



2022

Young Persons Guide to Stafford Hall

Our team pride themselves in their level of commitment with all children and young people and apply the principles of 'good parenting' throughout their practice. Our team strive to offer a safe 'family' environment that promotes healing as well as growth. Our child centred approach ensures that our young people feel valued and listened to.

We hope to empower children to make the decisions that will benefit their life chances. We treat every young person with unconditional positive regard, and the team foster the attitude that *"every day is a new day"*.



Stafford Hall provides a safe, warm and nurturing place for you to live. We aim to help you achieve your full potential in everything that you do.

Jade Dunn

Manager Young Foundations

July 2022

Welcome to Stafford Hall!

This Young Person's Guide is a useful booklet that you and your family should read when you come to stay at Stafford Hall.

We hope that this will give you a good understanding of what it is like to stay at Stafford Hall.

If when you have read this, you have any questions or worries, just ask us. We are here to help.

All Bedrooms have their very own sensory bathroom 😊



While you live here your address will be:
STAFFORD HALL, Cheltenham Place, Halifax, HX3 0AW
Telephone No. 01422 305910

When young people are unable to live at home with their families, they are taken into the care of the Local Authority.

Young people live at Stafford Hall after social workers have decided their need for medium to long-term care.

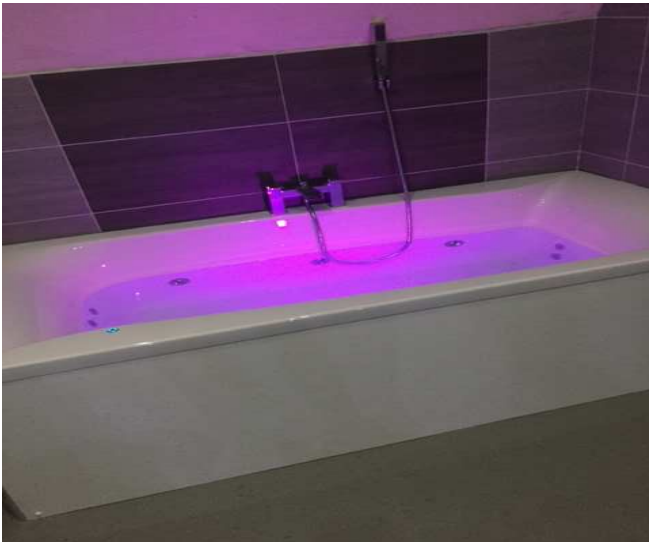


THE DINING ROOM AT STAFFORD HALL



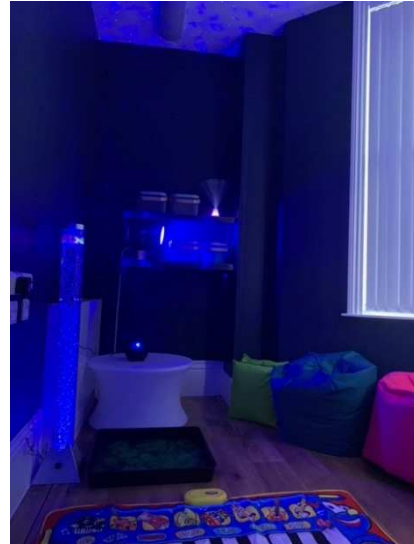
While you stay at Stafford Hall social workers will be working and looking at the possibility of you returning to live with your family, perhaps be cared for by foster parents, or perhaps live in another residential home or live independently, whatever best suits YOU!

THE BUBBLING BATH AT STAFFORD HALL MAIN BATHROOM



THE SENSORY ROOM AT STAFFORD HALL

In this room you can sit back and relax, enjoying the lights and beanbags 😊



Some Facts/SOP summary

Stafford Hall provides a safe, warm and nurturing place for you to live. We aim to help you achieve your full potential in everything that you do.

Values statements

Our team pride themselves in their level of commitment with all children and young people and apply the principles of 'good parenting' throughout their practice. Our team strive to offer a safe 'family' environment that promotes healing as well as growth. Our child centred approach ensures that our young people feel valued and listened to.

We hope to empower children to make the decisions that will benefit their life chances. We treat every young person with unconditional positive regard, and the team foster the attitude that "every day is a new day".

What we aim for at Stafford Hall

Everyone at Stafford Hall is expected to consider other people as well as themselves and the attitude that people have towards others is very important for all of us.

