.

Those requiring us to record attendance will be required to stay until the end of the service.

This is a task that we would much rather we were not being asked to undertake. However, we wish to provide assistance to our Jewish schools as they have been placed in an incredibly difficult situation forced upon them, because, and only because, of the Supreme Court's decision. It is important therefore to point out that this process does not confirm Jewish status.

If you have any questions in relation to this process please Email schooladmissions@borehamwoodshul.org.

We look forward to welcoming you to our synagogue and hope that by following this simple procedure we can minimise the disruption and discomfort that this process will create.

CRP Procedure

Recording Attendance at Synagogue for the purpose of completing a Certificate of Religious Practice ("CRP")

1. Any person who wishes to have their attendance recorded for the purposes of a CRP ("the Attendee") **must register on line at the BES Online CRP System - <https://www.onlinecrp.co.uk>** as soon as possible, but not later than 10.00am on the Wednesday before the first Shabbat on which he/she wishes his/her attendance to be recorded. Your registration will be automatically acknowledged. Full instructions on how to manage your online registration can be found at the same page.
2. An online register of attendance will be managed by the Shul office, to be used for each Shabbat morning service.
3. BES will appoint a CRP Registration Officer (RO) who is responsible for the Register and will ensure that attendances are properly recorded.
4. On Shabbat the parent or guardian and his/her child (for primary school entry the child does not have to attend) must report in person to the RO or other designated person on each occasion they attend synagogue, and may be asked to confirm their address and child's date of birth. Recording will be in the following locations and times.
 - In the Main Shul foyer, or just outside, which from the start date (likely to be early May) will be available from 10.15am to 11.00am on Shabbat mornings only (this may change to 10.30am to 11.00am late in the year).
 - In Yavneh College, the desk will be in the lobby by the main staircase, or just outside the Yavneh Synagogue, and will be open at the same times as Croxdale Road.
 - On weeks when there is a Hashkama service, cards will be available for collection on request in the service from 8.00am until 8.30am.
 - On weeks when there is an early toddlers service at Croxdale Road, you can attend this service and have your attendance recorded for CRP without having to wait for the end of the main Synagogue service. To do this, you must collect your card as soon as the desk opens and proceed immediately to the service, to be there when it starts. Anybody who arrives late to the early toddlers service will NOT be able to post their CRP card until the normal time at the end of the main Synagogue service.

Please note cards will only be available at Croxdale Road OR Yavneh, depending on which option you select when you register.

In line with most other United Synagogue Shuls, we will not be recording attendances on Friday nights.

5. Those requiring us to record attendance will be required to stay until the end of the service and they will, therefore, be required to retain their cards for posting at the end of the service. BES will accept no responsibility for cards which are inadvertently taken off the premises and attendees should note that under those circumstances there will not be a card the following week. Attendance will only be recorded for those cards which are picked up at the appropriate time and posted at the end of the service.
6. All records will be confidential, and will only be used to enable the authorised official to issue a Letter of Attendance to attach to your CRP form, although BES may contact you in connection with the promotion of its events.

NOTE: A copy of this Procedure will be available on our website. It has been made public so that visitors to the synagogue can be clear at an early stage about what they will need to do in order to comply.

Issue of CRPs

In lieu of filling in CRP forms, BES will instead provide you with a Letter of Attendance (which the schools have indicated is acceptable) for you to attach to your CRP form. Please note you will still need to obtain a CRP form from the school(s) to which you are applying, and complete the relevant sections.

Most schools will allow a CRP letter generated by our system printed by you at home, but a few still require a letter printed and signed in the office. The up-to-date list of which schools require this is in the online CRP system. All letters contain a check code to allow the schools to confirm their authenticity.

For office-printed letters, if you ask someone to collect the Letter on your behalf please provide them with written authority.

If you have already received your Letters please do not continue to register (unless you require further attendances) as this adds to our administrative burden.

Please bear in mind that it is your responsibility to request Letters of Attendance in good time and we cannot accept any responsibility for a deadline which may be missed. It may take up to 2 weeks for office-printed letters to be ready after they have been requested, and you will need to visit the Shul office during its normal office hours to collect your letters.

The Letter of Attendance from BES will only confirm the number of times which you have attended BES (and other US Shuls who have passed your attendance information on to us). Please be aware that although most of the Jewish schools have similar CRP requirements, it is essential that you contact each school to ascertain their exact CRP requirements, including the number of attendances they expect. In some cases it is possible that Shul attendance alone will not be enough to qualify you as a "Priority Applicant".

Please note that the CRP Letter of Attendance should not be construed in any way as a confirmation of Jewish Status.