

GATEACRE SCHOOL YEAR 7 ADMISSIONS BOOKLET

SEPTEMBER 2025



GATEACRE SCHOOL

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WELCOME TO NORTHERN SCHOOLS TRUST

Northern Schools Trust is a successful sponsor of schools across Liverpool, united by our core belief that every young person can achieve their full potential when provided with the right support and opportunities. Our unwavering desire is to equip all students with the very best start in life, empowering them for future success in whichever path they choose to follow. Guided by our belief that learning brings forth freedom – our dedicated team strives to deliver an outstanding education to each and every student, guaranteeing exceptional outcomes and inspiring high aspirations. We are proud that all schools inspected whilst part of Northern Schools Trust have consistently achieved 'Good' or 'Outstanding' ratings from Ofsted.

Your child's best interests are always our first and foremost priority. Our schools are distinguished by a unique combination of a rigorous, academic curriculum, a diverse enrichment programme, and a nurturing, supportive environment. We champion an ambitious, academic curriculum, founded on the power of a broad and balanced education. While prioritising traditional subjects like Ancient History, Science, and English, we seamlessly integrate engaging artistic and sporting options. Our evidence-based educational approach is meticulously designed with your child's learning and development at its heart, fostering both academic achievement and a lifelong love for learning that extends well beyond the classroom.

A distinctive feature of all Northern Schools Trust secondary schools is our comprehensive Latin provision. Often overlooked in the state sector yet in the independent sector, we've found that students genuinely relish their Latin lessons, embracing the unique opportunities it offers to explore classical civilisation and the ancient world. Far from being irrelevant or elitist, Latin is universally recognised as a rigorous academic option that significantly develops students' language and analytical skills, making it highly regarded by employers and universities. Crucially, the study of Latin is also profoundly enjoyable, intellectually exciting, academically challenging, and immensely rewarding.

Reflecting the best independent school practices, we firmly believe your child's education extends beyond the classroom. To this end, our dedicated Education Enrichment Team coordinates and organises a wide variety of high-quality trips, inspiring events, and engaging extracurricular activities. Throughout their time at Gateacre School, students will have abundant opportunities to participate in diverse careers and educational programmes, visit sites of local and national interest, embark on residential trips, and engage in numerous cultural, artistic, and sporting clubs.

We foster a culture of high expectations, where students are treated with the highest respect and are, in turn, expected to treat others likewise. Our approach to behaviour is consistent, firm, yet fair: staff diligently praise and recognise effort and good behaviour, and work tirelessly to consolidate expectations when students do not meet them. Our robust pastoral system is thoughtfully designed to promote tolerance, kindness, and consideration, with the aim that every student leaving our school does so as a confident, articulate, respectful, and courteous member of society.

We understand that the transition from primary to secondary school marks a significant milestone for new students. Each year, we meticulously arrange a number of transition activities for Year 6 students, including dedicated Taster Days, to help them feel thoroughly settled and prepared for life at their new school. Please be assured that everyone at Gateacre School and Northern Schools Trust is working diligently to prepare for your child's arrival, and we are genuinely excited to welcome you both into our thriving community.

Paul Smith

Chief Education Officer | Northern Schools Trust

WELCOME TO GATEACRE SCHOOL!

As we embark on a new academic year, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all our new Year 7 students and their families. Starting secondary school is a significant milestone, and we are excited to have you join the Gateacre School community.

At Gateacre School, we believe in nurturing each student's potential, fostering a love of learning, and creating a supportive environment where everyone can thrive. Our dedicated staff are committed to providing an enriching experience that will inspire and challenge our students to reach their full potential.

Central to our ethos are the Gateacre GREAT values—Gratitude, Respect, Excellence, Aspiration, and Teamwork. These values underpin everything we do at Gateacre School. They guide our interactions, encourage a positive culture, and help build a strong sense of community. By embracing these values, we empower our students to become responsible, compassionate individuals who contribute positively to society.

This coming year, we are thrilled to offer a diverse array of exciting opportunities. Our enrichment programs are specifically designed to build a solid foundation in leadership for all pupils. In 'sports', students can take advantage of our new state-of-the-art cricket and rugby facilities and join related clubs that foster teamwork and resilience. For those inclined towards the performing arts, participating in drama or our spectacular Theatre Production annual extravaganza will enhance their confidence and communication skills. Our creative arts clubs, including arts and crafts, provide avenues for self-expression and innovative thinking. Additionally, our 'futures' programs, such as Combined Cadet Force (CCF), offer unique opportunities for leadership development and personal growth. For pupils who feel a deep sense of responsibility for its community, our 'citizen' offer includes being leaders in areas such as climate change, an Eco warrior club will help us build sustainability for generations to come through climate-conscious awareness building, skills development, and knowledge dissemination. Be changemakers!