The adults of Stafford Hall aim to do their best to help the children and young people living here to feel safe, secure, and cared for. The adults looking after you are expected to set a good example to the young people by having mutual respect for each other, as well as for the young people they care for.

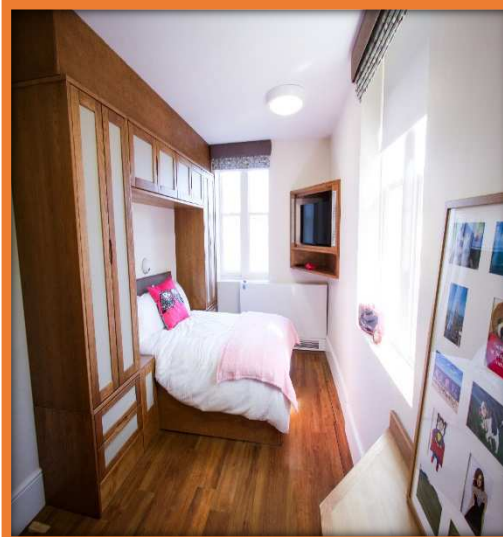
Where is Stafford Hall?

Stafford Hall is in Halifax, Calderdale. There are local shops nearby, a doctor's surgery, a library and a leisure centre just down the road.

Stafford Hall is a big family home with three floors. It has a living room where you can chat with adults and other young people, watch TV and DVDs, play games or just chill out. This is also a dining room where everyone sits together to eat, but is also used as a games or arts and crafts room. There are 10 bedrooms in the main house and 2 flats in the coach house. Each has a double bed, desk, TV and an en-suite bathroom with a shower. There is also a bathroom on the top floor with a Jacuzzi bath.



The Garden



The Main Lounge

The bedrooms

Activities/ Outings

We are keen to encourage you to take an active part in discussions in Stafford Hall about activities. You will be asked every week what activities you would like to go on.

There are great activities available including sports, such as swimming, ten pin bowling, ice skating, golf, snooker and football. Stafford Hall strongly encourages your personal hobbies and interests and the adults will help you enjoy the activities you choose.

Indoor Stuff	Out of the house Stuff	Other places to visit
Board Games	Cinema	Clay Pidgeon shooting
Card Games	Ten-pin Bowling	Blackpool pleasure beach
DVD Nights	Ice-Skating	The Deep
Pamper/Beauty Nights	Horse Riding	Inflatation
Bake Off's	Leisure Centre	Ogden Activity Centre
Story Telling	Camping	Bolton Abbey
Cuisine Nights	Swimming	Flamingo Land
Arts & Crafts	Skate Park	The National Science and Media Museum

Quiz Nights	Trampolining	Eureka
Karaoke	Nature Trail walk	The Escaporium
World theme nights	Local parks	Virtual Reality
Sports in the garden	Rock Climbing	Lazer quest



These are just some of the activities that you will have the chance to do. Halifax is near to loads of places you might like to visit like Leeds, York, and Manchester, to name but a few.

Holidays



Stafford Hall adults plan holidays every year for the children and young people by actively including the views and ideas of the young people's group. This could be a group holiday or some young people prefer to go with just an adult member, or have several day trips rather than a holiday.

Your bedroom

You will have your own room with a door that will give you access and you can keep it safe. Young people are not allowed in each other's bedrooms. Adults will knock before they enter your bedroom. However, there may be occasions when adults will go into your room without prior permission, such as for a health and safety matter.

All of the children at Stafford Hall regularly clean and tidy their own bedroom. Adults will help if you need it.

Bedrooms all have their own wardrobes and drawers to put your belongings in. You can personalise your

bedroom with pictures and posters. This is a great place for you to relax, watch TV or listen to music.

Smoking

Smoking is not allowed in the home. If you do smoke, we will encourage you to stop smoking and help you to quit.





- It is illegal for anybody under the age of eighteen to buy cigarettes, no adults in the home will purchase cigarettes for you.
- If you already smoke when you arrive here you will be offered lots of support and encouragement to quit
- You can see the nurse, the GP, attend a smoking clinic or receive nicotine replacement aids like patches, gum and inhalators
- If you choose to continue smoking you may only do so outside and offsite.
- You will not be allowed a lighter this must be kept by the adults at all times.

