



MOOR HOUSE SCHOOL & COLLEGE

Residential Care-Statement of Boarding Principles and Practice 2022

Objectives within Residential Care are underpinned by the aims outlined in the Statement of Purpose of the School & College. As such, all that we do can be linked to these. We believe in the principle of learning through living and to achieve this principle we aim to:

Provide a safe, happy and nurturing environment:

Moor House School & College residential provision provides a warm, friendly, inclusive and welcoming environment where great importance is attached to pastoral care, pupil wellbeing and to being a supportive and tolerant community where students feel safe in their surroundings. All residential living areas provide single bedroom accommodation with their own bed, wardrobe and desk area. Boarders like to personalise their areas with posters, photos and duvets from home. During the night, waking-night staff are on duty to provide support for students as and when required. Most children board on a Monday to Friday basis however we are able to support students who travel in from long distances on a Sunday evening.

The boarding provision provides a platform for students to engage in real life learning opportunities that are both stimulating and enabling. Boarding allows your child to develop a sense of independence that day education paths cannot always offer. If your child is away from home, they can't be reliant on others all the time; they must start taking daily tasks and activities upon themselves, for example getting up on time in the morning and being prompt for lessons. While boarding gives children the opportunity to feel independent, they aren't completely alone. They can develop independence with the help of a supportive network of peers, tutors, and the residential team. Staff support students to understand risks and how they can keep themselves safe both inside and outside the home. Staff also support the students to understand how to protect themselves, feel protected and be protected from significant harm. Each child has a dedicated support network around them and each child has a nominated key worker from the residential team who provides individual support to each child in MHS&C boarding provision.

Ofsted 2021

How well children and young people are helped and protected: Outstanding

Residential students' safety and well-being is at the center of practice in this school and college. All members of staff, from across all disciplines, know the vulnerabilities and strengths of each student. As a result, students receive bespoke support, guidance and nurturing to enable them to develop their skills, knowledge and confidence to move forward to reach their potential in terms of being able to live as independently as possible. Emotional safety is promoted to an excellent standard. Staff are alert to any situations or ongoing events which can affect a residential student's stability and well-being, and the support they receive is exemplary.

Ofsted 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: Outstanding

Residential students thrive in this school and college. All make significant and sometimes spectacular progress in their time here

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Become confident and independent members of society

Carefully thought-out plans, across the specialisms, break down life skills into manageable steps. The Wheel of Independence™ framework and the Compass of Independence™ framework are life-skills based programmes of learning that enable students to increase independence in the following areas: Activities of personal and domestic living, travel, safety, functional academics, time management, food preparation and nutrition, budgeting, studying, domestic activities, managing medical needs and identifying and participation in leisure activities. Progress is monitored and evaluated through individual targets, individual and shared observations and collaborative working within and between departments.

Ofsted care report 2021

Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: Outstanding

The support that students receive in developing life skills and independence is exemplary. Staff consistently hold in mind each student's future and how to help them move on successfully towards this. Each student has an individual plan which Inspection report for residential special school - Moor House School & College helps them to learn life skills, cope with challenges and to travel independently. Consequently, many go on to attend external college and gain employment. These achievements are remarkable when bearing in mind their starting points.

Develop and increase capacity for positive social interaction and communication:

We recognise the importance of appropriate social communication. Opportunities for learning are provided through structured activities, supported study, meal times, focus groups, group meetings, enrichment activities and unstructured time. Games and activities provide further opportunities to develop speech and language, fine and gross motor skills in a subtle and fun way. We recognise the need for local community inclusion and we ensure all children and young people are given the opportunity to do so. Amenities such as the cinema, theatre, shops, parks, walks, bowling and horse riding are amongst some of the available off-site activities.

Develop emotional resilience:

Through 1:1 pastoral support, role-playing, group and enrichment activities students are supported to learn more about themselves and consequently prepare them for the wider world. Key-workers provide support for students to develop strategies to help regulate emotions and responses, both in private and in social settings with the aim of increasing underlying levels of self-worth and esteem.

A sense of belonging

When you're living and studying in the same place, over time the students at MHS&C develop a sense of belonging which in turn can help them grow as a person. A sense of belonging promotes children's well-being and has a positive impact on their learning. Sense of belonging is enhanced by environments where children are given the opportunity to feel connected, where they know they are listened to, valued, and supported.

MHS&C do this so well

Boarders are consistently involved in extra-curricular activities. This involvement has positive effects including that sense of belonging, academic outcomes, and social outcomes. Extra-curricular activities allow students to identify with and feel part of their community. Boarding at MHS&C further enhances a sense of belonging with its routines and traditions. Even something as simple as sharing meals together brings boarders a sense of togetherness and connectedness.

