Site Visits: Student Focus Group Protocol

*Thank you for taking time to speak with me today. My name is [name], and I work for a research firm called Rosov Consulting, which is based in the US and Israel. Our team is working with an organization called Lamorim – have any of you ever heard about Lamorim? [Pause and see if anyone responds.]*

*So, the goal of Lamorim is to strengthen Jewish education across a wide range of schools in France, and we are particularly interested in learning more about your school’s work with Lamorim. During our visit to your school, we are hoping to learn about the school’s culture, students, teachers, and school leadership, and how the work with Lamorim is contributing to the school on the whole. We feel that it’s very important to hear from the students themselves about these topics, and that is the purpose of this focus group.*

*Please note that all the information you share with us will be kept anonymous, meaning nothing you say will be associated with your name or any identifying information. Our conversation will last approximately 45 minutes, and we really encourage you to treat it as a conversation – meaning, please feel free to respond directly to what your peers say and make this interactive.*

*Do you have any questions before we begin?*

[First have everyone go around and share their names and grade level. We also have to keep in mind that this is a focus group, not an interview, so it would be great if these questions spur some interactive conversation among the group – as opposed from jumping from one question to the next.]

1. I’ve never been to this school, and while I’ve spoken to the Head of School and some teachers, you all can give me the best sense of what this school is **really** like. So tell me, what makes this school special? What do you like most about going to this school? And in what ways can this school be better?
   1. What made you come to school here, as opposed to a different school?
2. I want to specifically ask about your Judaic studies and Hebrew classes. Tell me about these classes – what do you like about them? And, in what ways can they improve?
   1. How you noticed anything being done differently in these classes – in terms of the what you’ve been learning or your teacher’s approach – since the start of the school year?
3. What, if anything, are some things you’ve learned in these classes that have had a meaningful impact on you? And in what ways?
   1. How, if at all, have they affected your connection to your Jewish identity? Or your connection to Israel?
   2. Do you feel like your experience in this school has made you “more Jewish”? What does “more Jewish” mean to you? And, if it has, in what ways? Do you feel like your time in this school has strengthened your connection to Israel? What does “a strong connection to Israel” mean to you? And, if your time at school has indeed strengthened your connection to Israel, in what ways?
   3. Can you tell me about how you are involved in Jewish life and Israel – what, if any, are some examples of Jewish or Israel-related things you outside of school? As you think about the future, are you interested in continuing to be involved in Jewish life and Israel as you get older?
4. How, if at all, has what you learned at school – and specifically in your Judaic studies and Hebrew classes – impacted in your life outside of school (what you do at home, what you do on the weekends, etc.)?
   1. Beyond your school, are there other Jewish organizations you attend or are involved in? (Synagogue, youth group, Jewish camp?)
5. Are most of your close friends people you know from school, or from other places (neighborhood, after-school activities, etc.)? How similar or different are you from your friends when it comes to your involvement in Jewish life and with Israel?
6. Are there any final reflections you have about our conversation that you would like to share?

*Thanks so much for your time! It has been very helpful hearing your perspective and getting a sense of your school.*