

# Information for Parents and Carers



[www.moathouse.stockport.sch.uk](http://www.moathouse.stockport.sch.uk)

September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

I would like to welcome you to Moat House, and I hope that you find this booklet helpful.

Moat House opened in 1979 as a special unit for pregnant school-aged students and school-aged mothers. It was one of the first units of its kind in the country and continues to be much valued for the work it undertakes; in 2019, it was rated as 'outstanding' by OFSTED. In fact since Government Inspections became mandatory, Moat House School and Nursery has never been rated less than Outstanding.

I hope that this booklet will answer queries about Moat House and will give you some idea about the opportunities available.

Moat House is now a 14-19 provision for teen mums, pregnant students and their babies.

Moat House staff form a dedicated and hard working team, committed to the well-being of the students and their babies. We can provide expert help for many problems that a student may have with her pregnancy, the care of her baby, her educational needs, as well as working with her towards her future.

Staff aim to provide a happy and stimulating environment, where all students will find encouragement, praise, fairness, respect and security. I hope that as well as gaining qualifications and developing excellent parenting skills, students will also develop further qualities of consideration for others, determination, resilience, patience and cooperation.

Please feel free to contact me or one of the Pastoral Team if you have any concerns. Since Covid 19 we request that you contact the school by telephone in the first instance to discuss any issues.

I welcome you to the growing circle of people connected with our work, and I hope that the time your child spends at Moat House will be happy and fulfilling.

Yours sincerely

Lucy Cooney  
Headteacher

## **Moat House Mission Statement**

To provide a happy, safe, healthy and stimulating environment where all are valued as individuals and are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential.

### **Aims of Moat House**

#### **Our Aims are to:**

- Provide a learning environment which is happy, welcoming and safe yet challenging and stimulating for students, staff and babies alike
- Support and care for students, babies and staff so that they are able to enjoy their work and look forward to coming to school
- Develop knowledge and skills necessary to enable students, with their babies, to lead healthy, fulfilling and independent lives
- Ensure that students leave Moat House with qualifications and skills which will prepare them for further education, employment or training
- Respect and value the many differences between individuals and believe that everyone has unique talents, skills and potential which should be encouraged, developed and celebrated
- Involve parents, carers, other agencies and the wider community in the work of Moat House
- Provide a range of learning experiences which will encourage confidence, self worth and self belief
- Encourage an atmosphere in which all are supportive of each other and work cooperatively

Name	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>Teachers</b>	
Lucy Cooney	Headteacher, <b>Designated Safeguarding Lead</b> , RE
Jane Thurston	Deputy Headteacher (0.5), English, English Literature, SEND, LAC Designated Teacher
Sarah Dadd	Deputy Headteacher (0.5), <b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</b> Young Parents' Project, Post 16 Lead
Richard Dixson	Maths, ICT, Geography
Janet Cottrell	Child Development, Parenting, Lifeskills, Health and Social Carre
Karen Woodside	Science, Lifeskills
Philomena Moylan	Art and Design
<b>Nursery staff</b>	
Julie Barlow	Nursery Manager, Parenting, <b>First Aider</b>
Joanne Redmond	Senior Nursery Nurse, <b>Paediatric First Aider</b>
Lindsay McHugh	Level 3 Early Years Practitioner
<b>Education Support</b>	
Jane Turton	Pastoral Manager, Attendance, <b>Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead</b> , <b>First Aider</b>
<b>Administrative and other Support Staff</b>	
Julie Hutchinson	Admin Manager / Examinations Officer
Anne Overend	Midday Assistant
Rion Teegan	Support Assistant
Michael Cunliffe	Caretaker

Moat House has a very proactive, supportive, yet challenging Governing Body. Please see our website for more details.

Governor Category	Name
Chair of Governors	Mrs Judy Davies
Vice Chair	Mrs Andrea Swift
Safeguarding Governor	Ms Molly Bishop

Moat House provides a happy, working environment for the students. During pregnancy, the students receive ante-natal care from Stockport’s Teenage Pregnancy Midwife. There is a health visitor and midwifery team attached to the unit and there is regular contact with the hospital. After the birth of her baby, students can continue their education, safe in the knowledge that their baby is well looked after in the nursery.

It is an important part of the activities at Moat House to liaise with other agencies and visitors.

Moat House has excellent working partnerships and regular contact with the following:

- Midwifery team – specialist teenage pregnancy unit
- Family Nurse Partnership
- Health Visitors
- Stockport Family Workers
- School Nurse
- Educational Psychologist
- School Improvement Advisor
- Local Authority representatives/SEND lead

**After Moat House – The Young Parents’ Project**

Stockport is very lucky to have unique support for teenage mums after they leave Moat House.