Age Appropriate Activities



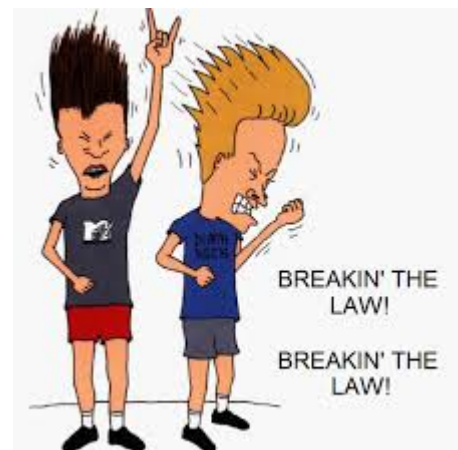
Stafford Hall always promotes age appropriate activities are put in place for all young people, which are most suitable to the individual. Because Stafford Hall look after children from the ages of 12-19 years old this can become a problem at times especially with movies and music.



All young people in Stafford Hall must be mindful when watching films or listening to music in communal areas that it is age appropriate to ALL the young people present. If the film or music is not then it **MUST** be watched or listened to in your bedroom.

Most young people will leave around the time they turn 18, however if you are 18 years old and still live at Stafford Hall, then different materials will be discussed with Stafford Hall, parents and social services, to make sure everyone in your life are comfortable with what you are watching or listening to.

If adults have suspicions or believe that you have films or music that is **NOT** age appropriate, then adults will speak to your social worker and have the authority to remove these items as **YOU ARE BREAKING THE LAW**. Your items will be locked away or given to a family member, social worker or guardian until you are the correct age. **This is to help keep you safe.**



Allowances

Throughout your time at Stafford Hall you will receive weekly pocket money. You will also get an allowance for clothing, plus money for toiletries, fares and activities as agreed with the adults who help look after you. You will also get money for Christmas/Religious Festivals and for your Birthday.

Pocket money will be recorded in individual books and will be signed for by the young people when money is issued. This money is usually given on Friday. However, there is an expectation that bedrooms are tidied before allowances are given out.

The current amounts given are as follows:



Pocket money: per week

12 years	£6.00
13 years	£6.50
14 years	£7.00
15 years	£8.00
16 years	£12.50
17 years	£13.50
18 years	£14.50

Toiletry money: per month
£20.00

Clothing Money: per month
£60.00

Holiday money: per year
£500.00

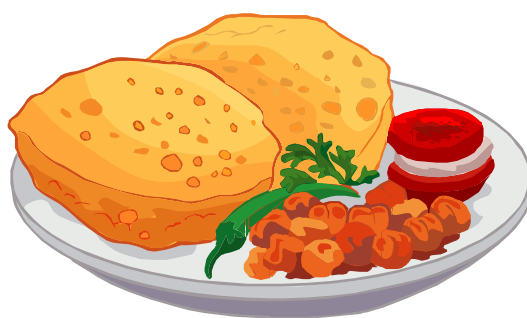
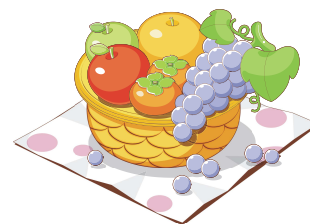




Food

You are encouraged to help plan the menu for the week. We will help you with any special diet you may have. If you require a different diet for cultural reasons, we will help you with this, or with any other needs you may have relating to your own upbringing or religion.

We actively encourage you to have a healthy and balanced diet and offer a vegetarian option at each meal time if needed. We offer options such as halal, gluten free and additive free diets.



Reviews and planning meetings

At these meetings we will ask you what we could do to maybe help support you more, what are your likes and dislikes, and we will try to act on these views wherever possible. The other way we do this through encouraging young people to talk to any member of adults they want to about their stay at Stafford Hall.

Reviews give you the chance to have your say about the care you receive at Stafford Hall so it is important that you attend. An example of something you might raise at a review is the need for someone to speak on your behalf.





Cleaning and tidying

Everyone expects that young people at Stafford Hall are involved in regularly cleaning their own bedrooms and keeping them tidy. You are also expected to help keep communal areas clean and tidy after use. The adults will help you.



Fire drill and alarm test

We have fire drills every so often, where we have to evacuate everyone from the building. This is so we all know how to get out of the building in an emergency.

*** WHAT IF THERE'S A FIRE?! ***



Adults check **fire equipment** like alarms and **extinguishers** every week to make sure they are working properly.

Adults will carry out **fire drills** every month to make sure everybody knows what to do in case of a real fire.*

If you hear the **alarm** you must **leave the building immediately**, do not stop to collect personal belongings. Your safety is much more important.*

Get out at the **nearest exit** and go straight to the **meeting point**. Adults will show you where this is when you move in.