As part of our commitment to fostering a strong sense of pupil voice and promoting school improvement, we are excited to introduce a Junior Leadership Team that mirrors the structure of our Senior Leadership Team. This initiative will empower our Year 7 students to actively participate in shaping their school experience while ensuring their perspectives are heard. The Student Council will play a crucial role in discussing key topics that matter most to pupils, ranging from our school reward experiences, to off-site experiences and trips. By involving students in these important conversations, we aim to create a collaborative environment where their insights contribute to meaningful changes and enhance overall pupil progress.

We understand that transitioning to secondary school can be both exhilarating and daunting. Rest assured, we are here to support both students and parents every step of the way. Our open-door policy encourages communication, and I invite you to reach out with any questions or concerns.

As we look forward to a year filled with learning, growth, and new friendships, I encourage our new Year 7 students to embrace every opportunity that comes their way. Remember, the best way to predict your future is to create it!

Here's to a fantastic year ahead at Gateacre School!

Warm regards.

Mr N Jamil

Principal | Gateacre School



OUR VALUES-DRIVEN SCHOOL CULTURE

As you prepare to join us in Year 7, we want to share what makes our school special: our commitment to core values that shape our community. At our school, we prioritise:

- Graciousness
- Respect
- Excellence
- Ambition
- Teamwork

These values guide the behaviour of students, staff, and parents, helping to create a supportive and cohesive environment.



Here's an example of how each value connects to our behaviour systems, including rewards and consequences:

GRACIOUSNESS – BEING A RESPONSIBLE CITIZEN

Rewards: Students who show kindness, support their peers, and actively participate in community activities will be recognised and celebrated through certificates, acknowledgements, and celebration during assemblies.

Sanctions: Actions that undermine this value, such as bullying or disrespecting others, lead to consequences including reflective discussions or more formal actions, emphasising the importance of responsibility in our school.

RESPECT – TREATING OTHERS AS WE WISH TO BE TREATED

Rewards: Students who demonstrate respect for their classmates, teachers, and the school culture will be praised and rewarded, fostering a positive environment for everyone.

Sanctions: Disrespectful behaviours, such as using hurtful language or ignoring reasonable instructions, will result in consequences designed to promote reflection and restore relationships, highlighting the importance of mutual respect.

EXCELLENCE – STRIVING FOR HIGH STANDARDS

Rewards: Achievements in academics, sports, and other activities are celebrated to motivate students to pursue excellence. This may include awards, special recognition events, or privileges. We believe that hard work leads to outstanding results.

Sanctions: If students show a lack of effort or disregard for excellence, they may receive support aimed at helping them recognise their potential and understand the value of striving for their best.

AMBITION – BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

Rewards: Students who set and reach personal and academic goals, show leadership, or take on challenges will be rewarded, reinforcing the importance of ambition and growth.

Sanctions: If students become complacent or disengaged, discussions will be held to encourage them to aim higher, emphasising the value of ambition and hard work in achieving success.

TEAMWORK – WORKING TOGETHER FOR EXCELLENCE

Rewards: Collaborative efforts in group projects, clubs, or sports are recognised, celebrating the importance of teamwork in reaching common goals.

Sanctions: Students who disrupt group dynamics or fail to contribute positively may face consequences that highlight the importance of teamwork and each member's role in achieving excellence.

By incorporating these values into our rewards and consequences systems, we create a positive environment that encourages students to live by these principles daily. This ultimately helps build a thriving school community and prepares our students to become ethical and moral leaders of the future.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school, where these values will guide your journey!

YEAR 7 TRANSITION

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

LIVERPOOL CITY-WIDE TRANSITION DAY WEDNESDAY 02ND JULY 2025, 9.00AM – 3.00PM

All students will spend a 'Transition Day' at Gateacre School and experience a normal school day to get a taste of what learning is like at the School. We hope that this event will help students become familiar with the school day, environment and expectations of the School. We will send you more information about the Transition Day in due course. Students will need to wear their primary school uniform when they attend.

COGNITIVE ABILITY TESTS (CATS) 03RD, 04TH, 07TH or 08TH JULY 2025, 9.00AM – 3.00PM

Your child has been assigned a specific date to visit Gateacre School. This day is designed to help them become familiar with daily life in a larger school environment. They'll participate in a range of activities, including understanding what to expect during transitions between lessons.

A key part of this day involves completing Cognitive Abilities Tests (CATs). These assessments are a vital tool for us to understand your child's individual strengths and areas for development.

This information helps us tailor support and ensure every student is set up for success from the start, minimizing changes once the new academic year begins. **Please be assured that your child's place at Gateacre School is not dependent on the outcome of these tests.**

These assessments are designed to provide us with a baseline understanding and do not require any prior revision.

