



**Moore House
Primary School**
Dunfermline



MOORE HOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL - DUNFERMLINE

Prospectus for Professionals and Parents

2021-2022



Keeping the promise to children and young people in Scotland





Moore House Primary School Dunfermline

The school which is located in a rural environment near Dunfermline uses creative approaches to deliver the full Broad General Education entitlement for a small group of children aged 5 to 13 years, whose needs have not been met within mainstream schools. The school offers residential or day places for children and young people aged 5 to 13 years, who require significant additional support for their social, emotional and learning needs. The peaceful, rural environment of our primary school presents a myriad of opportunities for outdoor learning and lends itself to naturally therapeutic approaches.

Why choose Moore House Primary School Dunfermline?

Moore House Primary Dunfermline is one of our three schools across the Moore House Group. The children placed at Dunfermline benefit from seamless access to the continuum of services within the wider Moore House Group that includes, residential care, fostering and psychological services.

In terms of education, children can attend Dunfermline while also benefiting from a specialist service or an additional area of the curriculum from one of our other schools, using our virtual classrooms. The children from Dunfermline also attend the Bathgate campus on one day per week to enjoy enhanced curriculum opportunities as well as greater social interaction with older peers. We believe flexibility in meeting the needs of our children and young people is key.

Our philosophy and our nurturing approach is promoted through training for all staff in Dyadic Developmental Practice (DDP) – a therapeutic approach that prioritises a child’s need to develop relationships – with its underpinning principles of Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE).



We are proud that our Mission, Vision and Values statements were developed in collaboration with young people and staff and we believe they capture exactly who we are, and what we are here for.

Our Mission

To achieve the best personalised outcomes for children and young people through positive, nurturing relationships developed across our education, fostering, residential and psychological services.

Our Vision

Every child and young person enjoys positive health and wellbeing; and the best opportunities for learning, life and work.

