



## נסלו תשפ"ב

## Clarification

Approximately 2 weeks ago Bais Yaakov D'chassidei Gur suspended תלמידות of several families. Although this is apparently an internal Gerrer matter, the broader ציבור got caught up with the "sensational news"<sup>1</sup>. In addition, former members of our קהילה who are out to destroy our school<sup>2</sup> are using this "golden" opportunity to slander and vilify the בית יעקב, and Ger in general. They are harassing our ציבור<sup>3</sup> and are feeding the עולם hatred and deception<sup>4</sup>. It is for this reason that the הנהלה felt a need to put together the following response.

Here is some background of what has transpired:

There is a יסוד in חינוך that if parents are not on the same page with a school's מהלך they are damaging their child by sending her to such a school. A child cannot grow healthy when hearing one thing at home and the opposite in school. We have witnessed in the past such children growing up confused, and moreover such children tend to spread their confusion to classmates and friends.

Even though there were several instances last year which clearly indicated the above<sup>5</sup>, the school decided to deal with those instances in a discrete manner with the hope that by doing so we will have parent cooperation and prevent these types of issues from happening in the future.

<sup>1</sup> Interestingly enough, there are currently dozens of girls of the general population in Boro Park ages 6-13 who have no school to go to, some of them have been sent out of their school because of Parent's non-compliance, but the broader ציבור doesn't seem to show any interest in this troubling matter, let alone to make a commotion about it.

<sup>2</sup> Key staff members of our school were offered by them exorbitant sums of money on the condition that they drop out of our school mid-year.

<sup>3</sup> i.e., The incessant barrage of hate robocalls against our ציבור that has become the norm in the past few weeks.

<sup>4</sup> i.e., False recordings have been spread in which purported "teachers" from our school have told their "students" to harass their classmates who are not pro-ger.

<sup>5</sup> Just to note some instances:

1- At a school event for our תלמידות 3 girls noticeably turned their backs to a video of one of the Rebbe's chasunos.

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This past summer when פורשים from Ger started becoming bolder and more pronounced, the הנהלה felt that in order to prevent further נפש נגמת they must compile a parent cooperation agreement. The agreement was put together under the guidance of רבנים and legal experts. As a precondition to enroll their child in the בית יעקב for the current school year every parent was required to come down to the school personally, to review the agreement and sign it.

The agreement states:

**"Equal partners in the school's mission are the parents. Mutual understanding, shared principles and collaboration are crucial for a child's success and healthy upbringing. A child whose parents do not share the values and outlook of the school has the potential to undermine the mission of the school and unsettle the equilibrium of the school/classroom environment."**

Based on this יסוד the agreement continues with the following:

**"Consequently, a child whose parent affiliates themselves with, or supports, a group that expresses disrespect and contempt towards the Gerer *chinuch* or towards our Rebbe, unfortunately has no place in the *chinuch* network of Ger."**

It is very clear which group the agreement is referring to. To explain how the group expresses contempt towards the Gerer *chinuch* is a lengthy discussion, however the contempt that members of this group have towards our Rebbe Shlit"a is known. The group condones openly ridiculing the Rebbe Shlit"a whether in person or via social media. Children growing up in such

- 2- After showing the well known פארהער of Gerer boys in the presence of the Rebbe Shlit"a by which the Rebbe sheds a tear of emotion, a girl coming from such a home proclaimed "it is all about politics". Another girl coming from such a home poked fun and said "Wa Wa - why is the Rebbe crying, why is he so emotional"?
- 3- A student in upper elementary tore the Oros Haparsha (a weekly BYG publication which contains essays based on דברי תורה from the Rebbe of Ger, including the Rebbe Shlit"a) in front of her classmates.
- 4- When it became known that the chasuna of the Rebbe's grandchild would take place in America, girls from such homes (including girls from lower elementary) were announcing publicly that they will not be attending the chasuna, and in different ways conveyed to their peers – "what is the whole fuss about the chasuna?" They basically confused their peers and deflated any enthusiasm that these girls had for the momentous event.



homes have repeatedly been observed conveying to their classmates and friends contempt towards the Gerrer chinuch and towards the Rebbe Shlit"a.

The agreement finishes off:

**"To foster and preserve these important values, the *Hanhalah* of Bais Yaakov D'Chassidei Gur reserves the right to determine what is in the best interest of our educational system and the well-being of our students, including the classification of affiliation with such a group. In the event such situations arise, the *Hanhalah* shall have the full discretion and authority to address and handle them as they deem necessary, at the time they deem appropriate, to secure a solid and sound Gerrer *chinuch*."**

The purpose of this agreement was to make it clear to parents that this school remains בית יעקב דחסידי גור and will continue to be מחנך our children in the דרך set forth by our previous Rebbes and יבדלח"א the Rebbe Shlit"a. Any parent who for whatever reason has switched courses and is not currently aligned with this דרך should make a conscious responsible decision; either to switch their child to a more suitable school, or to keep their child in our school and convey full respect to the school's mission.

Some parents chose the former and switched their children to different schools at the beginning of the year. Others, even though they do not align themselves with Ger, decided to keep their children in our school, but they understood that they must keep a low profile so as not to confuse their child or cause her to be sent out of school. **However**, some parents blatantly violated this agreement and deliberately chose to align themselves openly with that group by attending events organized by the group. By doing so the parents conveyed a clear message to their children – "I will do what I feel like doing and the school will have to deal with it".

A more subtle message was conveyed to their children as well – "you may do the same, you may undermine the school's authority".

If anyone thinks this is a theory or a fantasy, it is not. The day after their parents openly joined the group, children from such homes came to school with a defiance. Anti-Ger and anti-Rebbe statements were thrown out into the open, in class and between friends. Children from Gerrer homes came home that day confused and hurt. **Exactly** what we spelled out before – a confusion that was instantly spread to others. Following these events many parents reached out frantically to the הנהלה with a bitter outcry "How can it be that I send my child to Bais Yakov D'chassidei





Gur with the full intention of getting a true Gerrer Chinuch and this is what they are hearing in school?"

**Must parents and children coming from Gerrer homes go through such anguish? Do children have to be exposed to such negative sentiment about their Rebbe and their Chassidus? Is this what our school stands for?**

For this reason, the הנהלה had no choice but to suspend<sup>6</sup> these girls. It is not a matter of spite – it is a matter of keeping a settled environment and to secure the חינוך that we are entrusted to promote.

Even when forced to take this painful step, the הנהלה evaluated each child/family on a case-by-case basis. Children who need special support and services which they would not easily receive elsewhere, were not suspended from the school.

**So, while the המון עם places responsibility on the school – shouldn't responsibility be placed on the parents and on those who guided them and even persuaded them to take such a step?**

When a child is in a סביבה that supports the way, she is being נתחנך, the child feels secure. There is a sense of stability and security when all children in the class share the same השקפה. Children aren't afraid or ashamed of expressing positive feelings towards the way they are being נתחנך and towards what they are taught is הייליג. The positive change could already be sensed in several classes.

It is our sincere hope that the children who have left our school will also be more comfortable in their new surroundings once they aren't faced with constant conflict and סתירות.

May we continue to be מחנך our תלמידות in the ways set forth by our Rebbes זי"ע and יבדלחט"א and the Rebbe Shlit"א, מתוך שלום ושלוה.

הנהלת בית יעקב דחסידי גור

<sup>6</sup> Even though the parents were offered the opportunity to set up a meeting with the הנהלה, only one parent expressed interest in meeting, but never followed up on it.