COGNITIVE SUMMER SCHOOL MONDAY 28TH JULY – FRIDAY 01ST AUGUST 2025

All students will spend a 'Transition Day' at Gateacre School and experience a normal school day to get a taste of what learning is like at the School. We hope that this event will help students become familiar with the school day, environment and expectations of the School. We will send you more information about the Transition Day in due course. Students will need to wear their primary school uniform when they attend.

INDUCTION DAY TUESDAY 03RD SEPTEMBER 2025, 8.40AM – 3.15PM

This will be Year 7's first day at Gateacre School. Students should arrive at the student entrance in full school uniform, including all the required equipment (see page 17) packed into a black bag by 8:35am.

Monday 2nd September 2025 is a staff inset day

TIMES OF THE DAY

BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE OF A TYPICAL SCHOOL DAY

<h1>Gateacre School day</h1> <p>Students should arrive on school site by 8.35am daily</p>							
TIME	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11	Y12	Y13
8:40AM	MORNING ROUTINE / ADDRESS: Students line up in Year area.						
8:45-9AM	REGISTRATION: Stand behind desks and get equipment out. Form teacher addresses form group and takes the register.						
9-9:50AM	LESSON 1: Move quickly to lesson with outstanding attitude to learning.						
9:50-10:40AM	LESSON 2						
10:40-10.55AM	BREAK TIME: Queue in an orderly manner, sit down to eat in a clam manner, socialise respectfully outside.						
10:55-11.45AM	LESSON 3: Move to lesson 3 using the quickest route.						
11:45-12:35PM	LESSON 4						
12:35-13:05PM	LUNCH A	ATT	LUNCH A	ATT	LUNCH A	ATT	ATT
13:05-13:35PM	ATT	LUNCH B	ATT	LUNCH B	ATT	LUNCH B	LUNCH B
13:35-14:25PM	LESSON 5						
14:25-15:15PM	LESSON 6						

TERM DATES

Please note that dates may be subject to change

AUTUMN TERM		
Autumn Term – Part One	Tuesday 2 nd September to Friday 17 th October 2025	INSET DAY Monday 1 st September 2025
Half Term Break	Monday 20 th October to Friday 31 st October 2025	
Autumn Term – Part Two	Monday 3 rd November 2025 to Friday 19 th December 2025	
Christmas break	Monday 22 nd December 2025 to Friday 2 nd January 2026	

SPRING TERM		
Spring Term – Part One	Monday 5 th January to Friday 13 th February 2026	
Half Term break	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	
Spring Term – Part Two	Monday 23 rd February to Friday 27 th March 2026	
Easter break	Monday 30 th March to Friday 10 th April 2026	

SUMMER TERM		
Summer Term – Part One	Monday 13 th April to Friday 22 nd May 2026	BANK HOLIDAY Monday 4 th May 2026
Half Term break	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	
Summer Term – Part Two	Monday 1 st June to Friday 17 th July 2026	INSET DAY Monday 20 th July 2026
Summer break	From Monday 20 th July 2026 onwards	

KEY STAFF

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Mr N. Jamil
Principal



Mr A. Dalton-Bunker
Vice Principal



Mr I. Robinson
Vice Principal
(Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Miss G. Nallamilli
Assistant Principal



Mrs J. Boyd
Assistant Principal
(Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)



Mrs S. Tracey
Associate Assistant
Principal



Mr S. Hardeley
Associate Assistant
Principal



Miss H. Parsons
Associate Assistant
Principal



Mrs K. Moreton
Associate Assistant
Principal
SENCO

PASTORAL CARE & WELLBEING: NURTURING EVERY CHILD AT GATEACRE SCHOOL

PASTORAL AND SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Mr Robinson (Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Mrs Boyd (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead)

Mr Danson

Miss Woods

Miss Haines

Miss Harper

Mr Cooper

Miss Imray

Miss Melling

At Gateacre School, we believe that **your child's well-being is the foundation for their academic and personal success**. Our comprehensive pastoral care system is designed to create a nurturing and supportive environment where every student feels safe, valued, and understood. We are committed to fostering an atmosphere where students can thrive emotionally, socially, and academically, knowing there is always someone to support them.

Our Pastoral Team: Each student at Gateacre School belongs to a **Form**, overseen by year team of staff. Your child's primary point of contact will be their **Form Tutor**, who they will see every morning. The Form Tutor plays a crucial role in your child's daily life, monitoring their progress, offering support, and acting as the first point of contact for both students and parents.

Beyond the Form Tutor, is our **Pastoral Leaders**. These experienced pastoral leaders are responsible for the overall well-being and academic progress of students within their Year groups, providing guidance, support, and addressing any concerns that may arise.

A Supportive Environment: Our pastoral system is built on principles of **tolerance, kindness, and consideration**. We actively promote a culture where students treat each other, and all members of our school community, with the highest respect. We encourage open communication, ensuring students feel comfortable approaching staff with any worries or questions, big or small.

