

**FULL INSPECTION REPORT FOR**  
**YESHIVA GEDOLA LUBAVITCH LONDON**  
**UKVI LICENCE No: 3XQJ4HNJ6**

Education oversight inspection of private further education colleges on behalf of the Home Office's division of United Kingdom Visas and Immigration (UKVI)

**The overall inspection findings for this college**

**UKVI Standards for**

<b>courses and qualifications are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>teaching, learning and assessment are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>the cultural and moral development of students are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>welfare, health and safety are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>the effectiveness and suitability of staff are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>financial sustainability, leadership and governance are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>premises and accommodation are</b>	<b>MET</b>
<b>information and complaints are</b>	<b>MET</b>

**Compliance with UKVI Standards**

**CONTENTS OF THE REPORT**

**Introduction**

**Section A: Main Findings and Actions Required**

**Section B: Detailed Evaluation of the Standards**

## **Section C: College and Inspection Details**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Purpose and scope of the inspection**

Mainland Education is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) section of the Home Office to inspect privately funded further education colleges in England, with a Steiner, Montessori or Eurythmy basis or background, or with a clear religious purpose. Inspection is designed to assess the college's compliance with the Standards for colleges agreed with the Home Office. These Standards cover the quality of education and welfare provided to all students, including those from overseas who are sponsored by the college for Tier 4 visas, and, where applicable, those who are under eighteen or are vulnerable adults. On-site student accommodation, where provided, is assessed for compliance with the Standards but is not subject to a full boarding inspection. Inspection provides objective and reliable reports on the extent to which colleges meet the Standards. By placing reports in the public domain, the information they contain is available to students, the UKVI, and the wider community.

Inspection takes account of the context of each individual college, and of how it evaluates its own performance and demonstrates its success. It helps colleges, their staff and trustees/governors/proprietors to recognise and build on their strengths and to identify and remedy their weaknesses in relation to compliance. The inspection also takes account of the college's financial performance over the last two years for new providers and since the last inspection for established providers. An assessment is also made of the college's financial sustainability going forward based on information provided by the college. Prospective students, their parents and agents should make their own enquiries into the financial viability of institutions before accepting a place.

Colleges are subject to a full inspection once every four years which is conducted by two inspectors over two days. In the intervening years, colleges receive an interim inspection and are kept under review. All reports state whether the college continues to meet the agreed Standards. The last full inspection of Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London (YGLL) was conducted in 2016 and the last interim inspection in 2019 both by the School Inspection Service, which Mainland Education Ltd has now replaced. This is the first full inspection of Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London by Mainland Education Ltd. The Yeshiva received a UKVI visit in April 2023.

#### **Characteristics of the college**

Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London (YGLL) is a rabbinical college located in Hampstead, London. Founded in 1982, it educates young men in the Talmud and in Chassidic philosophy as part of the international Lubavitch Yeshivas network. Students attend the college for one, two or three years. Student numbers have

increased since the last inspection and there is now a total of 25 students, aged 16 to 21, of whom 15 are under eighteen. Most of the students are British while others come from the USA. All of the 9 Tier 4 students are from the USA. About half of the students receive some form of support with their fees and no student is turned away due to lack of funding. Most students go on to qualify as rabbis, some become community rabbis or educators, and some enter other professions. The college is led and managed by experienced rabbis with a small governing body from the Lubavitch community. The role of Dean has been taken by the Senior Rabbi who acts as the head of the Yeshiva and is in charge of the lectures and student progress. The role of Acting Principal has been taken on by a rabbi who assisted the Acting Principal in the previous year. The college's stated aims are: 'To provide an orthodox Jewish education within the framework of the Code of Jewish Law in accordance with Chassidic teachings, enabling the students to reach the standard required by each course, whilst fostering in the students an understanding that Torah study is not just an academic exercise, but instruction in a way of life'.

