

# 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 whose visas are sponsored by the college 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 in November 2023 and the last interim inspection in November 2024. The college met all the required Standards at both inspections.

## Characteristics of the college

Beis Chaya Rochel also known as Gateshead Jewish Academy for Girls 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 are 144 girls on roll of whom 94 are under the age of eighteen. Thirty-six students this year are sponsored by the college under the visa arrangements, with 18 from mainland Europe, 2 from Brazil, 2 from USA and 14 from Israel. In addition, two students are on short term six month visas. All the girls board at the college.

## Main Findings of Interim Inspection

Beis Chaya Rochel Gateshead Jewish Academy for Girls meets all the Standards.

The Standards for courses and qualifications, and for teaching, learning and assessment are met in full. Starting in September 2025, the college has carefully adapted its course structure to provide what it sees as a more supportive and student-centred progression model. In discussion with the accreditation body, Awards for Training in Higher Education (ATHE), a restructured entry pathway has been introduced without altering course content or academic standards. The first six months of study now operate as an assessment and taster period. Students from overseas are able to enter this phase on a short term (six month) visa without immediate long term commitment. A review by staff and the individual student at the end of the six month period is used to decide whether the student should then enrol for the remaining eighteen months and commit to completion of the course, which leads to qualification with an NVQ Level 3 diploma. The programme covers Jewish studies, the Torah, Jewish history, culture and law and the practical aspects of running a Jewish household. The college holds Awards and Training in Higher Education (ATHE) 'High Performing Status' and students achieve high pass rates.

The college has also made changes to its vocational provision. Academic and vocational courses are now provided in-house and taught on site by specialist teachers recruited by the college and led by a Head of Vocational Studies. Students are able to take A-Level courses in mathematics, art and book-keeping, and vocational and enrichment courses in, for example, childcare, computer design, graphics and financial literacy. Some students also take online courses at a high level including for example an Open University course in marketing. The curriculum changes indicate good strategic planning for teaching, learning and assessment and are well suited to meeting students' individual needs and learning abilities.

The students say they are happy at the seminary and speak highly of the support they receive from tutors and pastoral staff. They say that they feel safe, and are able to go out, in pairs or groups, in the locality. They enjoy taking on duties and responsibilities and value highly their participation in a good range of extracurricular activities. The girls spoke with enthusiasm about their upcoming drama production, an important annual event that enables them to develop their talents in acting, dance, singing or stage production. The production is a major feature of the life of the seminary and a focus around which the seminary's key aim of promoting the girls' happiness is centred. Each year all the girls go away for a weekend to the countryside and this gives scope for more relaxed interaction with each other and staff members.

The pastoral care arrangements are good, and the well-informed pastoral staff are aware of the girls' individual needs. Girls say that they are well cared-for and supported. Suitable welfare policies are in place and are kept up to date. All staff have basic safeguarding training, and the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has a level 3 safeguarding qualification. In the event of a pastoral concern a file is opened and a contemporaneous record is kept and updated. There are First Aiders on site, with access to specialist help when needed. CCTV outside the college and in its public areas helps to maintain security.

Suitable policies for health and safety are in place, and procedures and practices meet the requirements. The college operates a comprehensive set of rules for students and staff to follow to ensure health and safety, and in particular fire safety, in the dormitories and other areas of the college. Fire drills are suitably recorded and evacuation times noted.

A single central record (SCR) of staff appointments is kept showing the required checks made on staff prior to confirmation of appointment. The college's application forms and take-up of references comply with safer recruitment procedures. The Standards for information and complaints continue to be met, and no complaints have been made this year.

The senior management team of the college has made good strategic decisions which have led to improvements in the quality and management of the curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment, and of welfare, health and safety, including fire safety. The college runs smoothly and students are very aware of the good quality of education they receive.

Prospective students learn about the college through an up-to-date prospectus, through family and friends who have attended the seminary, through feeder schools and through 'taster' weekends that provide a flavour of the place. Feedback from parents indicates that they appreciate the care their children receive, and the way in which the seminary makes the Torah practical and applicable to everyday life.

<b>Overall Main Finding</b>	<b>Compliance</b>	<b>Outcome for the College</b>
The college meets the Standards.	The college is UKVI compliant.	No action is required.

## **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
Address of college:	1, Shipcote Lane, Gateshead, NE84JA
Telephone number:	0191 477 6450
Email address:	<a href="mailto:croyde@bcrsem.org.uk">croyde@bcrsem.org.uk</a>
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:	36	106	144
	Over 18:	23 (1)*	26	47
	Below 18	13 (1)*	80	97

\* 6 month course students

### Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mr. Peter R. Jones
Date of inspection:	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026	