Sarah Dadd, the Young Parents’ Project Coordinator is based here and will help young mums to access college and training places by assisting with application forms, taking students for interviews and supporting them in finding appropriate childcare, which is funded by the government scheme, ‘Care to Learn’.

Students will meet Sarah throughout their time at Moat House, and can ask her for help and support up to the age of 19, if they start a course before this age. Sarah supports young parents in Stockport 14-19 whether they attend Moat House or not.

## **The Curriculum**

We understand that it is important to engage our students with their learning as well as supporting them during their pregnancy and developing their parenting skills.

Our 14-19 cohort will arrive from very different contexts and many have barriers to learning. We aim to provide them with a personalised curriculum which will help them to achieve.

The following list is a taster of the external examinations we offer:

<b>GCSE</b>	English, English Literature, Maths, Science, Art and Design, RE and Statistics
<b>Cambridge Nations</b>	Health and Social Care, Child Development
<b>Entry Level</b>	English and Maths
<b>Functional Skills</b>	English, Maths & ICT
<b>L1 and L2 Awards</b>	Numbers and Measure, Statistics, Algebra

Whilst it may be possible for a school age student to continue with subjects she has taken at her mainstream school, this will depend on her attendance, completion of previous work, and other factors. Staff from Moat House will liaise with schools about this.

## **Independent Work/Remote Learning**

Since the start of Covid 19 it has become necessary to adopt new ways of working. This includes working remotely for some students. The health and safety of all our community is a priority and it may be there are times when the number of people on the premises is limited to aid this. Students will attend lessons with specialised subject staff and will also be given remote learning tasks or VLE access, which is part of their course – the expectation is that students complete the work set by staff. Whilst we appreciate that this is not ideal and understand how hard it can be to work at home, especially with a new baby, due to the current pandemic, there is currently no alternative.

## **Public Examinations**

No charge is made for a student to be entered for her GCSEs or other public exams, unless the student does not sit an exam, or fails to complete controlled assessments without good reason. In these cases a charge of £30 per subject will be made. Appeals may be made regarding procedures used in examinations. Please ask to see our examinations policy if you have any concerns in this respect.

## **Reports**

Throughout the year students will have regular meetings to review their progress. Monitoring meetings are in October and February. In the spring term there is a Parents' Afternoon when there will be the opportunity to discuss progress and examination entries

Parents and carers are always welcome to discuss the progress of their daughter / child, or discuss any other matter. If you wish to do this, please ring first.

## **Certificate Afternoon**

After students have left school, there will be a special afternoon when they will be presented with their certificates. Babies are presented with their own 'My time at Moat House'. Parents and carers, as well as other family members and friends, are most welcome on this occasion. This usually takes place in December.

## **Complaints Procedure**

There is a complaints procedure for curriculum and related matters. A copy of this is available either from Moat House or the Education Offices at the Town Hall. Please speak to the Headteacher if you are unhappy about anything. If you have a complaint about the Headteacher, please contact the Chair of Governors (Judy Davies) or Pat Morgan at the Town Hall directly. (0161 480 4949)

## **Special Educational Needs**

Moat House has a Special Educational Needs policy which is available to be seen in school. Should you have any concerns about your daughter's educational needs, please discuss these with our school SENDco.

If your child has an EHCP you will be invited to meet with the SENDco for the SEND annual review.

## **The School Day and General Information**

### **Attendance**

Students are expected to attend regularly and on time. Each student will be given an individualised timetable with their start and end time clearly marked. Due to our Covid cleaning regime it is important they adhere to this. If for any reason your daughter cannot attend, please contact Moat House before 10.00am. Please ring 0161 429 9015 or text to 07891 949297. If a student is absent and we do not know of any reason, you will be called on the same day.

Dates of appointments which have to take place during school time should be given to staff so that a note can be made. Please make sure appointments are made out of school, if possible. If this is not possible, the beginning or end of the day is preferable. Students should not need to take a full day off for appointments – they are expected to be in school before or after these times. Please make sure an appointment card or letter is also brought in.

If a student's baby is unwell, it would be very helpful if they could be looked after at home if possible so that the students do not miss too much school. If a student or baby is displaying Covid 19 symptoms they must not come to the premises but please telephone us immediately to inform us.

Most students attend school up to the birth of their baby. After the birth of the baby, students usually take up to 4 weeks maternity leave (or 6 weeks after a Caesarean section). Students may return earlier if their midwife agrees to this.

