

# INTERIM INSPECTION REPORT FOR GATESHEAD TALMUDICAL COLLEGE

**UKVI LICENCE No: VJJM08VX9**

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 the 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 Gateshead Talmudical College was conducted by Mainland Education Ltd in January 2024, and an interim inspection took place in January 2025. On both occasions the college met all the required Standards for privately funded colleges. This is a report of the one-day interim inspection carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## Characteristics of the college

Gateshead Talmudical College (GTC), also known as Gateshead Yeshiva, was founded in 1929 and moved to its present site in 1931. It is a charitable trust governed by a board of trustees and managed by a group of senior staff, the Hanholoh, most of whom are rabbis. All the students are male orthodox Jews. There are 378 students in total, aged from 16 to 21. From a total of 74 overseas students, 22 are on student visas, none of those are under eighteen. 52 overseas students are taking a sixth month non-visa course; 10 of them are under eighteen. Overseas students come from the USA, Canada and Europe with small numbers from Australia, Brazil, Israel and South Africa. 304 students are from the UK, with 45 under eighteen. All the students live in residential accommodation on site. The college states that its purposes are the advancement, support and furtherance of orthodox

religious Jewish studies, enabling students to live in accordance with the orthodox Jewish way of life, and providing a traditional Jewish education that is relevant to laymen, rabbis and ministers. The college is committed to helping less affluent students by means of scholarships and grants and about two thirds of students receive such support.

## **Main Findings of the Interim Inspection**

The college meets all the required Standards.

Standards for courses and qualifications, and for teaching, learning and assessment meet the Standards. Student recruitment is carefully matched to the demand of the courses available. The level and study time of the courses meet UKVI requirements. The college offers a foundation course, a Talmudic studies course and an advanced Talmudic course. While some overseas students are on the shorter six month foundation course, those on a study visa take the two year Talmudic studies course at NVQ Level 3, meeting the UKVI definition of an approved qualification. The college has accreditation from ATHE (Awards for Training and Higher Education). There is a very high level of course completion.

A full programme of lectures by subject-expert rabbi tutors enables students to rapidly acquire new knowledge. Tutors have refreshed their teaching this year by exchanging between them some required areas of textual teaching. As well as having a full programme of lectures, the whole student body works together daily in a large study hall on paired textual analysis of the Torah under supervision of the rabbis, who circulate to assist and support. Tutors make effective use of debate and discussion to assess students' knowledge and understanding. Students spoken to in the study hall were well able to articulate and explain the content and purpose of their study. They say that the college's distinctive style of teaching and learning allows them to make rapid progress.

Interviews with visa students showed them to be confident young people with a clear sense of direction and self-knowledge. They are proud of belonging to a learning fellowship with a common purpose. As members of the orthodox community they have a strong grounding in the importance of adherence to British law and showing respect for others. Younger students benefit from being mentored by the older boys. Students gain experience of working with a range of people outside the college. This can be through helping with special needs children in local schools or spending time with local Jewish families in their homes. Some boys also assist at an annual summer camp for local children.

Students are looked after well, and they recognise that the college has their best interests at heart. Pastoral care is led by the qualified Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and his qualified deputy who have developed an effective system of enabling students to speak to them if they have any worries or concerns. The deputy DSL is on duty in the dormitories until late in the evening, giving boys good opportunities to speak to him. These interactions are noted down in some detail, and student problems are acted on. So for example, a boy who is anxious about his health, his study or his rooming arrangements can speak in confidence to the DSLs and know that action will be taken. Students are referred to professional help such as therapy where the student and the pastoral staff feel it will help. A small apartment in the dormitory building is provided for an overnight warden so that boys can contact a responsible adult in the event of an emergency. Students said in interview that they value these pastoral arrangements. There are first aiders on site and

the college has access to a Jewish community first response and ambulance service. Students register with a local GP for access to NHS services. The policies and procedures for safeguarding are reviewed, updated and kept in good order, and staff understand and use them. The college has recently generated and used a well structured protocol for use in the event of a serious incident or assault to which a student is subjected inside or outside the college. The protocol emphasises a legally compliant response focusing on student safety, timely intervention, multi-agency collaboration and ongoing support. The protocol stipulates what records must be kept, who must be informed, inside the college and the community, and how the authorities, including law enforcement and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), should be involved.

There are accurate records of admissions and attendance and staff know how to report to UKVI if there are any concerns relating to sponsored visa students in this area. The current records of visa student attendance are kept manually; the college is in the process of introducing an electronic face recognition system.

The college conducts annual health and safety and fire safety checks. On site security arrangements have been extended. Staff and students are aware of fire safety arrangements, and fire signage, including for fire exits, is in place. Staff receive annual fire safety training and those students who act as fire marshals in their dormitories have been trained and are aware of their duties in the event of a fire. Fire drills are conducted twice termly and records kept of exit times.

All the necessary safeguarding checks on staff, including identity and right to work in the UK, are carried out and recorded on an electronic SCR (Single Central Record) of staff appointments.

The college's financial situation is secure enough to give reasonable confidence that students will be able to complete their courses. The college enjoys voluntary financial support from the local and wider Jewish community. A major international crowd-funding initiative is taking place in February 2026.

The teaching and boarding accommodation are fit for purpose and are well looked after. The main study hall and other classrooms are suitably spacious and all are well lit. The proposed development of new accommodation and administration blocks has been postponed. Circulation areas are kept tidy and free from clutter. Toilets and showers are kept clean and are well maintained. CCTV is in use at the entrances and exits of the boarding accommodation and in the corridors. The system of checking rooms for cleanliness and tidiness appears to be working well. Students say that the food provided by the college is good. Kitchen staff are trained in food hygiene to the required standard and facilities conform to local regulations.

The college does not advertise or have a website, with recruitment depending on reputation and recommendation from feeder schools and colleges, family and friends in the UK and overseas. The prospectus is clear and up to date. Students are made aware of the college's complaints policy and procedures.

<b>Overall Main Finding</b>	<b>Compliance</b>	<b>Outcome for the College</b>
The college meets all the Standards	The college is UKVI compliant.	An interim inspection will take place in the academic year 2026/27

## **Actions Required**

**No actions are required**

## COLLEGE AND INSPECTION DETAILS

### Details of college

Name of college:	Gateshead Talmudical College
Address of college:	88 Windermere Street, Gateshead NE8 1UB
Telephone number:	0191 477 2616
Email address:	<a href="mailto:office@gatesheadyeshiva.com">office@gatesheadyeshiva.com</a>
Proprietor:	Gateshead Talmudical College
Name of Principal:	Rabbi A. Gurwicz, Rosh Hayeshiva
Licence number:	VJJM08VX9
Type of college:	Independent Jewish Further Education

### Details of student body

Age range	16-21
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Number of students on roll:	Full Time	Overseas Non-visa	Visa	UK	Total
	Over 18	42	22	304	323
	Below 18	10	0	45	55

Total student numbers	378
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Annual fees:	£12,750 per annum
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### Details of inspection

Type of inspection:	Educational Oversight: Interim	
Inspection Team:	Reporting Inspector:	Mr. Peter R. Jones
Date of inspection:	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	