Promoting Positive Behaviour & Character: We maintain a **consistent, firm, yet fair approach to behaviour**. Our staff diligently praise and recognise effort and positive behaviour, celebrating achievements that contribute to our thriving school community. When students do not meet behavioural expectations, our team works tirelessly to guide them, helping them understand the importance of making positive choices and consolidating respectful conduct. This approach is designed to encourage self-discipline and foster positive relationships.

Beyond the Classroom: We understand that adolescence can bring its own challenges. Our pastoral team is equipped to support students through a range of issues, from academic concerns and friendships to more personal matters. We also work closely with external support agencies where needed, ensuring your child has access to comprehensive help.

Our Goal for Every Student: Our aim is for every student leaving Gateacre School to do so as a **confident, articulate, respectful, and courteous member of society**, fully prepared for their future beyond our gates. We are dedicated to ensuring that your child feels supported, happy, and empowered to reach their full potential throughout their time with us.

More information about your child's specific Form Tutor will be shared with you closer to September.

ENRICHMENT AND EXTRA CURRICULAR AT GATEACRE SCHOOL

At Gateacre School we believe that the curriculum expands beyond academic learning in the classroom. We aim to develop each of our students into well rounded individuals with a sense of moral character who can thrive in today's modern world.

We offer a wide variety of clubs outside of lessons in different areas such as art, music, sports, drama, computing, STEM (Science, technology, engineering and Mathematics) and humanities. We encourage all students to participate in extracurricular clubs to develop interests outside of lessons

SPORTS

Extracurricular opportunities are designed to promote physical fitness while instilling leadership attributes such as teamwork, perseverance, and resilience in our pupils. Throughout the year students can participate in different activities including football, rugby, and netball. In addition, we encourage participation in local leagues and tournaments to provide broader competitive experiences. The spirit of competition encourages participants to push their limits and fosters camaraderie, thereby nurturing a sense of belonging and community, which is crucial for personal growth.

ART

These opportunities play an essential role in fostering creativity, which is vital for personal expression and cultural awareness. Students are encouraged to explore various artistic mediums and techniques, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, digital art, and photography.

SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHS (STEM)

Our commitment to the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) curriculum is pivotal in nurturing a passion for these subjects among students. We aim to develop crucial problem-solving abilities and analytical thinking. Hands-on projects, coding clubs, STEM club, animal handling club, science history club, snake feeding club and engaging experiments enable students to address real-world challenges while working collaboratively. Collaborations with local businesses and universities provide students with insights into STEM career pathways and expose them to cutting-edge research and technology. These experiences develop teamwork, leadership, communication, problem solving and establishing a solid foundation for future careers in an increasingly technological landscape.

MUSIC

Music is vital in enhancing students' experiences and promoting collaboration, confidence, creativity, and emotional intelligence. Through exposure to a wide range of musical genres and instruments, students explore personal interests and artistic talents. We provide opportunities for students to join various activities and clubs, choirs, and bands, culminating in performances at school events and competitions. Additionally, we host workshops with professional organisations such as ADLIB students can participate in industry day and learn about different roles within the industry. Music clubs are offered throughout the day in orchestra, string, pop voices, keyboard, guitar and African drumming.

CHESS

Students can join our chess club and represent the school in local and national tournaments

EXTRA-CURRICULAR TRIPS AND VISITS

Students at Gateacre can participate in a variety of trips and visits. This year students have attended visits related to politics, history, theatre, music sports, STEM, Careers, University, Aspiration Students have visited Shakespeare North, attended musical performances at Liverpool Philharmonic, and attended West End Shows. Students have also visited travelled to different countries including Spain to take part in water sport activities, To France to develop cultural awareness and further developed their knowledge of art in in New York.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

JUNIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

The aim of our Student Leadership Programme is to empower our students through active participation and responsibility within the school community. The Junior Leadership Team comprises of distinct roles aimed at fostering leadership skills and encouraging student engagement.

The Head Boy and Head Girl will serve as ambassadors at various school events. They will meet regularly with the Senior Leadership Team, providing a vital link between students and school leadership while guiding the Junior Leadership Team. The Student Council includes Heads of Year and Assistant Heads of Year for each year group from Years 7 to 11. This group will lead year-specific projects in specific areas such as charity and community

Furthermore, each form class will appoint Student Ambassadors, responsible for leading student voice initiatives within their classes. These ambassadors will play a crucial role in representing their peers and enhancing communication between students and staff at Gateacre

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Gateacre School is proud to be a Licensed Organisation of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme (DofE). The DofE scheme is a programme of practical, cultural and adventurous activities, designed to support the personal and social development of young people. It offers an individual challenge and encourages young people to undertake exciting, constructive, challenging and enjoyable activities they may otherwise not have attempted. The award is also recognised and valued by employers and higher education institutions for the skills it develops and the hard work required to achieve the award. We encourage students to engage with The Duke of Edinburgh award as it gives the students opportunities to demonstrate determination and commitment, as well as developing their community awareness, team working and leadership skills. Our aim is for students to complete the awards through key stage 4, and for all students who start this award, to complete it. The awards themselves, at bronze and silver levels, are split into 4 different sections: volunteering; physical, skill and expedition.

