

Gary Lipman's visit to the Leo Baeck Education Center

I truly believe that there cannot be lasting peace in Israel until children of all denominations understand and respect each other, which is why I am so proud that Alyth has been twinned with The Leo Baeck Education Center in Haifa. Leo Baeck was founded in 1938 on the principle that all of Israel's citizens are entitled to equal rights and equal opportunities.

Leo Baeck is a combination of a school, community outreach centre and a progressive synagogue. Its mission is to build an equal and pluralistic society in the spirit of Progressive Judaism, Zionism and democracy. Their mantra is 'shared existence', as opposed to 'co-existence'.

Through excellent formal and informal education, Leo Baeck prepare youth to become leaders with a civil and global consciousness. It cannot be a coincidence that, years later, the mixed Arab-Jewish city of Haifa is considered to be a model of Arab-Jewish shared existence. However, the reality is that while tensions are generally hidden beneath the surface, much work is needed to close the social gaps and encourage meaningful interaction. We always enjoy it when anyone from Leo Baeck visits Alyth, participates in our services and provide insightful and thought provoking Shiurim. I urge all members to participate in these wonderful events.