Young people's participation

We encourage you to participate as fully as possible in running the home. This is done in various ways, but the main one is by encouraging young people to have meetings with the adults when they are living with us.



The right time



There are regular meal times for lunch, tea and supper. These times can be varied for you if you discuss it with adults.

Bedtimes depend on the age of the young person and will be arranged when you come to Stafford Hall. All of the children have a bed time and go to bed on time. It's good to sleep, it helps your body grow!

If young people are out for the evening, the time for coming home must be agreed with adults before leaving.

General information



While staying at Stafford Hall, adults will keep a daily record of what is going on in your life. This is done throughout the day and night and you will be encouraged to read and add anything you wish to say to these records.

When staying at Stafford Hall we will make sure that you get to school on time which will be on site for most young people. If you follow an education programme at school or college we will be happy to keep this up when you come to live at Stafford Hall.

We will also help you with any homework you may have.

If at any time during your stay at Stafford Hall you became ill we would contact your GP for advice or make an appointment for you to see him or her.



Your rights and responsibilities

You have the right to:

- Be well
- Be cared for and valued
- Be helped to learn and to be educated
- Be listened to
- Have positive relationships
- Develop self-confidence and dignity
- Shelter and nourishment
- Play
- Be safe
- Equal opportunities
- Develop responsibility
- Information and consultation.



You have the responsibility to:

- Not hurt or harm other people
- Not put other people in danger
- Treat other people with respect and not to abuse or bully them
- Not to take or damage other people's property
- Respect other people's privacy.



Your behaviour

When you are at Stafford Hall, if your behaviour becomes threatening or physically violent towards yourself or others, the adults where they feel it is correct, may need to hold you safely. We will do this in a safe, dignified and respectful way only as a last resort. This is not done as a punishment but as a means of ensuring that everybody is safe.

All adults are trained in "Foundations for Safer Care" safe holding methods to ensure that it is done safely. We may also use 'consequences'. These consequences will be dependent on your actions. There are "negative consequences" too, so if you have damaged something you may be helped to ask fix it, or if you hurt someone you may be asked to say "sorry"! We will only do this if we think it is needed to help you to control your behaviour and we will give you the opportunity to turn things around.

In order to prevent a negative consequence initially being put in place, adults at Stafford Hall will hold a meeting with you. This is where you will be given the opportunity to discuss your behaviour to try and find out the reasons behind it and what can be done to make the situation right.

At the end of the meeting you should have an agreed outcome without the use of a consequence being put in place. The process will also hopefully make you reflect on your behaviour and the impact it has on others in the home. You will also be praised by members of adults for good behaviour and good attitudes. Whenever a sanction is given, it will be recorded on your file and discussed with you. If you are not happy you can speak to the manager, social worker or make a complaint and adults will help you with this. All restraints and sanctions are

recorded in your file and you are given the chance to discuss them with the adults that look after you.

If you have had a really good day and done something really good, like attending school, helping someone or doing something that sometimes you may struggle to do, we offer positive consequences, we have a weekly reward scheme where you earn points and points add up to vouchers to spend in shops.

Visitors

With the exception of family and social workers, visitors are not allowed upstairs. In some cases restrictions may also apply to family members, based on a 'Risk Assessment' being made, and subject to child protection issues being involved. Your visitors will be encouraged and made welcome, with times of visits usually agreed beforehand.



Key worker



When at Stafford Hall you will have a person who is called a key worker who has special responsibility for your care. They will contact your family, talk with school staff, talk about what is best for you at Stafford Hall and make sure that information is shared with the team so we all know how to care for you.

Stafford Hall "Adults" team

Stafford Hall has a dedicated adults who have a wide range of different skills, training and backgrounds. The amount of adults depend on the needs of the young people.

All the adults believes that everyone should be treated with respect and dignity and given opportunity and choice. The adults all has up-to-date DBS checks.



Children's Rights Service and advocacy

The Children's Rights Service can offer you support if you feel your rights are not being met. They offer one-to-one advice if you have questions or concerns. They also organise groups and activities, which you might like to be involved in.

Children's Rights Service
Office of the children's right's director
Ofsted aviation house
125 Kingsway
London
Wc2b 6se
Free phone 08005280731



What is an advocate?