COMBINED CADET FORCE

There are CCF contingents in over 500 secondary schools all over the UK, offering young people a broad range of challenging, exciting, adventurous and educational activities.

Their aim is to enable the development of personal responsibility, leadership and self-discipline. Each CCF is an educational partnership between the school and the Ministry of Defence, and a CCF may include Royal Navy/Royal Marines, Army or Royal Air Force sections. The CCF will start in Gateacre in September 2025, students from year 8 onwards have the opportunity to sign up and become involved in the programme. Through engagement in military training, drill exercises, and diverse outdoor activities, cadets learn vital life skills, including discipline, respect, and self-confidence.

SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

This programme aims to build confidence, develop new skills and become leaders in school. Students help staff to run clubs, support younger students and assist with school events. The sports leadership programme develops leadership skills, resilience and first aid skill. Students work with the community coaching, refereeing and supporting in sports clubs. The sports leadership programme also gives students the opportunity to gain accreditation through a Multi skills Coaching Award. Students can apply for this programme in year 9.

GATEACRE SCHOLARS

A fantastic opportunity awaits our academically ambitious students: the chance to participate in our prestigious Scholars' Programme. This unique initiative is specifically designed to challenge, inspire, and equip them with the skills and confidence needed to excel at top universities and beyond.

WHY CHOOSE THE SCHOLARS' PROGRAMME?

The Scholars' Programme is all about stretching and challenging our most capable learners. Through a powerful combination of academic rigour and unique, enriching opportunities, we aim to empower students to truly excel, both in their education and in life. To join this selective programme, invited students will submit a written application, showcasing their suitability and what they can contribute to our vibrant scholarly community.

BENEFITS FOR OUR SCHOLARS

Our Scholars enjoy a wealth of exceptional opportunities, including: Tailored Mentoring: Benefit from personalised academic and professional mentoring, guiding them towards their individual aspirations. Cultural Immersion: Embark on enriching educational trips and visits that expand their cultural horizons and deepen their understanding of the world. Enhanced Resources: Gain access to home devices and advanced resources, such as Raspberry Pi computers, laptops, and iPads, to facilitate their extra-curricular learning and exploration. Competitive Edge: Prepare for and participate in regional and national competitions, building confidence, gaining invaluable experience, and connecting with like-minded peers. Professional Skill Development: Attend events led by professional mentors, designed to enhance both subjectspecific knowledge and general communication skills, fostering unwavering confidence. Diverse Learning Avenues: Engage in a wide variety of research projects, delve into the study of Latin and Classical Civilisation, and explore the fascinating world of Statistics. Active Engagement: Participate in dynamic activities like fencing, rowing, and an array of stimulating science experiments, promoting both physical and intellectual development.

EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS

By offering these pivotal experiences and a truly high-quality education, we empower our students to compete successfully on a national and international level for placements at the finest universities and for rewarding careers. Our Scholars develop a strong sense of ambition and become part of a supportive community that shares similar goals and values. Every student receives dedicated mentorship and support, ensuring they are continually challenged and inspired throughout their entire journey at Gateacre.

UNIFORM

The uniform for all students is:

- Black Blazer with Gateacre School Badge
- Black trousers or black knee-length skirt or pinafore
- White shirt (long or short sleeved)
- Black and Purple tie
- Plain black shoes with flat or low heels
- Plain black or white socks or tights
- Knitwear (optional): Black V-neck jumper or tank top with Gateacre School badge



RATIONALE FOR SCHOOL UNIFORM

Safety

If all students wear a clearly recognisable uniform, it is easy to identify strangers. On the way to and from school it also affords a degree of safety as the students are part of a large body of young people who will look out for each other.

Ready to Work

Putting on uniform is a signal you are going to work hard and learn.

Raising Aspirations

Students have told us that if they look smart they will have more self-belief and achieve more.

A Sense of Pride

Uniform and team kits help our students to demonstrate pride in their school.

Preparation for the Future

Many jobs require staff to wear a uniform or there is often a dress code. Uniform helps young people get used to dressing to a prescribed standard and know the difference between formal and informal dress.

Relieves Students from Fashion Stress

Uniform eliminates the stress placed on students to purchase and wear expensive, fashionable items.

Value for Money

Uniform is a relatively inexpensive way of dressing young people for school.