## **SECTION A: Main Findings and Actions Required**

### **Main findings**

Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch London (YGLL) is a highly effective educational establishment which meets all the Standards required by UKVI. A very positive college atmosphere is created by dedicated staff committed to enabling each boy to succeed and to learn about and live out the Lubavitch ethos. The courses and qualification on offer meet the Standards. The accredited Level 3 ATHE in Talmudic Studies taken by visa students meets the definition of a UKVI approved qualification. The Standards for teaching, learning and assessment are met, reflecting the high standard of pedagogy delivered by a very experienced team of expert rabbi/tutors who cater skilfully for the range of academic ability among the students. Close attention is paid to the management of teaching, and this ensures that lessons are well focused on the traditional Talmudic texts and the study of Chassidic philosophy. Lessons and paired learning sessions are lively and interactive, and students say they enjoy learning. Progress is assessed by the rabbis orally and through written work, and students know how well they are progressing. Key to the success of the Yeshiva is the amount of individual attention and encouragement given to each student. Any student with a special educational need or disability is given time and patient encouragement to assist with overcoming their barriers to learning. Standards for cultural and moral development are met. The Lubavitch ethos pervades the Yeshiva and enables students to grow in their academic skills as well as refining their own personal development. Outreach work in the community helps to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. Standards for welfare, health and safety are met. The policies and procedures for health and safety are secure and well implemented. First Aid and fire safety arrangements conform to requirements. Pastoral care is excellent. Boys flourish through being very well cared for in all aspects of their growth and well-being. Staff have all received the required safeguarding training and adhere to the staff code of conduct. They know how to handle any incident which may occur. Standards for the effectiveness and suitability of staff are met. The college attracts and retains well qualified and experienced staff, and ensures that staff are suitable to have contact with young people through careful checking procedures that are accurately recorded on a single central register (SCR). Standards for financial sustainability, management and governance are met. As an integral part of the wider Lubavitch organisation the college is able to provide confidence in its ability to ensure the sustainability of its courses. Management is effective through the strong and forward-looking leadership of the Senior Rabbi (Dean) and the Acting Principal. Very good use is made of information technology systems to streamline administration and record-keeping. Trustees successfully support the aims of the Yeshiva, and ensure that its work is appropriately funded with the support of the wider Lubavitch organisation. The Standards for premises and accommodation are met. The main building has been refurbished and is clean and well maintained. Boarding accommodation, including bathroom facilities, is tidy and well maintained. Outside areas have recently been cleared up and are available as recreation space for students. Food preparation is hygienic and boys say that the quality of meals is good. The Standards for information and complaints are met. There are well-established pathways for the distribution of information about the Yeshiva to

prospective students. Students and their parents are kept well informed about academic progress and personal development. Students know that there is a formal complaints procedure that they can follow. There have been no formal complaints.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
The Standards are met.	The college complies with the Standards.	No action is required.

### **Actions Required**

- No action is required.

## **SECTION B: Detailed evaluation of the standards**

### **Standards for courses and qualifications**

The Standards for courses and qualifications are met. The Yeshiva offers courses at a suitable level for the full range of ability of its students. The courses are not certificated but are recognised as providing credits when students go on to take degree and higher degree studies at the Lubavitch colleges to which most of them progress. All students on a Tier 4 visa are required to join the ATHE (Awards for Training and Higher Education) programme in Talmudic Studies that leads after one year to the Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Talmudic Studies. A second year of study leads to the Diploma and a third year to the Extended Diploma. The college is authorised by the ATHE as an accredited examination centre and the Diploma course meets the definition of an approved qualification for UKVI purposes. The students all have fluent English and say they are well informed through their previous education in the Lubavitch system about the demands of the YGLL courses. Fifty hours of full-time study per week are required by the courses and this is well in excess of the Standards requirement. The proportion of students completing the courses is very high. The content of the courses is in line with the worldwide Lubavitch curriculum and is fully compatible with the stated ethos of the Yeshiva.

### **Standards for teaching, learning and assessment**

The Standards for teaching, learning and assessment are met. Teaching is of high quality, effective and focused on the development of each individual. The rabbis who deliver the course are well-qualified, experienced and acknowledged experts in their field. The favourable staff student ratio enables the rabbis to devote close attention to every student, and to give each of them accurate feedback which helps them to improve. As a result, all students make very good progress and achieve well, at least commensurate with their ability to succeed, and in some cases even exceeding expectations. As the range of ability among students is fairly wide, the success of the teaching is that the more able progress to writing thoughtful, scholarly pieces in Hebrew, while even those who initially struggle to read the language ultimately access the texts and commentaries freely and discuss them with confidence. As they move through the course, all students develop their knowledge of the Talmud, their ability to interpret its meaning, and gain a good understanding of Jewish history, law and culture. So, for example, as part of their course, students learn the Jewish laws about the use of household utensils in Jewish homes, or the rules about reclining when eating a meal, an important sign of freedom from slavery within Jewish culture. The style of learning is through pair work, group work and lectures. Each session is well-prepared and planned. During pair work, the rabbis are on hand to offer guidance and answer questions, and the students help one another through reading and discussion. The rabbis lead group work at a brisk and lively pace, often with short paired discussions within a session to help students form and express their

understanding of a topic. The rabbis are natural communicators who make learning enjoyable and students respond accordingly. Assessment is unobtrusive yet effective in ensuring progress, and students get a lot of oral feedback on a regular basis, which, together with praise and encouragement, develops their confidence and self-esteem. Teaching is well-managed by the Senior Rabbi (Dean). The progress of each student is regularly discussed in teachers' meetings, so that no one is allowed to fall through the net and each is given the attention they need to succeed.

