



Young Mothers' Provision

Baldragon Academy



Pupil Handbook



BALDRAGON ACADEMY

School Ethos

At Baldragon Academy we aim to motivate and inspire each other to reach our full potential and take pride in our community.

Respect

With RESPECT we work together and achieve more.

Responsibility

Making good choices by being aware of our words and actions and the impact they have on others.

Fairness

Giving each other the opportunity to succeed with equity and respect.

Honesty

Building trust and mutual respect by being true to ourselves and each other.

Achievement

Aspiring to reach our full potential using our growth mindset, effort and perseverance.

The Purpose of the Young Mothers' Provision at Baldragon Academy

The YMP provides the opportunity for teenage mothers to continue with their education. We provide the support and facilities to enable them to complete their studies in a mainstream school, allowing them to remain as part of their wider peer group.

We offer them extra support to do so. This support comes in various forms. Young mothers are supported within Baldragon Academy by the Principal Teacher of Guidance and the Young Mothers' Support Worker. Our aim is to ensure that the girls' educational needs are not only met, but that the extra needs which can interrupt their learning are met as well. We offer enhanced curricular activities, one to one and group support, a separate learning base for extra study and peer support with other mothers.

Babies are supported within Jessie Porter Nursery's under three provision in a purpose-built baby room. The room is managed by a Head Teacher and Senior Early years Practitioner and qualified, experienced keyworkers work within the room to meet the baby's daily needs. The nursery provision is registered with the Care Inspectorate and is regularly inspected. All staff within early years are registered with the appropriate regulatory bodies. The room itself, has the capacity to accommodate up to 10 babies.

When a girl is referred to us from their existing school and takes the decision to join the YMP, a timetable is designed exclusively for her to allow her to follow, wherever possible, as full a timetable as is practical. Following the birth of her baby, this timetable is flexible enough to allow her to meet the needs of her baby, thereby fulfilling her parental responsibilities.

Awareness raising and training programmes are also made available to the young mothers and these include such things as: healthy eating for pregnancy; baby weaning cookery; baby sensory; swimming; baby massage etc.

Introduction

The Young Mothers' Provision is housed within the mainstream setting of Baldragon Academy. The main function of this provision is to allow pregnant schoolgirls who are either not of school leaving age or who would wish to continue schooling beyond the age of sixteen, to remain in full-time education. The fact that the Young Mothers' Provision exists within a secondary school and allows the girls attached to the provision to continue with mainstream classes is very positive.

This opportunity offers the young mothers the chance to be socially included with their peers and allows them to follow an educational provision which is specifically designed to meet their needs. The YMP delivers a service which allows young mothers to have the degree of flexibility needed regarding their curriculum whilst at the same time allowing them to attend to the responsibilities attached to parenthood.

There is a fully staffed baby room with a dedicated sleep area and social area attached within the nearby Jessie Porter Nursery. This is managed by a Senior Early Years Practitioner and a Head Teacher oversees the entire nursery provision. Nursery staff are responsible for meeting the care, support and developmental needs of our babies and provide ongoing support for our young mothers within the nursery setting. The girls have a dedicated learning base within Baldragon Academy. The Principal Teacher Guidance (YMP) and Young Mothers' Support Worker (YMP), both full time members of Baldragon staff, look after the educational, pastoral and support needs of our young mothers. Girls in the YMP are enrolled as pupils in Baldragon Academy and as a result come off the roll of their previous schools.

In terms of the future development of the YMP, it is hoped that we can continue to build on its successes so far, continue providing the opportunity for girls who might otherwise have had to leave school to continue with a positive educational experience and to provide a future career pathway for the girls.



Jessie Porter Nursery



Jessie Porter Nursery accommodates children aged 0-5 years. It has its own Head Teacher and two Senior Early Years Practitioners. One senior is responsible for the under threes provision in the nursery - this encompasses both a baby room and a two-year-old room. The baby room is equipped to a very high standard. It provides a warm, safe and stimulating environment for babies and toddlers. As the babies grow, they may have the opportunity to spend specific parts of the day through in the two-year-old room in line with their developmental requirements. In some cases, if a toddler reaches their second birthday and their mother is still attending school, they may transition through into this room fulltime. This ensures the provision of developmentally appropriate support for all children.

The nursery staff offer 'wrap around' care for the babies and deliver parenting skills to the young mothers. The extra support which the nursery offers is vital in the bonding of mother and child and in fostering good relations between school and family.

The guidance followed by the under threes in the nursery is Pre-Birth to Three and Learning Together in Dundee. All babies have their own learning journal/tracker, where their achievements and experiences are documented. This is fully accessible to parents and they can contribute their child's learning journey if they wish to do so.

The nursery is an integral part of the support offered to young mums. The nursery runs in partnership with the mainstream education provision to allow continuing education to be as easy as possible.

Alongside the playroom and sleep room, there is an adjacent room which can allow a private space for breast-feeding, health checks etc., and can accommodate private meetings.

The nursery staff foster links with as many outside agencies as possible e.g., Health Visitors, Family Nurses etc. The nursery staff undertake ongoing relevant training to enhance their professional development. All are fully qualified and registered with the SSSC. The nursery is registered with the Care Inspectorate and is inspected regularly.

Time is available in the nursery for girls who might otherwise be unfamiliar around babies and toddlers.

Curriculum

All pupils in the Young Mothers' Provision follow a mainstream secondary timetable, appropriate to their age and stage. There is flexibility built into the timetable for every pupil, to enable them to access the enhanced curriculum provided specifically for YMP pupils.

The Young Mothers' Provision continues to develop and improve on the enhanced curriculum available to the girls. Resources are being added, both within the provision, and to the links with agencies which can help our girls cope with the challenges that come with being a young mother.