PE KIT



One item required	<u>1</u>	Polo Top - Gateacre branded PE polo top
	<u>1</u>	Crew Neck - Gateacre branded PE t shirt
One item required	<u>2</u>	Shorts - plain black PE shorts
	<u>2</u>	Skort - plain black PE skort
	<u>2</u>	Leggings - plain black branded Gateacre PE leggings
	<u>2</u>	Tracksuit Pants - plain black branded Gateacre tracksuit pants
item required	3.	Socks – Plain black football socks which pull up to the knee
Item required	4.	Trainers – sports trainers with suitable grip.
Optional Items	4.	Hoodie – Gateacre branded PE hoodie
	4	Half Zip Jumper – Gateacre branded half zip jumper
	4	Base Layer – plain black base layers may be worn underneath PE tops and shorts.
















Items not permitted in PE lessons	Coats
	Trainer socks, or any other sock which is not plain black football socks.
	Non-Gateacre branded PE tops, including hoodies and jumpers
	Yoga shorts, cycling shorts or any tight fitting lycra shorts
	Jewellery of any kind, including watches.
	School shoes, Converse, vans and other pump like shoes– they do not provide the necessary support or grip.

LENDING POLICY FOR FORGOTTEN OR INCORRECT PE KIT

If a student arrives without a full or correct PE kit, they will be required to wear a kit provided by the department. Refusal to do so will be treated as a behavioural issue. Students are not permitted to wear their school uniform (including shirts, jumpers, or ties) during PE. ***If a student cannot participate practically in the PE lessons, they still must bring and wear their full PE kit.***

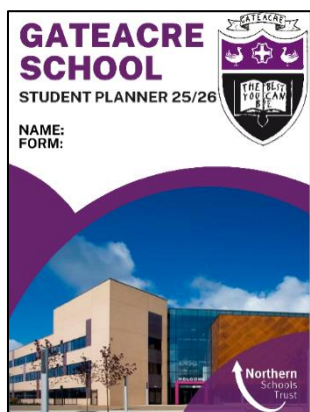
STATIONARY: DAILY EQUIPMENT

The following list highlights the stationery items that students must have when they start at Gateacre School in September.

COMPULSORY ITEMS:		RECOMMENDED ITEMS:	
	Ruler		Highlighter
	Black pen		180-degree protractor
	Red pen		Glue
	Pencil		Colouring Pencils
	Eraser		2B / 2H Pencils
	Pencil sharpener		Spare pens
	See through pencil case		
	Casio Scientific Calculator FX-85GTCM *We sell these at a reduced price on parent pay		
	Reading book		

The minimum daily equipment required at Gateacre is:

- A pencil case with a black/blue pen, a pencil, a ruler, a red pen, a rubber and a pencil sharpener
- A Scientific calculator
- A reading book
- A School planner (this will be given to students in September)
- A plain black school bag, A4 in size, to place items such as, pencil-case, books, homework, PE kit, etc



To learn effectively and make use of all learning time, you need to ensure that you have all the necessary equipment for school. Being well equipped prevents disruption to your learning and the learning of others.

Pack your school bag the night before.

We have most stationary items for sale in the School shop in the Sports Barn.

UNIFORM

Gateacre School uniform is supplied by Kitted out and you can order all uniform online via their website or in their shop.



Allerton

114 Allerton Road,
Mossley Hill
Liverpool, L18 2DG

Monday – Saturday:
9am – 5pm

Sunday:
Closed

Tel: 0151 733 5533

Mob text service only: 07305 535 575

READING AT GATEACRE

At Gateacre, we are committed to developing a culture of reading for pleasure. By developing a school culture that values and supports reading and acknowledging students' developing interests, we aim to sustain good reading habits as students move from primary to secondary school.

As the National Curriculum states, 'At key stage 3, pupils should develop an appreciation and love of reading, and read increasingly challenging material independently through... choosing and reading books independently for challenge, interest and enjoyment.'

To support this, a book of choice is an expectation in all school bags as part of school equipment.

As a school we employ core strategies to encourage sustained, voluntary reading, that include:

- adults reading aloud regularly, including in class or form time
- informal book talk, including recommendations from peers and adults
- encouraging library use, including the local public library services
- providing time to read in school and further enrichment opportunities throughout the academic year

In partnership with parents and carers we aim to ensure that our students have the time and motivation to read widely and often, as well as opportunities to discuss their reading. By working collaboratively in ensuring our students have age and stage appropriate reading materials each day, we can foster a culture of creating engaged and interested readers, not just students who can read.

MOBILE PHONES










Mobile phones must be switched off and kept inside backpacks during the school day. If a phone is seen or heard, it will be confiscated.

