Gothic Mede Academy Prospectus

September 2026

Gothic Mede Academy is a values-based preschool and lower school for children aged 3 to 9 years old in Arlesey, Bedfordshire.



We are an ambitious school where we take pride in all that we do, as reflected in our motto – *Pride in ourselves, pride in our school, pride in our community*.

The staff, governors and whole school community aim to provide a safe, happy and nurturing environment where children are prepared for the wider world with a variety of opportunities and experiences.

Through a growth mindset approach to our learning, adults and children alike, we strive for improvement, talk about our learning and understand that challenging ourselves and making mistakes are the best ways to develop.

Gothic Mede Academy is proud to be a founder member of the Bedfordshire Schools Trust (BEST), which provides exceptional education to 8,000 children across a community of 11 schools and five nurseries.

We benefit from an extensive range of dedicated shared services, which support the day-to-day running of our school. Find out more at *bestacademies.org.uk*

Values For All

Our learning, interactions and strengths are rooted in our four core school values:

- ★ **Compassion**
- ★ **Respect**
- ★ **Pride**
- ★ **Responsibility**

We expect all members of our community to strive to live our four core values daily, and we recognise those who are particularly successful by nominating children to be values ambassadors every half-term.

Early Years



We are extremely proud of our Early Years provision in our Acorn Nursery Class and in Reception.

We believe that children learn best through a combination of child-initiated play, structured play activities and adult-focused teaching sessions.

Children have free access to the indoor and outside areas, where there are resources and activities to develop all areas of learning.

Staff carefully observe and support the children during their child-initiated play in order to identify their interests and next steps for learning.

Short, daily, adult-focused teaching sessions enable the children to develop their skills in areas such as Phonics and Maths, as well as other areas of learning.

Our Curriculum

We place a strong emphasis on Maths and English, with these subjects being taught every day.

In particular, early phonics and reading is a priority and the expert delivery of our phonics scheme gives children the skills they need to go on to become confident readers.

We are extremely proud that **92% of Year 1 children passed the Phonics Screening Check in 2024**. This is significantly above the 2023 national average of 79%.

The children enjoy a range of other subjects too, which provide a rich and broad curriculum.

We tie all learning together through offering enriching experiences, such as trips and whole school learning events including Arts Around the World Week, Science Week, Wellbeing Week, World Book Day and Anti-Bullying Week.

Forest School

We are incredibly fortunate to have a Forest School at Gothic Mede Academy.

Forest School is a child-centred learning process, providing learner inspired and hands-on experiences in the natural environment.

We know that Forest School offers numerous benefits to the children, including developing their social skills, physical skills and knowledge.



It also increases a child's confidence and resilience as they problem solve and learn to manage risks.

Family Support

We feel it is important to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for children.

From time to time, everyone will need some extra advice and support to help them meet the needs of their child, enabling more positive family relationships to develop and ensuring their child achieves the most they can out of life.

Our Family Support Worker is on hand to work with families or to signpost them to external agencies for further family support.

⋆ We offer an extensive range of extracurricular activities.

After-school clubs include choir, art club and tag rugby.

In addition, we run the Junior Duke Award Scheme, which helps to increase independence, confidence and resilience.

External agencies help us to provide much more to our pupils, including Mindful Magic, Happy Little Yogi, Disco Ducks, BX Dance and Multisports.

What They Say

We are really proud of what we offer the children at Gothic Mede and this is often recognised by external agencies, too.

Each term, we have a School Improvement Advisor visit to support our ongoing improvement. These are just a handful of the positive comments from last year's reports:

'The behaviour around the school on the learning walk was very good and at times outstanding...'

'Lessons seen showed high levels of engagement...'

'Teaching for Mastery in mathematics is now embedded and mathematics is a strong area in the curriculum...'

'Reading continues to be a real strength in the school. Leaders are relentless in ensuring that every child should be able to read...'

Apply For A Place

If you are applying for a preschool place in our Acorn Nursery Class, please contact us directly at the school – *see our full contact details below*.

To apply for a Reception place for September 2026, you must do so through the local authority in which you live.

Scan the QR code, right, to find out more about the process in the admissions mini-section on our website.

SCAN ME

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