

INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR BEIS CHAYA ROCHEL, also known as GATESHEAD JEWISH ACADEMY FOR GIRLS (GJAG)

UKVI LICENCE No:59CTJT000

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

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

Compliance with UKVI Standards

The college meets all the UKVI Standards

Introduction

Purpose and scope of the inspection

Mainland Education Ltd is an approved educational oversight body authorised by the United Kingdom 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, and/or 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 since the last inspection and makes an assessment of the college's financial sustainability going forward, on the basis of 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 annual interim inspection and are kept under review. Interim inspections build on the findings from the last full inspection and state whether or not the college continues to meet the agreed Standards.

The last full inspection of Beis Chaya Rochel, also known as Gateshead Jewish Academy for Girls (GJAG), was conducted by Mainland Education Ltd in November 2023 when the college met all the required Standards for privately funded colleges.

Characteristics of the college

Beis Chaya Rochel, also known as Gateshead Jewish Academy for Girls (GJAG), is a private Jewish seminary of further education for orthodox young women aged 16-19. It aims to equip girls for their future life in the orthodox community by educating them in Jewish religious knowledge, law and practice and preparing them for the world of work and family life. There has been a significant rise in the number of students since last year, and there are now 144 girls on roll, the large majority of whom are aged under eighteen years. Just over a quarter of the students this year are sponsored by the college under the Tier 4 visa arrangements. They come from mainland Europe, Israel, Canada and the USA. Twenty-one of these girls are aged under eighteen years. All the girls board at the college.

Main Findings of Interim Inspection

Gateshead Jewish Academy for Girls (GJAG) continues to meet all the UKVI Educational Oversight Standards, as it did at the time of the last full inspection in 2023. Since then, several significant improvements have been made which have had a good impact on students' achievements and their welfare.

The Standards for courses and qualifications are met. The college continues to offer its two-year core programme of Jewish studies in the mornings which is taken by all students and includes study and discussion of the Torah, Jewish history, culture and law, alongside the practical aspects of running a Jewish household. Pass rates are high and improving, and the girls achieve well. The course, which leads to a Level 3 qualification, is accredited by Awards for Training and Higher Education (ATHE), and this body has awarded GJAG 'High Performing Status' this year. The award of this status affirms that the college provides a

consistently high quality of course planning, delivery and assessment, leading to students' high achievement and progress. The practical nature of the course also ensures that the small number of girls who struggle with literacy are able to gain credit for what they have learnt.

During the afternoons, the girls study their choice of secular academic and vocational courses provided on GJAG's premises by tutors who come from Gateshead College under a productive partnership arrangement. Students' results in these courses at Advanced Level, GCSE and in National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are also good. This year GJAG has appointed an additional course co-ordinator to review, research and expand the vocational studies opportunities, with the intention of evaluating and extending the range of courses in line with the students' interests and aspirations. The full-time programme of religious and secular study continues to be supported by some lively extracurricular activities, work in the community, and periodic trips to places of interest. A new extracurricular co-ordinator has also been appointed this year to oversee and introduce more weekend activities. Weekly 'themes' have been introduced, and homely touches to the Friday evening meal are much appreciated by the students, who report that they enjoy thoroughly their time in seminary and gain a great deal from their boarding experience: making lifelong friends, developing their self-confidence, independence and resilience, and learning how to compromise, share and get on well with others in close proximity. The seminary affords them many opportunities to take responsibility for organising aspects of college life, use their creative skills or entertain others.

Pastoral care arrangements continue to be strong, in line with the college's Jewish ethos, thereby ensuring that the girls are well cared-for and supported. The welfare policies are compliant and are implemented effectively. All staff have received basic safeguarding training, and those in key roles, such as the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), deputy, and matrons, have undergone training to a higher level which they use well and keep up to date. This enables the staff at GJAG to recognise and handle any concerns confidently and refer them appropriately when necessary. Medical arrangements, including First Aid, continue to be very good, including referral to specialist help where needed. The girls' safety and welfare are of prime concern at all times. This year, security has been improved through an upgrade to the CCTV system outside the college and in its public areas; and additional cyber-security measures have strengthened the network. Health and safety, fire prevention and other policies are implemented effectively; checks are made and recorded appropriately, and there are clear procedures for monitoring and recording attendance and admissions. The college maintains a single central record of staff appointments which confirms that all the required checks are made when recruiting new personnel. Application and reference forms comply with safer recruitment procedures. The college buildings are kept clean and well-maintained. All Standards for information and complaints continue to be met. No complaints have been made this year.

The senior management team of the college is strong and effective and has been augmented this year to good effect. Together, senior managers have been successful in implementing planned developments which have led to improvements in the quality and management of teaching, learning and assessment, the award by ATHE of 'High Performing Status' to the college, improved outcomes for students and an increase in student numbers. The published accounts show that the college is run efficiently and sustainably.

Overall Main Finding	Compliance	Outcome for the College
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The college meets UKVI requirements.	It meets all the Standards.	It will receive an interim check in 2025.
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Actions Required

- No action is required

COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

Details of college

Name of college:	Beis Chaya Rochel, also known as Gateshead Jewish Academy for Girls (GJAG)
Address of college:	1, Shipcote Lane, Gateshead, NE84JA
Telephone number:	0191 477 6450
Email address:	croyde@bcrsem.org.uk
Proprietor:	BCR GJAG Ltd
Name of Principal:	Rabbi Anthony Katz
Licence number:	59CTJT000
Type of college:	Private Jewish College of Further Education

Details of student body

Age range	16-19 years
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Number of students on roll:		Visa	UK	Total
	Full Time:	41	103	144
	Over 18:	20	10	30
	Below 18	21	93	114

Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mrs Jane Cooper
Date of inspection:	18 th November 2024	