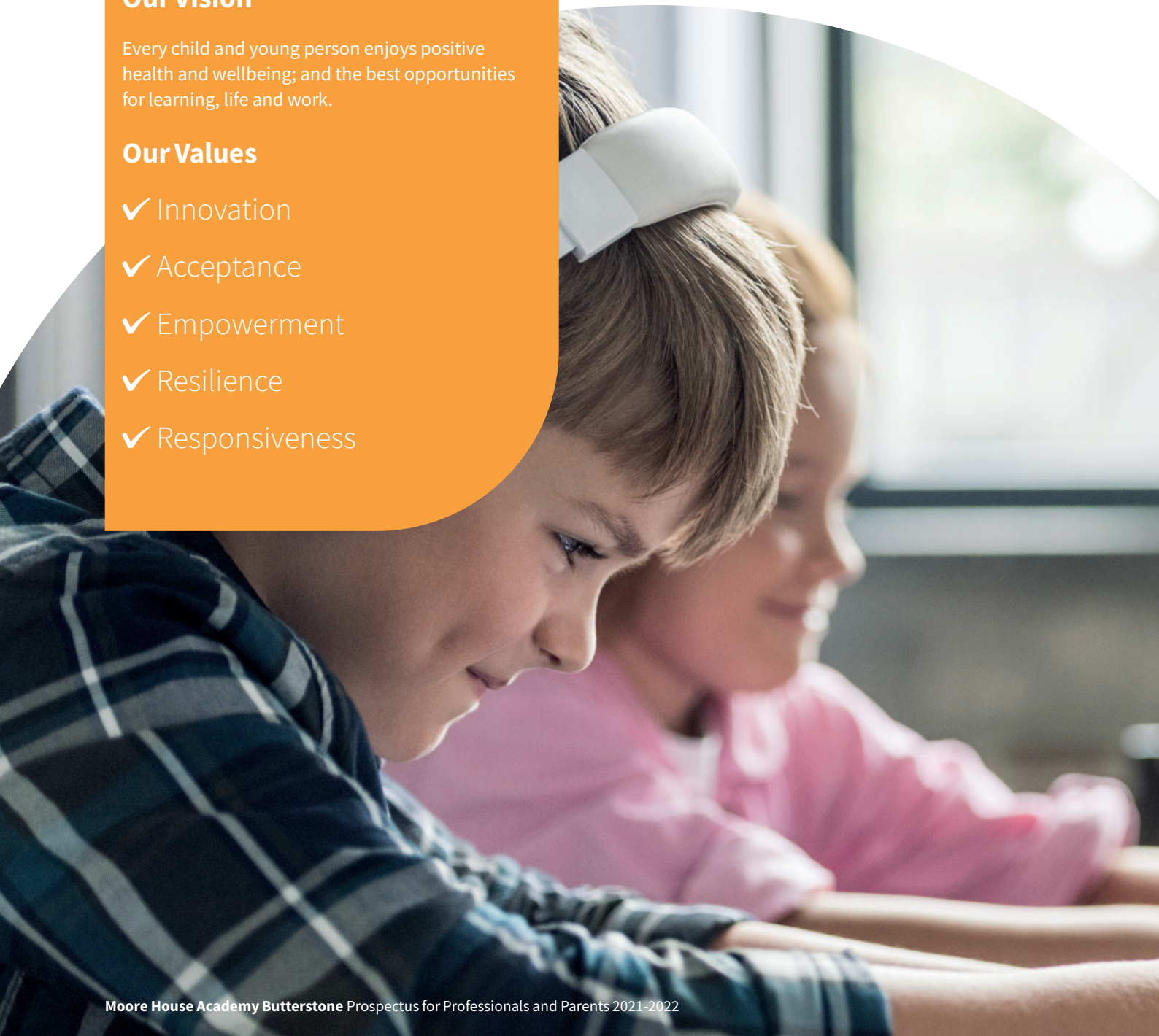
Our Values

- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Acceptance
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Responsiveness

How do our Mission, Vision and Values support our children and young people?

The ethos we create in Moore House Primary School Dunfermline provides our children with a happy, friendly and stimulating learning environment where they feel safe, secure and valued.

Our calm, purposeful and supportive environment is built on mutual respect with staff who understand the importance of supporting our children to develop resilience and grow in confidence, in order to re-engage in their learning.



What are the challenges our children and young people experience?

The social and emotional challenges that our children face on a daily basis are more important than any specific diagnosis. Almost all of our young people present with behaviour arising from their neurodiverse challenges that can include:

- Trauma;
- Loss;
- Social difficulties;
- Developmental issues;
- Mood disorder;
- Anxiety;
- Sensory issues;
- Learning disability; &
- Avoidance, including school refusal.

Since their different needs present significant barriers to learning and emotional development, we identify and promote each young person's unique abilities and help them to work through and overcome their own personal challenges.

What are the skills of our staff team?

Our staff team has relevant experience and high quality training to work effectively with children who have suffered multiple challenges in their short lives. Almost all our children have failed in previous educational placements, many as a result of experiencing trauma and loss resulting in their inability to trust adults or to form and maintain relationships. Our care and education staff are skilled in developing strong and trusting relationships with our children and supporting them to improve their interpersonal skills and re-engage with learning.

Moore House Primary School - Dunfermline is also supported by colleagues who include:

- The wider Residential Care Team;
- Psychological Services Intervention (PSI) Team;
- Specialist Consultants for attachment, trauma and resilience;
- Education Advisers

The Headteacher based at Moore House Academy Bathgate has overall responsibility for our Primary school and in turn reports to the Director of Children's Services and the Moore House Board.



What is our curriculum?

Moore House Primary School Dunfermline takes full account of the National Improvement Framework (NIF) which sets out the vision and priorities for Scottish education. This complements the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), Getting It Right for Every Child, and Developing the Young Workforce, which are the three supporting pillars of the Scottish education system.

Our children and young people have full entitlement within the Broad General Education (BGE) curriculum across all eight curriculum areas:

- Languages, including Literacy and English
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Sciences
- Technologies
- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Social Subjects
- Religious and Moral Education

**“ I like being on the Chromebook. But I learn more in the classroom.”
Dunfermline Primary - Pupil.**



The children attend Moore House Academy Bathgate for additional specialised curriculum input such as PE, science and opportunities for broad achievement. They can also access music and technology virtually from our wider teaching team.

Our curriculum has a strong focus on identifying and supporting each child’s emotional vulnerability as this is frequently the barrier to self esteem and their ability to concentrate which adversely affects their progress in learning. Using GIRFEC indicators we identify the wellbeing needs of our children and plan careful strategies and responses involving, as appropriate, members of the PSI team and other external agencies. Regular monitoring ensures we track progress and quickly respond to concerns.

