

Nursery and Preschool Childcare and Education in Arlesey



A provision of partnership



How we work together

In 2015, Arlesey Nursery and Gothic Mede Academy amalgamated to create an approach to pre-school childcare and education which supported a high educational level of entry to school and which gave parents flexibility in using funded and non-funded hours.

As a member of Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST), Gothic Mede Academy supports the vision of 0-19 education. This was central to Gothic Mede Academy's aim to amalgamate the Nursery and School provision. As with any new venture, Gothic Mede Academy sought to include best practice from a range of providers and partners.

BEST Nurseries, another member of the Trust, was an established provider of childcare for under-fives. Gothic Mede Academy took responsibility for funded three-year-old education, led by teachers, with an emphasis on developing school readiness while BEST Nurseries assumed responsibility for childcare for 0-3-year olds.

The Manager of BEST Nurseries and the Executive Principal of the Academy work closely with support from the Trust to ensure a seamless transition for the children of Arlesey. BEST Nurseries also provides before and after school care.

What We Offer

4 months – 2 years

2 years – 3 years

3 years - 4 years

3 years - 4 years

BEST Nursery)

4 months – 12 years

12 place Baby Room

16 place 2yrs+ Room

16 + 16 place 3yrs+ Room (Gothic Mede Academy)

32 place 3yrs+ Room (additional to first 15 hours funded –

Wraparound Care (Breakfast and After School Club)



Baby Room

The Baby Room will offer a warm, calm and stimulating environment. The provision will reflect the highest quality with regard to both resources and, of course, the qualifications and experience of the Baby Room staff. Supervision ratios in the Baby Room will be met with a minimum ratio of 1 staff member to 3 children.

Mid-morning/mid-afternoon snacks, a cooked dinner at 12 noon and a light tea at 4.30pm will be provided, although parents will be welcome to provide a packed lunch if they so wish. Allergies and food intolerances will be catered for. We will be able to provide some formula milks free of charge.

Babies' individual needs will be catered for through the application of care plans, admission forms, parent assessment forms, key persons, many opportunities for communication and information sharing such as daily contact and key person meetings, planning and evaluation, observations (written, photos), Records of Achievement, Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO), Individual Educational Plans (IEP's), and working with other professionals and agencies, policies and procedures such as Behavioural and Equal Opportunities, health and safety records such as medicine and accident logs, allergy list, appropriate training of staff, correct staff ratios, listening and talking.

2+ Room

Children will either progress to the 2+ Room from the Baby Room or will be able to join the Nursery from 2 years of age by entering the 2+ Room directly. In the 2+ Room children will learn how to socialise and establish positive relationships with both adults and children. The children will develop confidence and independence while learning how to play and share. A minimum supervision ratio of 1 adult to 5 children will be provided for.

Two year olds can experience a great deal of frustration while not having the means to communicate their feelings and opinions which leads to the 'Terrible Twos'. The 2+ Room will have a sound knowledge of this issue and years of experience of handling the problems and tension that can ensue. They will help the children understand their feelings and help them to communicate their needs. Staff will work closely with parents and offer support and advice. Experienced staff will also undertake the expected Two Year Old Assessment during this year.

3+ Provision

In the September after their 3rd birthday, children progress to the 3+ preschool class in Gothic Mede Academy, called Acorn Class. The class is split into two cohorts of 15 hours; 15 hours at the start of the week and 15 at the end of the week.

Acorn A runs on a Monday and Tuesday from 8:50am to 3:20pm and Wednesday from 8:50am to 10:50am.

Acorn B runs on Wednesday from 1:20pm to 3:20pm and Thursday and Friday from 8:50am to 3:20pm.

Parents (especially those who only take up 15 hours) can express a preference for which of these two cohorts their child will be part of in Acorn Class.

The emphasis will be on learning through play and structured activities; the nursery will offer a full curriculum, both inside and outside, which will allow the children to make choices, developing their confidence and self-esteem.

Each child will be treated as an individual and will be encouraged to develop at their own speed. Their 'key person' will keep records of achievements and plan each child's next steps so they are able to progress through the Early Years Foundation Stage. For the older children, there will be a greater emphasis on building independence and developing the Characteristics of Effective Learning, the important behaviours needed to be a successful learner. A rich, stimulating, planned pre-school programme enables children to develop in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage

curriculum, including opportunities to develop their communication, early English/ phonics, maths and science skills. Children will experience school life while taking part in activities within Gothic Mede Academy providing a transitional process.

Any children who receive additional free hours e.g. 30 hours, will be able to use the rest of their allocation at BEST Nursery, where they will continue to be supported in their educational journey, in partnership with Gothic Mede Academy. There is also the option to self-fund additional hours, on top of the first 15 free hours, to use at BEST Nursery.



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