## **Standards for cultural and moral development of students**

Standards for cultural and moral development are met. Discussions with the students showed them to be excellent ambassadors for the Yeshiva. They are cheerful and positive, with good social skills and well able to articulate and express their ideas. In conversation, and in the questionnaires they completed for this inspection, they said that they enjoy being part of the Yeshiva and are very aware of its aims and objectives. In paired working sessions students showed good skills in working together, for example when a more experienced student studies with a less skilled learner. They show great respect for their tutors and the expertise they share with them. They enjoy helping the local Jewish community through the Mivtzo'im community outreach programme, a key part of the Lubavitch Chabad mission of the Yeshiva. Each Friday throughout their course they work on the Mivtzo'im programme and this brings them into contact with a range of people of all ages and backgrounds. Activities such as helping in a local special needs school, running day camps for younger boys and visiting people in their workplace to talk about the Jewish faith help the students develop self-confidence and self-esteem. The religious basis of the Yeshiva is the study of spiritual, moral and ethical behaviour, stressing the importance of doing good, adhering to the law and showing respect for others, and students show ample evidence of following these tenets. Staff have undertaken Prevent training and are aware of the need to identify and address any extremism if it were to arise.

## **Standards for welfare, health and safety**

Standards for welfare, health and safety are met. Suitable health and safety policies are in place, and the site manager oversees health and safety and fire arrangements, and is the trained fire marshal. Regular health and safety and fire checks and a full annual risk assessment ensure the policies are implemented. There are First Aid boxes in place, two trained First Aiders on the staff and the accident book is kept up to date. Checks on fire safety equipment and fire escape routes are carried out and fire drills are timed and recorded. The Yeshiva has a comprehensive suite of policies which relate specifically to Orthodox Jewish students, cover all aspects of safeguarding, and comply with the latest government

guidance. They are implemented appropriately. The knowledgeable and experienced Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has received appropriate training for the role and has a good understanding of his safeguarding responsibilities, including how to access expert help and contact the local authority services when necessary. He is supported by a Deputy. The staff have received the requisite basic safeguarding training and are alert to the fact that, despite the small size of the college community, safeguarding issues 'could happen here'. They know how to handle allegations or information disclosed by students. All the rabbis know the boys well and treat each and every one of them as an individual. A close eye is kept on any who are experiencing particular difficulties, such as bereavement, or who are homesick away from family for the first time or in an unfamiliar country. Students do not use laptops and apart from two computers on which senior students make social and outreach arrangements there is no internet access for students, with no laptops, tablets or smart phones allowed. All have a personal 'kosher' phone on which to communicate with friends and family.

The students say that they feel safe and well cared for in college. They confirm that they find strength and confidence in its happy and supportive atmosphere and could turn to any member of staff with a concern and find help. Pastoral care is extremely strong, and arrangements have recently been strengthened further by the appointment of a live-in boarding supervisor who has received appropriate training for the role. The Yeshiva has sensible measures for helping the students to keep themselves safe when out and about in the community on outreach work. The students behave very well and are kind to one another. Special needs are catered for effectively and unobtrusively, often through the support of other students working in partnership. Arrangements for routine and emergency medical care are managed well. Food is good and plentiful. The college encourages and acts on the suggestions and requests made by its students. The college provides facilities for students to do their own laundry as a deliberate policy to encourage them to be independent and to cope in the modern world. The boys are outgoing, happy, and well-adjusted. The Yeshiva has well-organised electronic records of admissions and attendance, and staff know how to report to UKVI in the event of any attendance problems with a Tier 4 visa student.

## **Standards for the effectiveness and suitability of staff**

Staff turnover is low. The Yeshiva attracts and retains sufficient well-qualified and experienced staff to cover all of its academic, pastoral, administrative and clerical functions, and who are in sympathy with the aims and philosophy of the Chabad. The Acting Principal has undertaken Safer Recruitment training, and the Yeshiva's recruitment policy and practice reflect this guidance. Care is taken in interviewing prospective staff to enquire about their attitude to keeping young people safe. All the required pre-appointment checks are made on staff and a comprehensive and accurate Single Central Record (SCR) of staff appointments is kept, with supporting



documentation held in confidential staff files. The college does not use temporary or agency staff and there have been no disciplinary issues.