The activities and programmes we have already offered have benefited the pupils, and the links now established with the Family Nurse Partnership will improve the service even more. We will continue to balance the needs of the girls' education within classes and their needs outside school. The opportunities to have time with the Nursery Staff also benefit the young mothers with their childcare and knowledge. Specifically, time tabled periods are arranged for this purpose and we would anticipate that the work we continue to do in the learning base would reflect and enhance this.

Links with Outside Agencies

The YMP delivers a holistic package of care which includes involvement with a variety of external agencies e.g., health professionals, social work and local community projects. These services are either offered as part of a rolling programme within Baldragon Academy itself or the girls and their babies are taken out to projects which are available across the city. Often young mothers do not access the type of support offered as much as would be wished, so to have the service delivered directly within the provision is a great advantage and encourages trusting relationships with supportive health professionals. The Young Mothers' Support Worker, through consultation and input from the pupils, organises extra-curricular activities for YMP girls and their babies. Below is a list of agencies and partners which can provide support for our YMP pupils:

Hillcrest Futures
Family Nurse Partnership
Sarah Ellis Martin – Nutritionist
Dundee and Angus College Engagement Officers
Skills Development Scotland
Baby Sensory
Breast Buddies, etc

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Principal Teacher Guidance (Young Mothers' Provision)

The Principal Teacher of Guidance attached to the Young Mothers' Provision has responsibility for ensuring that the educational needs of the young mothers are met. She maintains close links with their subject teachers and negotiates their individual timetables. She liaises with the Young Mothers' Support Worker and the Nursery staff to ensure that the additional needs of both mothers and babies are met. She has a role in the overall day to day management of the Young Mothers' Provision.

The Principal Teacher YMP and the Pupil Support Worker both have a role in maintaining close links and fostering positive relationships with the families of the young mothers.

The PT Guidance ensures that the YMP adopts the same aims and values as across the wider school. She has a wider Guidance remit in addition to her YMP responsibilities and is part of the general Guidance team of the school. This is useful as it fosters these aims and encourages the concept of the provision being an integral part of the school community. The girls are encouraged to become part of the wider school life and to embrace the ethos of our school. They and their babies are invited to be part of extra-curricular events and to become involved in any whole school activities.

Young Mothers' Support Worker

The Young Mothers' Support Worker has various roles and responsibilities within the YMP.

She works closely with the family, the girl, her school and the PTG YMP to arrange initial visits, referrals and transfers to the provision at Baldragon Academy. In this area, she also arranges and organises transport for any new girls, and monitors taxi use for all the YMP pupils. She is in daily contact with the pupils and ensures that they are coping with the initial move and are settling well in school.

The YMSW monitors and works with girls on their attendance, linking with the families to ensure regular attendance at school. She also liaises with the families to organise the girls return to school after maternity leave.

The YMSW also works closely with any outside agencies which are involved with the girl and her family, due to the nature of her pregnancy or parenting, e.g., Social Work or Health Services. Various other agencies, may become involved with the girls as they progress through their education, and the YMSW liaises with them, as necessary, to ensure that the girls' needs are supported.

Senior Early Years Practitioner – Jessie Porter Nursery

The Senior Early Years Practitioner has responsibility for the under three's provision within Jessie Porter Nursery, which includes our baby room. She works in partnership with the Head Teacher to plan and deliver our early years service. She ensures the support, wellbeing and developmental needs of all babies and young children are met whilst in our care. The Senior Early Years Practitioner liaises with the Principal Teacher Guidance and Young Mother's Support Worker in Baldragon Academy to ensure continuity of care for both mothers and babies. She will also work closely with other agencies and professionals to meet the needs of our babies.

A Parent/Carer's Guide on who to contact for help or advice.

Who do I contact if I need help, have a concern, or wish to make a suggestion? In the first instance, we suggest that you make contact directly with the school. This will ensure that your query is dealt with as quickly as possible. How and when should I contact the school?

We suggest that contact with the school is made by telephone, e-mail, or letter. This will ensure that your query is dealt with as promptly as possible. If you want to talk to your child's teacher or a member of the senior staff it is generally better to make an appointment. This ensures that the member of staff is available, that classes are not disturbed, and that pupils' lessons are not affected.

You can contact the school directly, either

by telephone: to the school office (01382 436170)
by letter: Mrs Lowe, Depute Head Teacher, Baldragon Academy, 69 Harestane Road, Dundee, DD3 0LF
by e-mail: slowe757@dundeeshools.scot
or by visiting the school in person.

You can contact the nursery directly by

Telephone: to the school office (01382 436513)
Letter: Jackie Lamb, Senior Early Years Practitioner, Jessie Porter Nursery, 67 Harestane Road, Dundee, DD3 0LF
e-mail: jlamb666@dundeeshools.scot
or by visiting the school in person

If I need more information or still have concerns, who should contact next? If you need further information, still have concerns or are not happy with how the matter has been dealt with you should then contact the Head Teacher.

The Head Teacher of the school is: - Mr Hugh McAninch
The Head Teacher of the nursery is: - Mrs Fiona Ferrier

What happens if I need further help, or I still have concerns?

If this is the case, you can contact the Children and Families Services at Dundee House. This can be done either by letter, e-mail or by telephone. The address is

Education Department, Dundee City Council
Floor 2, Dundee House
50 North Lindsay Street
DUNDEE DD1 1NL

Please contact the Customer Services Team by the following means:

Website - www.dundee.gov.uk/complaints

Email - customerservices@dundee.gov.uk

Telephone - 01382 434800

Young Mothers Provision

Baldragon Academy

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Jessie Porter Head Teacher: Fiona Ferrier: 436513

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Senior Early Years Practitioner: Jackie Lamb: 436513

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