An advocate is a person who will help you say what you want or speak on your behalf. The Children's Rights Service can offer one-to-one advice if you have any questions or need advice. Your social worker could also act as an advocate for you. A good example of when you might need an advocate is at a meeting, or a review, where you may feel too scared to voice your own opinions.



NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE



* PHONE NUMBERS I MIGHT NEED *
There is a phone for you to use to make calls to your friends and family. The number for this phone is 01422 305910
Adults will try and make sure you have privacy to make these calls wherever possible



Here are some other numbers you might need:

Table with 2 columns: Organization Name and Phone Number. Includes CHILD LINE, NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION LINE, CHILDRENS LEGAL CENTRE, OFSTED, NATIONAL YOUTH ADVOCACY SERVICE, YOUNG FOUNDATIONS, CHILDRENS RIGHTS OFFICER, VOICE FOR A CHILD IN CARE, and THE WHO CARE? LINKLINE.

My phone numbers:

- 1. 2. 3.
4. 5. 6.

Questions you may need answers to!

Can I stay overnight with a friend?

A. You should ask permission from your key worker or the adults if you live in a (children's home) who will usually be able to make the decision. This may depend on any agreements that have been made with your social worker. Your foster carer or key worker should check out the arrangements with the people with whom you wish to stay and ensure that contact telephone numbers are available. In practice your social worker may need to make other checks including police checks to make sure that this is a safe place for you to stay.



Q. Am I allowed to have a mobile phone?



A. Only if your social worker and foster carer give you permission. They will think about who will pay the bill and whether you will use the mobile to speak to people they are worried about.

Q. Can I go away on a school trip or go camping?

A. You will need the permission of your social worker. Your social worker may talk to your parents about the trip but it is not necessary to obtain their permission. You may feel different from your friends because of this but these requirements are there to protect you.





Q. What if I need a passport?



A. You or your social worker will need to obtain the forms to apply for a passport. These forms will need to be signed either by your parents and/or a senior boss in the Children's Services Department. You are entitled to have your own passport.

Q. Can I ask my GP to put me on 'the pill' or get condoms for me without telling my social worker?

A. You can discuss contraception with your doctor but it may not be confidential. A doctor is allowed to arrange contraception for anyone, even if she is under 16, without telling her parents or social worker, if the doctor thinks she is able to make her own decisions about this. You can obtain family planning services through your doctor or family planning clinic and special clinics are sometimes held for young people. Free condoms are often available at Family Planning Clinics and Doctors' Surgeries.



Q. At what age is it lawful to have sex?

A. You should know that it is against the law for anyone to have sex i.e. sexual intercourse under the age of 16.





Q. Can I have a part-time job?

A. Different rules apply in different areas of the country about how long young people are allowed to work. The rules also depend on your age. You will need to get the permission of your social worker to work and they should be able to help you with the rules that apply in your part of the country.



Q. Who decides where I can go and how late I can stay out?

A. You should first ask permission from your key worker if you live in a children's home. If you are not happy with the answer they give you, discuss it with your social worker. If you are still not happy you can raise the question at your next review or make a complaint.

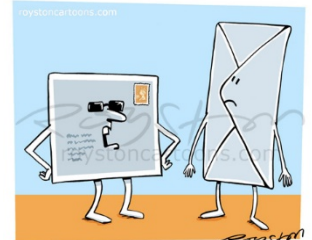


Q. Can I get a tattoo or a body piercing?

A. If you are under 18, you will need the permission of those with Parental Responsibility (i.e., children's services, your parent's for all types of body piercing and tattoos. If you are over 16, then you will still need permission for tattoos and some types of body piercing. You should always think carefully about it and perhaps discuss it with your key worker. If your social worker doesn't agree, raise it at your review. If you are very determined you could discuss it with a Children Panel solicitor.

Q. Am I allowed to keep my letters and emails private?

A. Strictly speaking, you do not have to show your letters or emails to anyone else unless the court decides this. If you find letters or emails distressing it might be better to talk about them with your keyworker or a social worker.



"I refuse to be pigeonholed."

Q. What difference does a Care Order make to me?



A. Being on a Care Order means that Social Services, rather than your parents, have the job of looking after you and making the decisions about what should happen e.g.: where you live, who you should see etc. This is because a Care Order gives Social Services Parental Responsibility for you. They should always talk to you and find out how you feel too.

