



Gateways Admissions and Referrals Policy



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What is Gateways?

Gateways is an Alternative Education Provider, offering bespoke education to students whose mental health, social and emotional challenges or serious medical condition prevent them from accessing mainstream education.

A growing number of young people struggle to function within mainstream schools and need another approach to education. While many believe that there is no other option available to them, we believe that every young person should have opportunities to progress and thrive, regardless of the challenges they face.

Our unique offering to the UK Jewish community delivers an individually tailored curriculum, catering for the interests, abilities and specific needs of each student and preparing them for a life beyond education.

Who is Gateways for?

Gateways is for students in year 9 upward, who struggle to remain in mainstream school, due to poor mental health, EBSA, serious medical condition and social and emotional challenges, preventing them from accessing the education they deserve.

We are by intention and designed as a small bespoke setting which means we cannot admit all those we would wish to accommodate, but this is to ensure we provide an environment where students can study successfully, develop self-efficacy, and feel physically and emotionally safe at all times.

Working with Peers

All Gateways students must be able to work together with others as part of a supportive community. This is a key consideration, and those making referrals need to be confident that any young person referred to Gateways will:

- aim to grow and develop, academically, socially, and emotionally, throughout their time with us.
- always behave in a way that supports the growth and development of everyone else around them
- contribute positively to the environment or, at the very least, not actively damage the learning or personal development of their peers.

Who is eligible for Gateways?

Admission to Gateways is by referral. Those eligible to be considered for a place are

- Jewish students of statutory school age (years 9 - 13) and young adults (aged 19-25 years); students who have been or are likely to be absent from school/college or unable to work for a minimum 15 days in one academic year (not necessarily consecutive);
- Students who have a diagnosed mental health condition;
- Students who have a serious medical condition;
- Students who are able to access and work at an upper key stage 3 level (evidence of independent reading, writing at an upper key stage 3 level).

Some of our students remain on roll at their existing mainstream school / college whilst accessing additional education and qualifications at Gateways. Some are home schooled and attend Gateways alongside this, while others are no longer of school age and engage in work alongside attending Gateways.

Those admitted over the age of 19 have generally missed many years of education and have experienced mental health difficulties. They are seeking to re-engage in education so as to obtain qualifications needed for meaningful and fulfilling employment.

What kind of mental health needs are eligible?

We support students with significant, complex mental health needs which prevent them from accessing a mainstream school curriculum. These can include:

- EBSA (emotional based school avoidance)
- SEMH (social emotional mental health)
- Low mood (general pervasive unhappiness) adversely affecting social and emotional functioning
- Anxiety symptoms such as intense, specific fears or school phobia, obsessive compulsive behaviours, difficulties separating from parents, panic attacks – often also manifesting in social isolation or physical symptoms

- Eating disorders (where successful treatment has been accessed, and the young person is deemed emotionally and physically stable)
- Historical self-harm – please refer to the Self Harm and Welfare section on the admissions page.
- Experience of trauma, suicidal idealisation and other traumatic losses resulting in severe, persistent social and emotional difficulties.
- Clinical depression that is being treated with medication, and or therapies

What is the Gateways curriculum?

Placements with Gateways are according to need. Most students remain at Gateways from their entry point until they are academically and emotionally ready to take their exams and vocational qualifications. These may be taken over time, rather than only during the traditional summer exam period. Each Gateways student has a bespoke learning plan designed to meet their individual needs, which may include days or part days divided between Gateways and their existing mainstream school placement.

We provide lessons in core academic subjects, English, Maths, Science and a GCSE qualification in Photography. Teachers will discuss with parents and carers if students will sit the GCSE or Functional Skills exams in English and Maths. We also offer the accredited vocational qualifications of VCTC Level 2 in Hair and Beauty and BTEC Level 2 in Home Cooking, and Personal Training.

Gateways will always ensure that the curriculum is taught at the student's pace.

We also offer enrichment sessions to develop critical thinking, social and communication skills along with regular social events.

We currently teach students in small groups of up to 6 in our Vocational and Science classes, and in smaller groups of up to 3 for English and Maths. All lessons take place in the Gateways building.

Psychotherapy and Art Therapy are also available for students who require these services but are not currently accessing them.

Who can make a referral?

Access to Gateways is by professional referral, which will be considered by our Referrals Team. Referrals can be made by:

- The student's mainstream school
- A Local Authority Head of Inclusion & Alternative Education Service
- A Local Authority School Admissions Team
- A Local Authority Education Welfare Service
- Social Care
- Looked After Children Team
- Early Help Team
- CAMHS

- A GP
- A registered Psychiatrist, Clinical Psychologist or Therapist,
- A mental health or educational charity such as JAMI, NOA Girls and The Boy's Clubhouse

What supporting information is needed?

We need a completed referral form indicating the impact of the SEMH needs on the student's ability to access education in a mainstream school

Supported by:

- evidence from one of the following medical professionals:
 - Medical Consultant
 - Child or Adolescent Psychiatrist
 - Senior Medical Clinical Officer
 - Child and Family Therapy Service
 - Clinical Psychologist
 - CAMHS professional
- all available information on current attainment levels in English, Maths and Science, plus recent attendance data and a school behaviour report
- all relevant safeguarding reports from CPOMS (school or social care recording systems or other) - we will seek parental/carer consent for these
- Evidence from professional and, or school reports that the young person understands and complies with appropriate online and offline behaviour and does not engage in behaviours that place them or others at risk
- copies of any relevant educational, medical consultant and, or psychiatric assessment reports and outcomes
- a copy of any draft or final EHCP (or the application if one has made recently) if applicable
- School reports and relevant academic data for KS3 and above where relevant
- An Enhanced DBS check for all young people over the age of 18 will be required
- An Overseas police check, if the young person has worked or lived abroad for more than a month (and is over 18 years) will be required

Any overseas reports and diagnosis will need to be in a certified translated format.

What is the process of applying for admission?

Parents, carers, schools, Local Authorities, CAMHS, or other supporting organisations can get in touch with any questions by completing the form below or emailing our Admissions Lead at admissions@gateways.org.uk

Step 1

Initial enquiry - Enquiries can be made via our online enquiry form, calling our Admissions Lead, or emailing our admissions email address as above

Step 2

Referral form - We will send a referral form to provide the Gateways team with background information on the prospective student and the reason for the referral. The form should only be completed by the referring organisation e.g. school, local authority, CAMHS, private psychiatrist or another supporting organisation.

Step 3

Referrals Meeting - The Gateways team review each referral to determine whether the young person meets the admissions criteria and would be compatible with the profile of the existing Gateways cohort. Referrals that meet these criteria are progressed to Step 4.

Step 4

Initial meeting - The parent/carer or referring organisation and student will be invited to Gateways for a meeting with 2 members of our team and given a tour of our building. There may be further information that the team require following the initial interview. This interview does not secure a placement offer from Gateways.

Step 5

Final Decision - The team will review the referral and make a final decision about offering a place at Gateways. Please note that not everyone can be offered a place at Gateways.

Step 6

Welcome - If an offer of a place is made, a welcome pack will be sent out including details of an induction date and time, an agreed timetable and details of the student's teachers and therapists. A New Student Induction must take place before a student can begin lessons at Gateways. The first 6 weeks will be an initial trial period to ensure the young person is attending regularly and is settling in with the existing group.

With every student, our goal is to support their successful reintegration back into school so they can gain the qualifications they need, or, for those aged 16 and above, to help them transition into further education, training, or employment.

Useful links

Supporting students at school with medical conditions, Department for Education
[Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions](#)