

Teacher Profile



GATEWAYS
SCHOOL

Mrs Hallam



Mrs Hallam joined Gateways in 2018 as a Prep school teacher. She is Head of KS1 Pastoral Care and Discipline and teaches a range of subjects to Transition (Year 1) and Lower 1 (Year 2).

What made you want to be a teacher and have you always been a teacher?

As a child, I always wanted to become a dolphin trainer! However, my favourite childhood game was playing 'schools' and I gradually realised that teaching was definitely going to be the career for me! My mum was a teacher and I absolutely loved helping her to prepare resources and exciting activities to use with her classes.

What are your favourite things about teaching at Gateways?

Gateways feels more like a family. I love how everybody knows each other – all the staff and also the children too. It's nice to see the older ones in High School helping the younger children and great to watch how children progress through the years. We are in the enviable position of being able to see our pupils developing from their early years to becoming adults.

What kind of things does being a pastoral lead entail and what do you enjoy most?

My aim is to remove barriers to learning to enable positive well being and progress, by supporting children who may have an emotional or social difficulty, such as poor self esteem, lack of confidence or friendship issues. I listen, offer advice and can provide 1:1 and group interventions. I particularly enjoy organising events throughout the year such as 'Celebrating Differences Day' and 'Life Skills Day' to raise awareness and celebrate mental health and wellbeing.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school and why?

My favourite subject at school was probably computing. I was taught how to touch type at the age of 6 by a very forward-thinking teacher and my love for computers started from there. I really enjoyed learning how to do different tricks on the computer.

How is Gateways different to other schools you have taught in?

One of the main differences is the tiny classes and how this allows you to get to know every child in the class incredibly well. It also means that each child gets the attention they need in order to progress. Another bonus is having specialist staff for subjects like music, and foreign languages, and the range of extra-curricular activities on offer.

What is your favourite book?

I love reading children's books and finding great ones to share with my class. There are so many choose from but my favourites from when I was young were the Teddy Robinson books by Joan G. Robinson. They are all about the adventures of a teddy bear that makes up funny little poems and songs!

Do you have someone who has inspired you (or is still inspiring you)?

My mum is my inspiration. She inspired me to become a teacher – seeing all the motivating lessons she planned for her class made me want to do the same. She also helped me throughout my education and has taught me so many important life lessons which I'm very grateful for.

Fun Fact

When I was at High School, I was in the Guinness Book of Records for being part of the world's largest human smiley face! Everyone had to wear a yellow or black t-shirt and an aeroplane flew over to take the photo. I wore black and was part of the eye!