

Israel



Some of our school communities welcome families and staff from the Israel. Here are a few bits of information about Israeli culture.

Three of the most commonly spoken languages in Israel are Hebrew, Arabic and English.

- Hebrew is the official language of Israel, while Arabic is widely used by the Arab minority.
- English is the most commonly used foreign language in the country.

Israel's culture is deeply rooted in the Jewish religion. In Israel, there are many Jewish immigrants from several different countries. As a result, Israel has a dynamic, creative and diverse culture.

The holidays and festivals are all based on the Hebrew calendar. The most common family unit consists of a nuclear family. In more traditional families, grandparents are sometimes included in this.



Education is mandatory from the ages five through fifteen. The state runs both religious and nonreligious schools; 70 percent of children attend the non religious ones. There is a separate education system for Arab children, where the language of instruction is Arabic.

Israeli cuisine usually follows kosher protocols, due to the Jewish culture and religion. As a result, pork, shellfish, eggs and milk are prohibited.

The majority of Israeli people practice Judaism, which accounts for 74.8% of the Israeli population. Islam is the second most prevalent religion at 17.6%. Christianity, Druze and other religions comprise 8.4% of the population.

Please note: Each of the families attending your school are unique. While it is so important to educate ourselves about cultures other than our own, it is equally important to avoid grouping students into a single category or make assumptions about a student based on what you know to be true of his or her culture. Learning the history and background of students is just one piece of understanding your students. If you would like to learn more about the Israeli culture, please connect with your families at your school and take a look at the attached websites.

<https://www.globalizationpartners.com/2017/11/07/israel-culture-and-tradition/>

<https://www.everyculture.com/Ge-I/I/Israel.html>