Build and maintain good relationships and friendships:

Staff are skilled in understanding the range of influences that friendships can have and encourage those with a positive impact. The students are supported to develop understanding and empathy towards each other, positive relationships are reinforced, praised and encouraged. The development of safe, stable and secure

relationships with staff are central to the ethos of the residential homes and enable staff to build constructive and warm relationships with the students that actively promote positive behavior.

Making friends for life

How many children get the opportunity to live and study with their peers? this is one of the main benefits at MHS&C boarding provision. On one hand, you want your child to develop academically but developing social skills is equally as important. MHS&C boarding provision gives students the chance to integrate with others inside and outside the classroom and offers a whole range of clubs, activities, and games to participate in. The Boarding Houses at MHS&C are inherently social with boarders sharing homes and socialising in shared common rooms.

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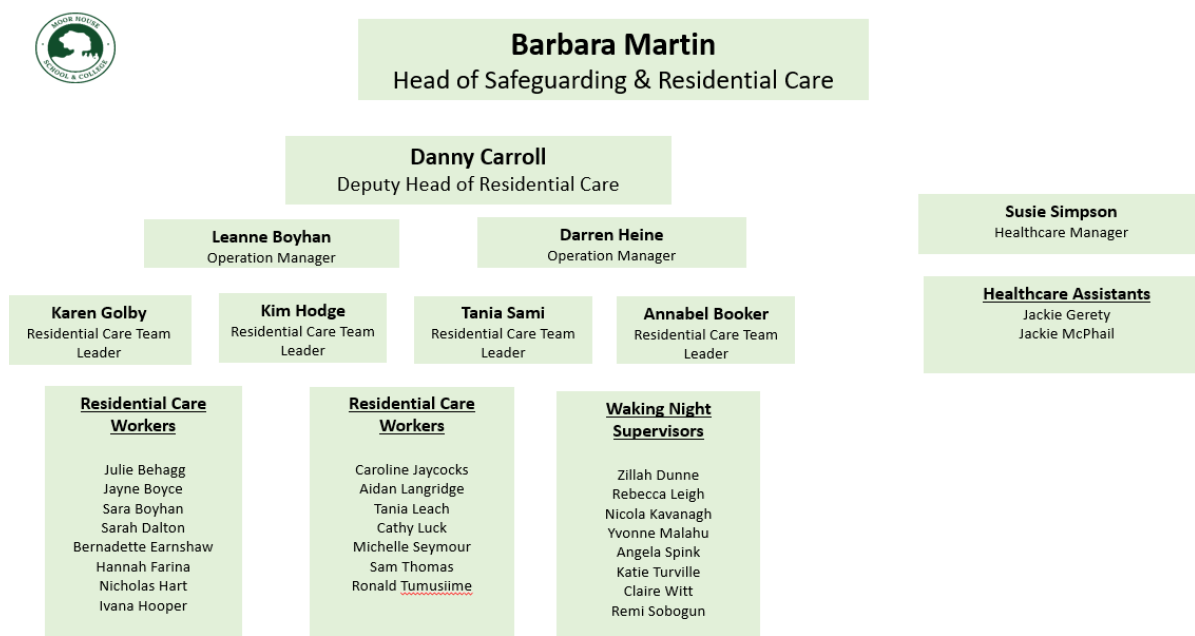
Overall experiences and progress of children and young people: Outstanding

Residential students' feedback is unanimously positive and reassuring. Some are able to make friends for the first time in their lives and can take part in enriching activities and experiences they had not been able to do prior to their arrival. They become accepted and valued members of their community. Parents report that their children see the school and college as a family and one student described his fellow residential students as 'brothers'.

Builds a sense of personal responsibility

What better way to prepare for the future than to live away from home. Most young people don't get this opportunity until at least college or university age. MHS&C boarding provision provides a head start on this which can help to build a sense of personal responsibility. Boarders are ultimately responsible for the actions they take, from organising their weekly schedules to getting their homework done on time.

Staffing Structure



All residential staff receive regular half term supervisions in addition to annual appraisals

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The effectiveness of leaders and managers: Outstanding

Residential students are guided and nurtured by a team of multi-disciplinary staff who work diligently and tirelessly to ensure they develop and progress to their full potential. Leaders and managers, as well as governors, are ambitious for the students in their care and expect high levels of performance and quality at all levels. This sense of ambition is common across the school and college, with students' progress and safety being at the center of service development and practice.

*Barbara Martin
September 2022*