## **Standards for financial sustainability, management and governance**

The Standards for financial sustainability, management and governance are met. Strong and effective management of both the academic and administrative operations ensures that the Yeshiva is viable and that student numbers are building up well since the Covid pandemic. The Yeshiva enjoys the strong support of the trustees. As a member of the Chabad, it is funded in part by fees but mainly by the generous donations of the Lubavitch community which believes in its aims and its success. The finances are used prudently and in the best interests of students, so that the Yeshiva is financially sustainable going forward; teaching and learning are properly resourced; and students may complete their course with confidence. The administration of the college runs smoothly. Very good use is made of information technology; systems work well; and there is a wide range of up-to-date and useful policies and procedures to guide the Yeshiva's work. Its academic operations are extremely well led by the Senior Rabbi (Dean) who devotes a huge amount of time and effort to ensuring that each student is enabled to reach their optimum potential, feels comfortable and well-supported in college and can ultimately find their place in the world. Together, the Acting Principal, the Senior Rabbi (Dean) and trustees work effectively to monitor the college's work so that its strengths are maintained and any areas identified for improvement are acted upon swiftly.

## **Standards for premises and accommodation**

The Yeshiva meets the Standards for premises and accommodation. It is situated in a quiet residential road in a large house that has been extended to include classrooms and dormitory accommodation. The Yeshiva has CCTV coverage of indoor and outdoor circulation areas. The classrooms and study/prayer rooms are of suitable size for the groups that use them and are well lit and ventilated. The whole building has been refurbished over recent years and is bright, clean and well maintained. The bathroom and shower facilities have been recently refurbished and there are sufficient WCs, washrooms, showers and a well-maintained Mikveh ritual bath, all with sufficient hot water. Boarding accommodation is satisfactory. Students over eighteen years of age have shared twin rooms while the younger students are in dormitories with four or five bunk beds. The rooms are generally in good condition and well-decorated, boys keep their rooms clean and tidy and there is ample storage space for their belongings. Boys can personalise their rooms and some do so. The boarding tutor/dorm supervisor lives in, and has a room on the same floor as the

older students. He has received appropriate safeguarding training and knows what to do in the case of a safeguarding emergency or disclosure. A small number of local Jewish people come regularly into the main hall for prayer; they are supervised by staff, have no direct contact with students and are not permitted to go elsewhere in the building. Outside areas have been tidied and are available as recreation space for students. Food preparation is hygienic, meets Jewish food preparation requirements and conforms to local regulations. The kitchen staff are aware of any student allergies.

## **Standards for information and complaints**

The Standards for information and complaints are met. Students say that before they apply they are made well aware of the Yeshiva and what it offers. There is an up to date and informative website that includes a full prospectus. Students say that they also receive good prior information about the Yeshiva and its caring reputation through their previous schools and through family and Lubavitch community members who have previously studied there. Rabbis visit local schools, are in touch with colleges and schools overseas and the Senior Rabbi (Dean) has visited the USA to talk about the Yeshiva. Parents of prospective students often contact the Yeshiva for information. As a relatively small college, staff are able to stay in close touch with individual students, and students say that they are kept well informed about their progress through discussions with the rabbis and through written comments on their work. The college engages with parents and provides regular reports with marks and comments on progress to the parents of younger students. There is a written complaints policy, known to students, that is fair and includes suitable processes and timelines. There have been no formal complaints.

## SECTION C: COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

### Details of college

Name of college:	Yeshiva Gedola Lubavitch -London
Address of college:	3-5 Kingsley Way, London N2 0EH
Telephone number:	0208 731 6049
Email address:	Yeshivalondon@gmail.com
Proprietor:	Lubavitch UK
Name of Acting Principal:	Rabbi G. Hertz
Name of Senior Rabbi (Dean):	Rabbi G. Lieberman
Licence number:	3XQJ4HNJ6
Type of college:	Private Jewish Religious

### Details of student body

Age range			
Number on roll:		Male	Female
	Full Time:	25	-
	Part Time:	0	-
	Below 18	15	-
Annual fees:	£6,000-11,000 per annum		

### Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Education Oversight: Full	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mr. Peter Jones
	Supporting Inspector:	Mrs. Jane Cooper
Dates of inspection:	6 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	