Our children enjoy Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL), which allows them to study a topic of interest while reinforcing knowledge and skills across several curricular areas as well as providing a focus on literacy and numeracy. Broad achievement is also promoted and outdoor learning is an important motivator.

In respect of Developing the Young Workforce, our outdoor learning and broad achievement opportunities prepare our children for the world of work in terms of work ethic, researching, investigating and planning activities such as building dens, looking after our hens and constructing raised garden beds. We use animal husbandry and horticultural activities to ignite children's passion and nurture strengths.

Transition at the Secondary stage from Dunfermline to the Bathgate campus at a time that is felt appropriate for each child, is eased through our children having benefited from their weekly additional curricular support from Bathgate.

Children become increasingly confident and able to transition to our secondary environment, having established trusting relationships with staff and having learned and had fun alongside many of the young people.

Individualised curriculum planning ensures the school sets sufficiently challenging learning and wellbeing targets that are assessed, monitored and tracked so that progress can be reported regularly and accurately. Ongoing monitoring ensures that each child's curriculum remains appropriate to their needs.



Who are our partners?

Partnership and collaboration are at the heart of what we do. The rights and needs of our young people are supported more effectively through joint working with parents, carers, agencies and services.

Our Key Partners include:

- Moore House Residential Care Staff who provide outstanding care and emotional support for the children who reside in Moore House homes. Close partnership with these colleagues is essential in order to ensure consistency of approach for each child along with a shared understanding of the 24 hour curriculum.
- Parents and Carers of our children and young people provide us with the most valuable insight into their children and help us understand their anxieties and fears; their strengths and interests; their likes and dislikes. Contact is encouraged as needed and review meetings provide more formal opportunities for parents and carers to be consulted and included in their child's plan.
- Local Authority representatives, including Educational Psychologists and Social Workers who place their children in our school and homes have invested their trust in us as providers of care and education for their most vulnerable children. We ensure the progress of each child's attendance and engagement, learning, health and wellbeing needs are tracked and reported to them on a regular basis.
- Local Mainstream Primary and Secondary Schools who can access Moore House services and who may provide the next placement for our children as appropriate.
- Health colleagues, including mental health and wellbeing practitioners who provide us with essential specialist advice, particularly in respect of the emotional wellbeing of our children.
- JMT Fostering Services who provide support, such as respite care, for some of our young people and families;
- Local community services such as leisure services, community learning and development and specialist support groups who provide our young people with wider opportunities;



What happens when a child is placed in Moore House Primary School Dunfermline?

The Headteacher and the Principal Teacher collate all the information from prior placements and set in motion a range of initial assessments – often undertaken during outdoor learning activities - in order to clarify the starting point for curriculum pathway planning. Other more specific assessments may be carried out by a member of the PSI team. From this baseline, the school will commence the development of a comprehensive record that will follow the child throughout their placement. Within 4 weeks of admission, an initial person-centred /Team around the Child planning meeting is held involving the child and parents, representatives from the placing authority and other relevant professionals so that plans, such as a Coordinated Support Plan (CSP) and/or Child's Plan, are updated. This also includes agreeing an Individualised Educational Plan (IEP), which clarifies learning and teaching objectives across literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing, alongside plans for other areas of the curriculum. Regular review meetings provide opportunities to report progress and ensure continuous challenge and appropriate support, including from other agencies when needed.



What happens when a child or young person moves on from Moore House Primary School Dunfermline?

The school invites all relevant professionals who support the child or young person, along with the child or young person and their parents or carers, to ensure a smooth transition to Moore House Academy Bathgate or to another school or residential placement.



“I like that you can link in with others. I loved the whole school assemblies, online competitions, Google is a great learning resource.”
Amber - Pupil

The Moore House Group

- ✓ Residential care
- ✓ Specialist primary education
- ✓ Specialist secondary education
- ✓ Virtual learning
- ✓ Fostering
- ✓ Social enterprise
- ✓ Psychological services
- ✓ Family support work
- ✓ Continuing care
- ✓ Throughcare & Aftercare
- ✓ Social housing

www.moorehousegroup.org.uk

www.moorehouse.org.uk

www.jmtservices.org.uk

www.janemooretrust.org.uk



Moore House Group
21 Edinburgh Road, Bathgate,
West Lothian, EH48 1EX

T: 01506 652 312
E: info@moorehouse.org.uk
W: moorehouse.org.uk