



A LITTLE
DOLLOP
OF INFO



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WHAT IS GATEWAY?

Gateway Christian Education is a charity which seeks to support families in finding and following Biblical pathways through education.

We're based in the UK and operate from our Learning Centre in Rochdale, near Manchester.

We have a board of trustees, chaired by Rebecca White.

Gateway employs Gareth Crossley as its Learning Centre Director.

Gateway was founded by Christian parents who are passionate about ensuring their children's education is grounded in, and supportive of their Christian faith.



WHAT DO WE DO?

Our tag line is:

“Making Christian education a possibility for every family that wants it”. while it’s quite a sweeping aim, we work toward achieving it in the following ways:

Our major work involves supporting families who choose to educate at home.

We have run a learning centre and a resource library and we have written a UK tailored, topic-based curriculum with hundreds of additional resources and activity guides. We also run occasional open learning sessions.

Possibly the most valuable aspect of Gateway’s provision is the day-to-day encouragement of a supportive community of families with similar education aspirations.

Our families welcome newbie and old-hands with equal warmth.



WHAT DON'T WE DO?

We don't formally assess individual children's progress.

We don't have parent's evenings - we expect to have ongoing, informal conversations with you.

While we can advise, we don't plan your child's education.

We don't teach to the National Curriculum.

We're unable to make provision for PE - most of our families join with other HE groups for PE

We don't teach separate subjects

We don't have a set timetable

We're not an external exam centre, so we don't provide a facility to sit external exams like GCSEs.



WHY CHOOSE GATEWAY?

Gateway has been assisting families for over six years, many of these families started their journey of educating at home with Gateway and it's our aim to enable and equip families until they are confident to go-it-alone - a number of families have done this very successfully.

Gateway could be a good fit for your family if:

- You want your Christian faith to be reflected in, and integral to, the education of your child(ren)
- You feel under-confident about launching into educating your children yourself
- You would value input and support from families who have been where you are
- You're unable to have your child(ren) yourself 5-days-a-week
- You need access to quality resources and educational equipment



WHAT'S EXPECTED OF PARENTS?

It's important to note that the education of your children remains your responsibility. Gateway can assist, advise and facilitate, but the job of getting your child through education is on you.

Parents using the learning centre on Mondays are encouraged to play an active role in the activities - especially worship and prayer. We understand that down-time is important, but we aim to gain the full benefit of corporate, whole-family learning through our Monday activities.

If your children are with us on Tuesdays and Wednesdays they will need to bring snack and lunch if they are staying over lunch.

We also encourage parents to prepare some work which children can do independently - many bring maths or literacy work books or a tablet for online studies.

Good communication helps things run smoothly, so we expect parents to let us know what their intended use will be at least one term in advance. Sessions are also paid for in advance, this is non-refundable.



WHAT DOES IT COST?

Gateway has no membership fee, you are free to use as much or as little of Gateway's provision as suits your family.

We do charge for sessions at the Learning Centre.

Monday Mornings:
£5.50 per child,
£4 for second and subsequent children.
Plus, buy a six-week block and only pay for five when you pay in advance, making a full term just £25!

Younger children remain welcome to attend Monday sessions free of charge until the half-term after their 4th birthday.

Tuesday and Wednesday:
£5.50 per child, per half-day session
£4 for second and subsequent children.
5-for-6 discount available when you book and pay for a **full term of full days** in advance.

Library Membership
£75 per year (September to September)



OUR LEARNING CENTRE

Our lovely Learning Centre is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays for six-week ‘terms’ followed by two-week breaks.

Each term we work through exciting, activities based on topics from our Curriculum such as water, flying insects, The Tudors etc.

We aim to build time into our days for children to play corporately, relax and also to complete independent and group work, however our choice of activities is often dictated by the age range and number of children present on that day.

We have toilets and kitchen facilities as well as workstations, quiet rooms, large areas for creative play and a dedicated craft area.

Our Learning centre is well stocked with all the equipment and consumable resources you might find in a primary school.



OUR RESOURCE LIBRARY

So, we have a library...

It's filled with books, games, educational resources & equipment - like microscopes, 3D shapes, globes and xylophones. We also have examples of popular HE curricula so that you can explore a broad range of resources (and actually pick them up!). Some of the more popular HE curricula are produced in the USA, this can make shipping charges a significant expense when buying a full curriculum.

We also have a growing selection of books written by and specifically for parents who educate at home, plus a large selection of Christian & parenting books and resources.

The vast majority of items can be borrowed for up to six weeks. We have a library recall at the end of each term.

There is a membership charge of £75 per academic year.



OUR CURRICULUM

Using our curriculum is not compulsory, many families dip in and out of it and supplement it with other curricula as well as stand-alone maths and literacy programs.

Our curriculum is a four-year, topic-based, rolling program of study, with three levels of learning allowing children of different ages to study together with differentiated content. It is based on a Bible reading plan which would see your children read through the Bible three times during their education. Our topics are based on the principles and content found in the Bible.

Gateway's curriculum is available in its original format - enabling families to work systematically through the plan. More recently we have developed stand-alone topic packs with even more additional resource sheets. Each of our topic packs is supported by a topic box containing specialist books, equipment, artefacts and items. These can be borrowed by members of our resource library.

You can request a free, one-term sample of our curriculum anytime.



MONDAY MORNINGS

Mondays are great days at Gateway.

Open from 10am, we start worship at 10:30
(usually accompanied by a coffee!)

We'll normally enjoy our first activity from 11:00. Parents are encouraged to either join in with our activity, helping out their children and others, or use our 'purple room' to catch up with other parents if their children don't need assistance.

'SNACK TIME!' is the cry at 11:30 we enjoy free time and snacks from home for around 20 - 25 minutes.

12:00 is usually when we start our second activity, although we may enjoy a memory verse or song lead by volunteer parents straight after snack.

We stop for lunch at 12:30 when we eat (and often share) packed lunches in the library room. We're open for library browsing and parent-monitored play for the afternoon although you are free to leave whenever you like.



TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Tuesdays and Wednesdays are designed for you to catch up with what you need to do while your children spend their time with us.

We're open from 8:30 although most children arrive between 9am and 10am. We usually start our day with free play with selected games and toys while some older children read or work as they wish.

From there, we'll jump into our exciting, tailored activities which will be related to our current topic.

As with Monday's snack is at 11:30 and we break for lunch at 12:30. If they're not staying for the afternoon, please ensure you pick-up by 1:20.

Our afternoon sessions are similar, starting at 1:30 we're open until 5pm, but you're free to pick up at anytime.

While we aim to incorporate independent learning time into each day, this is sometimes impractical for younger children depending on the level of input required.





2017 DATES & TIMES

Term dates:

Term 1 - WC 11th Sept
Term 2 - WC 6th Nov
Christmas break
Term 3 - WC 8th Jan
Term 4 - WC 5th March
Easter Break
Term 5 - WC 30th April
Term 6 - WC 25th June
Summer break

All of our terms are six weeks long.

Also please note,
Gateway is open on
the following Bank
Holidays:

May 7th - Early may
Bank Holiday &
28th May - Spring
Bank Holiday

Mondays:

Doors 10am, activities from 10:30 - 12:30
followed by lunch and open afternoon.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays:

Open 8:30am
Morning activities from 9:30 - 12:30
Afternoon activities from 1:30 - 4:30
Close 5:00pm

To speak with us please call:
07843 565 155



www.gatewaychristianeducation.org.uk