Research consistently shows that mobile phone use in schools can negatively impact students' academic performance and contribute to issues such as bullying. In contrast, limiting phone use can lead to several positive outcomes for children, including:

- Improved academic performance
- Better quality of sleep
- Enhanced behaviour in class
- Increased physical activity
- Greater overall happiness and wellbeing

We also encourage parents and carers to be mindful of their child's mobile phone use at home—especially at bedtime—as this can significantly affect sleep quality. A good night's sleep is essential for maintaining both mental and physical health, and it helps ensure pupils are ready to learn each day.

EduLink One is our integrated school information platform that allows students, parents and staff access to information relating to life at Gateacre School. All parents have access to the following features:

 Timetable	This gives you a view of your child's current timetable and will be kept up to date with any changes of teacher, groups or rooms as they happen
	Messaging and including the ability to receive 'Push Messages' to the mobile app
 Homework	If your child is set homework their teacher will aim to include any key information here, this is a personalised log that both you and your child see of the homework that has been set, when it is due and any attachments that you might find useful.
 Attendance	This shows a percentage breakdown of the attendance of your child in each subject they study also detailing lateness. Within this section you can see your child's registration record including recorded reasons for absence and current unauthorised absences.
 Achievement	Under this section you will be able to see all of the achievements your child/ children have been awarded in the current academic year.
 Behaviour	A record of any negative behaviour events
 Forms	We may on occasions ask you to complete a form or survey. This allows you to provide us with direct feedback on events within the school or provide parental permission for an educational visit.
 Update Information	Updating personal information (e.g. change of address...)
 Parents' Evening	The ability to book, review and edit Parents Evening appointments.

To login to EduLink, please visit: www.edulinkone.com, or by using the App.

Need Help?

If you experience any issues logging in, contact admin@gateacre.org with your name, name of your child and details on your issue.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Regular and punctual attendance is an essential prerequisite to effective learning. Failing to attend school regularly can have a major impact on children's education, their future and their life chances. Regular attendance means attending school every day, arriving at school on time and attending every lesson.

We expect each student to achieve the national attainment level of **97 per cent and above** in terms of attendance over the course of each academic year. If a student's attendance falls below 90 per cent the school is legally required to inform the Education Welfare Service. You will be asked to work with the Education Welfare Service to ensure an improvement. This may include legal action to ensure you fulfil your parental duty.

If your child is unwell:

If your child is ill and unfit to attend school, you must contact the school **before 8:00am** on the first day of absence and continue to provide the school with appropriate information on a daily basis (telephone number 0151 363 1111). If you do not inform the school your child's absence a message will be sent asking you to contact the school as a matter of urgency.

If your child is required to attend a medical appointment during the school day the Attendance Officer will need to be informed and a note from the parent will be required. **A student cannot be dismissed from school without parental consent.**

Holidays during the school term are not permitted. Schools will only grant permission for your child to be away from school during the term under exceptional circumstances. To request a holiday during term time you will need to complete and return a 'Holiday Application' form to the Attendance Officer. The school will give careful consideration to your request taking into account your child's attendance record. If the school does not agree to your request and the leave is taken it will be marked as an unauthorised absence and a penalty notice will be issued by the local authority.

Student punctuality is very important in creating a successful learning environment. Students should aim to arrive at school **by 8:35am each day**. If your child is late to school they will be required to do a detention.

CASHLESS CATERING

Catering & Our Cashless System: Simple, Secure & Smart Eating at Gateacre School

At Gateacre School, we ensure students have access to delicious and nutritious meals in our modern dining hall. To make the meal service quick, secure, and convenient, we operate a **biometric (fingerprint) cashless catering system**.

How it Works for Students: Each student has a personal account that can be easily credited. Funds can be added using one of the cash machines located within the school, or conveniently online via **Parent pay** using a credit or debit card. Instead of handling cash at the till, your child simply places their finger on a secure reader. This quickly brings up their photo and account balance on the cashier's screen, allowing for a fast and efficient service. This system not only speeds up queues but also significantly reduces the risk of lost or stolen cash and eliminates any bullying associated with cash payments. It also provides parents with greater oversight, ensuring funds are spent exclusively on school meals.

Understanding Biometric Recognition: To register for the system, your child will gently place their finger on the fingerprint reader. The system then takes certain key measurements from the finger and converts these into a unique, complex numerical code (over 100 digits). **It is crucial to understand that no image of a fingerprint is stored; only this unique number.** This numerical code cannot be converted back into any measurements or an actual fingerprint image, ensuring your child's privacy and security.

Data Privacy & Security: The personal data held within this system will **only** be used for the implementation and operation of our cashless catering system. This data will not be passed to third parties unless strictly necessary for the system's operation. All student data will be securely deleted from the system once your child leaves Gateacre School.