Q. What is a Children's Guardian, and what is their role?

A. Since April 2001 Guardians Ad Litem have been called Children's Guardians. A Children's Guardian is an independent person appointed by the Court to represent your interests during the court proceedings. They will appoint a solicitor to speak for you in court and will be involved with you during the Court case.

The Children's Guardian will no longer be involved when the court proceedings have finished.





Q. How long does the Care Order last?

A. Until you are eighteen years old, unless someone asks the court to discharge the Care Order before then.

Q. I don't like the rules - What can I do?

A. The rules are about good behaviour. Different places always have different rules. If you feel a particular rule is unfair, you should discuss it with your carers. If you are still unhappy, you can raise it at your review or think about making a complaint



Q. Can my carers sanction me?

A. Yes. You can be given a negative consequence for behaving badly or breaking the rules but only certain kinds of consequences are allowed when you are under a Care Order or accommodated. (See answer to next question)

Q. What kinds of negative consequences are allowed in care?

A. You can be told off;

- Treats can be stopped e.g. sweets, watching television or going on an outing;
- You may be given additional chores in the home;
- You can be sent to your room;
- Your pocket money may be delayed.

This list is not complete. There may be other sanctions of a similar type (see what negative consequences are NOT allowed below)



Q. What sanctions are not allowed in care?

A.

- Preventing you from sleeping or waking you early in the morning;
- Making you pay a fine except where one has been imposed by the court or where you have damaged property. In these circumstances you can be asked to pay towards the cost of repair from your pocket money;
- Locking you in your room or in the home
- Locking you out of your home
- Smacking or hitting you in any way
- Stopping your food and drink
- Stopping you seeing your parents
- Wearing special clothes as a sanction

Q. If I do not agree with the consequences, what can I do?

A. You should first talk to your key worker, social worker, but you can also talk to an independent person such as an independent visitor, a Children's Rights Worker, your solicitor or a children's advocate who will try and help you. If you are still unhappy, you can also raise this at your Review.



Q. If I am still not satisfied can I complain?

A. Yes, you may make a complaint - see the section on complaint procedures [Complaints](#).



Q. What happens if I get arrested?

A. If you are under 17 the police must call an appropriate adult to the police station i.e. your social worker or foster carer. In addition you have the right to ask for a solicitor, and you should do this immediately. A duty solicitor is always available to see you. This is a free service. Appropriate adults and solicitors have different roles. The adult is there to support you and the solicitor is there to give you legal advice.



Q. Can I follow my religion?

A. Yes. If you have been brought up in a particular religion, and it is important to you, your social worker should help you in making sure you can follow your religious beliefs whilst under a Care Order. This may include:

- Going to a particular place of worship
- Going to special classes for religious instruction
- Going to a particular school
- Wearing your traditional dress, rather than western clothes
- Not having your hair cut
- Eating, or not eating, certain food



Q. My parents want me to follow my family's religion but I do not want to.

A. You should discuss this with your social worker. The views of your parents will be taken seriously. If you cannot agree with your parents and your social worker you may have to consider consulting your solicitor about whether you could apply to the court for permission not to follow your parent's faith.



You cannot be made to follow a religion which is not your religion or the religion of your family.



Q. What is my Social Workers, and Independent Reviewing officers' numbers?

Social Worker





Independent Reviewing Officer



- ☺ Young people who do not attend school or further education will be knocked from 8am and will be expected to engage in educational visits, life skills or educational work within Stafford Hall (towards independence) in education times (9am - 3pm)
- ☺ NO smoking in the house or car
- ☺ Young people in their bedrooms for 9.30pm and in bed for 10pm (later bedtimes on a weekend or holidays)
- ☺ NO young people in the office unless invited by adults
- ☺ Bedrooms to be kept clean and tidy and no pocket money will be given until they are checked.

- ☺ No young people in the kitchen until they have showered or washed after education/activities etc.
- ☺ Activity money ONLY to be used for activities
- ☺ Communal areas are to be kept clean and tidy. If you make the mess you clean it up ☺
- ☺ Computer to be turned off at bed time.
- ☺ All mobile phones and laptops handed in at bedtime

Previous Children's views on Stafford Hall:

EO: "It is nice, I have a nice room."

GW: "I think Stafford Hall is a really nice good place with lots of friendly people"

HB: "it's an amazing place with lots of great people, I've had some good times here and I love the architect of the building"



JU: "I think it's one of a unique place, I think it's amazing"

DH: "I like the friendly staff. They are always there for me when I need anything"

AL: "I like all the facilities and activities at Stafford Hall"

WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU 😊