## **School Age Bus Passes**

GMPTe issues free passes to students who live more than 3 miles from school, and concessionary passes for those living less than 3 miles away. Help is available in making applications for passes, including availability of photographs. If students have any problems with drivers not accepting passes, please note the time and number of the bus, and tell someone in school immediately, so that the matter can be taken up with the bus company.

Older students, under 18 years old at the start of the academic year are supported in applying for an Our Pass.

## **Smoking/Vaping/Recreational Drugs and Alcohol**

As with all council premises, smoking, vaping, recreational drugs and alcohol are not allowed on school grounds.

If your child requires medication during the school day please speak in advance to our Nursery Manager regarding our Managing Medical Conditions Policy.

## **In Service Training**

On occasions, training will take place during school time. These days are not always the same as other local schools. Parents and carers will ALWAYS be informed by letter about holiday dates, and dates of any other closures.

## **Nursery**

Our registered nursery was judged outstanding by Ofsted in 2019.

When students return to school, following the birth of their baby they are given a comprehensive introduction to the nursery. Each baby is assigned a key worker and they will want to find out as much as possible about her baby's routine, likes and dislikes, and will discuss nursery procedures at length.

The nursery is bright and cheerful, and leads onto an enclosed garden. We provide a safe, homely, hygienic and exciting atmosphere. We treat each baby as an individual and aim to help make his / her early years a pleasant experience with secure foundations for his / her future development.

## **Health and Social Care Issues**

A midwife and health visitor attends Moat House regularly – at least once a fortnight. Students are able to discuss individual matters in private if they so wish.

Access to other services is also available - eg Counselling Services, Emotional Wellbeing Hub, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Sexual Health Services including emergency contraception. Please see the headteacher or pastoral manager for any further information including contact details.

The School Nurse visits to keep students' immunisations up to date, and is available for discussions about other health issues, if necessary. If staff at Moat House have any concerns about the health of students, this will be discussed with the student, giving due regard to confidentiality guidelines.

If your child has a social worker or is in the Team around the Family process, one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads maybe invited to report on the progress your child is making at Moat House – including their attendance and behaviour.

## **Health and Exams**

If a student is unwell at the time of a public exam (for example a GCSE) and this can be verified by a medical practitioner (for example a midwife or doctor) special consideration will be applied for, so that the final grade will not be affected by any health problems. If necessary, Moat House will apply to enable the student to take her exams in hospital or, in some cases, at home. This might need to happen if a student has an exam and has only just had her baby.

## **Charging Policy**

During the year, there are visits to a variety of places. Most of these are at no charge to the student. However, there are some visits which will require payment, and these cannot run without parents' contributions. (Cheques should be made payable to "SMBC".) If a student misses an exam (or an exam paper which forms part of an overall exam), without good reason, a charge of £30 will be made to cover the cost of entry for that subject.

## **Breakfast Club**

We appreciate how important Breakfast can be to start the day. Our Pastoral Team deliver Breakfast Club between 9.45-10.00. This is free of charge to students.

## **School Lunch**

Historically we have enjoyed a family style lunch at Moat House with all staff, students and babies together. Due to Covid 19 and our current cleaning regime, students and babies will not be on the premises during lunchtime. Those students who attend in the morning will receive a packed lunch to take away with them free of charge.

## **Covid 19 information**

From September 2020 all students, staff at Moat House School and visitors must wear a face covering whilst on the premises in busy communal areas – this is to protect our pregnant students and vulnerable members of the community.

## **Parental Responsibility**

It is always assumed that the parent named on the birth certificate has parental and legal responsibility for the baby – unless a Legal care Order has been disclosed to the Headteacher.

Our students have parental responsibility for their baby and so inline with GDPR – Nursery Staff/Designated Safeguarding Leads will only discuss the health and welfare of a baby with the student, not the babies grandparents, unless a specific Court Order is in place.

# Safeguarding

Schools have an important part to play in keeping Children Safe and in the detection and prevention of child abuse/neglect. Moat House follows KCSiE guidelines and all staff have completed basic safeguarding training.

Parents and carers should be aware that where a member of the nursery/school staff suspects that a student or her baby may have been harmed or neglected, the school has no option but to report the matter to the Safeguarding Unit immediately. Designated Safeguarding trained staff must act in the best interests of the child and if necessary, can do this without seeking parental permission first. In certain circumstances school will contact parents to discuss the concern, however there may be occasions when Children's Services contact parents directly.

This requirement forms part of the Local Authority's procedures for Safeguarding and is not a matter for the discretion of individual Headteachers or members of school staff.

To make a referral to  
Stockport safeguarding  
unit telephone:  
**0161 474 5657**

For more information, please see our website:

[www.moathouse.stockport.sch.uk](http://www.moathouse.stockport.sch.uk)