Your Consent Matters: Most of the information used by the cashless system (such as your child's name, tutor group, or free school meal entitlement) is already held by the school, as provided by parents/guardians or students themselves. The only new information required for the biometric system's operation is the biometric data. **We must obtain the written consent of at least one parent/guardian before any biometric data is taken from students under the age of 13.**

CASHLESS CATERING – FAQs FOR PARENTS

How do Free School Meals work?

If your child is eligible for **Free School Meals (FSM)**, their account is automatically credited with **£2.55 per day** (amount may change each academic year).

- This credit can be used to purchase food items at **lunch only** and must be used that day.
- Students receiving FSM are **not identifiable** at the tills—they use the same system as all other students.

Can I add extra money to my child's account if they get Free School Meals?

Yes. You can top up their account using:

- **ParentPay** (online)
- **Cash top-up machines** in school (used by students)

This extra money can be spent at **break or lunch** and is in addition to their FSM allowance.

What happens if my child's Free School Meal entitlement expires?

Free School Meal status must be applied for and renewed through your local authority (e.g., **HCC**).

If we don't receive confirmation of entitlement, your child will need to pay for their meals. Please ensure your application is up to date to avoid disruption.

How do I pay online?

You can pay using **ParentPay**:

1. Log into your ParentPay account using your login details (sent to you after your child starts school).
2. Add money via **credit or debit card**.
3. Funds will appear on your child's account shortly after payment.

What if I don't have a credit or debit card and want to pay with cash?

Your child can top up their account at **cash machines in school**.

Note: Only students can use these machines with their fingerprint.

Can I limit how much my child spends per day?

Yes. You can set a **daily spending limit**. Please contact the **school office** if you would like this set up.

How can my child check their balance?

- **In school:** By using the **revaluation station** (fingerprint scanner), they can see their balance.
- **At the till:** The current balance is shown after each purchase.
- **Online:** You can view the balance by logging into your **ParentPay** account (balance shown as of the end of the previous day).

FREE YEAR 7 BREAKFAST CLUB – STARTING SEPTEMBER 2025

Gateacre School is proud to be working in partnership with **Magic Breakfast**, a fantastic organisation dedicated to ensuring that no child starts the school day too hungry to learn.

From **September 2025**, all **Year 7 students** are warmly invited to join our **free Breakfast Club** every school morning from **8:00am**.



What's included?

Thanks to Magic Breakfast, we provide a range of **healthy and nutritious breakfast options** to help pupils:

- Feel more settled and ready for the day.
- Boost concentration and energy levels.
- Start lessons focused and engaged.



When and where?

- **Time:** From **8:00am** daily.
- **Who:** All **Year 7** students.
- **Cost:** **Completely free** – no need to book or sign up.

Breakfast is served in a welcoming environment, giving students a great opportunity to start the day positively with their peers.

We look forward to welcoming your child to Breakfast Club and helping them get the best start to their school day!

COGNITIVE ABILITY TEST (CAT) – FAQs FOR PARENTS AND PUPILS

What is CAT?

The **Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT)** is an assessment that measures how your child thinks and learns, rather than what they've already been taught. It looks at reasoning skills in four key areas:

- **Verbal reasoning** – understanding and using words.
- **Non-verbal reasoning** – working with shapes and patterns.
- **Quantitative reasoning** – solving problems with numbers.
- **Spatial ability** – visualising and manipulating objects in space.

These areas are linked to academic success and give a fuller picture of your child's learning potential.

Why is my child taking the CAT?

CAT is used by schools to:

- Understand how your child learns best.
- Identify strengths and areas where support may be helpful.
- Help teachers personalise teaching.
- Support setting and groups.

Is CAT a test of knowledge?

No. CAT is not based on the school curriculum. It doesn't test what your child has been taught, but rather how they process information and solve problems.

Should my child prepare or revise for CAT?

No preparation is needed or recommended. In fact, practising can affect the accuracy of the results. The aim is to get a natural, unbiased picture of how your child thinks. Encourage your child to:

- Get a good night's sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Stay calm and confident.

What does the CAT test look like?

CAT is taken on a computer and includes a series of timed sections. Before each section, students are given instructions and practice questions to help them understand what to do. No prior knowledge or subject revision is needed.

How long does the test take?

The test is typically completed in just over **2 hours**, this will be split into 3 shorter sessions across the day.

Will I receive the results?

Yes. A **summary report** will be shared in writing with parents at the year 7 Welcome event in the Autumn term, showing your child's performance in each area.

What do the results mean?

CAT results are used to:

- Identify learning preferences and potential.
- Support decisions on class grouping or extra support.
- Help teachers plan appropriate challenges and interventions.

Will this affect my child's future?

CAT helps guide teachers early in secondary school to tailor support and stretch your child appropriately. It is one of many tools used to help your child succeed. It does **not determine** GCSE results or future options.

Who can I speak to if I have questions?

If you would like more detail about CAT, please email n.white@gateacre.org.