

Children's Guide Vernon House



Welcome to our home





**This is the common area
where you can chill out
with others. It's a place
to chat, play a game,
watch a film, have tea
together, or just hang
out.**



Meet the Team

You're not alone, these people are here to help you settle in and feel at home.

Dani is the Registered Manager



Michelle is the Deputy Manager



Apart from the managers, 11 other adults are here to help and support you. You can find out more about them as you read on.



Lisa



Jack



Mark

Mary



Adam

Christine



Charles

Tayla



Laurine

Night Staff

Shufa



Jon



Care Workers



Clinical and therapeutic support



Dr. Ritchie Berit

Clinical Psychologist

Berit is a highly experienced clinical psychologist who has been supporting children, young people, and adults for over 20 years. She visits Vernon House every month and works closely with the staff team to make sure each child receives the right kind of support for their individual needs.

Berit provides guidance, therapy, and training, and shares her expertise so staff can offer the best possible care. She also takes part in ongoing research and learning, which means the support at Vernon House is based on the most up-to-date understanding of what helps children thrive.

If you ever feel you'd like to speak with Berit or need her support, she's available and will be happy to help.



Talia Burrows

Assistant Clinical Psychologist

She visits the home from time to time and works closely with the children, supporting them through planned activities, helping with learning and emotions, and making sure everyone gets the help they need.

Talia brings warmth and creativity to her sessions, helping children feel safe, understood, and supported. Her work focuses on building trust and finding the best ways to support children who have been through difficult experiences or who learn in different ways.

If you ever feel you'd like to spend time with Talia or talk to her, she's available during her visits and will be happy to help.

Our Values

We strive to reach our full potential.

We take responsibility for our actions.

We respect our home and environment.

We support and trust each other.

We have fun and laughter.

We respect each other.





Every child at Vernon House has their own bedroom. You're encouraged to personalise it in a way that reflects who you are. Whether it's choosing your bedding, cushions, or curtains, staff will help you pick things that make your room feel cosy and comfortable.

You'll also have the chance to decorate your room, and adults will be there to help bring your ideas to life. We love seeing creativity and personal touches, it's what makes each room unique!



We understand how important privacy is. Staff will always knock before entering your bedroom. In rare situations, like emergencies or if we're worried about your safety, adults may need to come in quickly. Even then, your space will always be treated with care and respect.

There are lots of schools and colleges nearby, and we can help you explore what is the best placement for you. If you're already going to a school or college, we'll try our best to help you maintain this.

Adults at Vernon House will support you with going to school or college and help you if you're worried about anything.

They'll also help you with your learning, so you can do well in your subjects and get ready for adult life.

For older children, there are lots of exciting courses you can try, like A-levels, bricklaying, mechanics, sport, cooking, hair and beauty, and animal care.

Education



Pets

Children can have pets in their rooms as long as they take good care of them. Pets need help with things like eating, drinking, staying clean, and feeling safe. That's your job as their special person! Looking after a pet is a big responsibility, but it's also lots of fun. You can play games, give cuddles, and enjoy having a best friend who's always happy to see you.

Sometimes, adults bring their friendly dogs to work, and you might get to meet them and say hello!



Health



Your health is really important to us. When you first arrive at Vernon House, we'll make sure you're registered with a doctor, dentist, and optician. A nurse from the health team also visits the home from time to time to check in and make sure you're doing well.

If you ever feel like you need to see a health professional, we'll help you make an appointment and come with you if you'd like us to. We'll also encourage and support you to make appointments on your own when you're ready.

If you're prescribed any medication, adults will help you take it when needed and explain what it's for, so you can understand it better if you want to.



Bullying is when someone hurts another person on purpose. It can happen in different ways—like hitting or kicking, calling someone names, leaving them out, or being mean online.

At Vernon House, we have zero tolerance for bullying or any form of discrimination. That means we do not allow bullying of any kind, including being mean to someone because of their race, gender identity, or background.

Everyone deserves to feel safe, respected, and welcome.

All the adults know that bullying can happen sometimes, and they are here to help. If you feel like someone is bullying you, or you see someone else being treated unfairly, please talk to an adult.

They will listen and help make things better. We talk about bullying together in the home so everyone knows how to treat each other kindly. When we speak up and support each other, we help keep Vernon House a safe and happy place for everyone.

Bullying, Racism and Discrimination Are Not Okay

Equality and Diversity

At Vernon House we celebrate a variety of different cultural events.

We do this to develop our knowledge on other cultures and to celebrate cultural differences and diversity.

If you ever want to join in, or have ideas please speak with the adults as any help is welcomed.



Gender Identity

We are committed to creating an affirming, nurturing environment for all children in our care, including those who identify as LGBTQ+.

We actively support the rights of all LGBTQ+ children, parents and staff to be safe and to be treated fairly and respectfully. We will provide access to information and services to allow them to develop an understanding of their own identity, culture, and context.



Friends and Family Time



We will try to help you have family and friends time as much as you can. Time alone with friends maybe something that we need to work towards so we can make sure you are safe.

If you are unhappy with friends and family time, then you should tell someone, ideally a carer or social worker. It may be because you feel unsafe, scared, or do not enjoy the place where you meet. We can help with all these and look at the best way to help you feel better.

All children at Vernon House get weekly pocket money and savings. You'll receive £10 each week for your pocket money. This money, and any extra you're given by family, carers, or friends, is kept safe by the adults until you want to use it.

If you'd like to take money out for a trip, visit, or to buy something special, just speak to an adult and we'll help you get it.

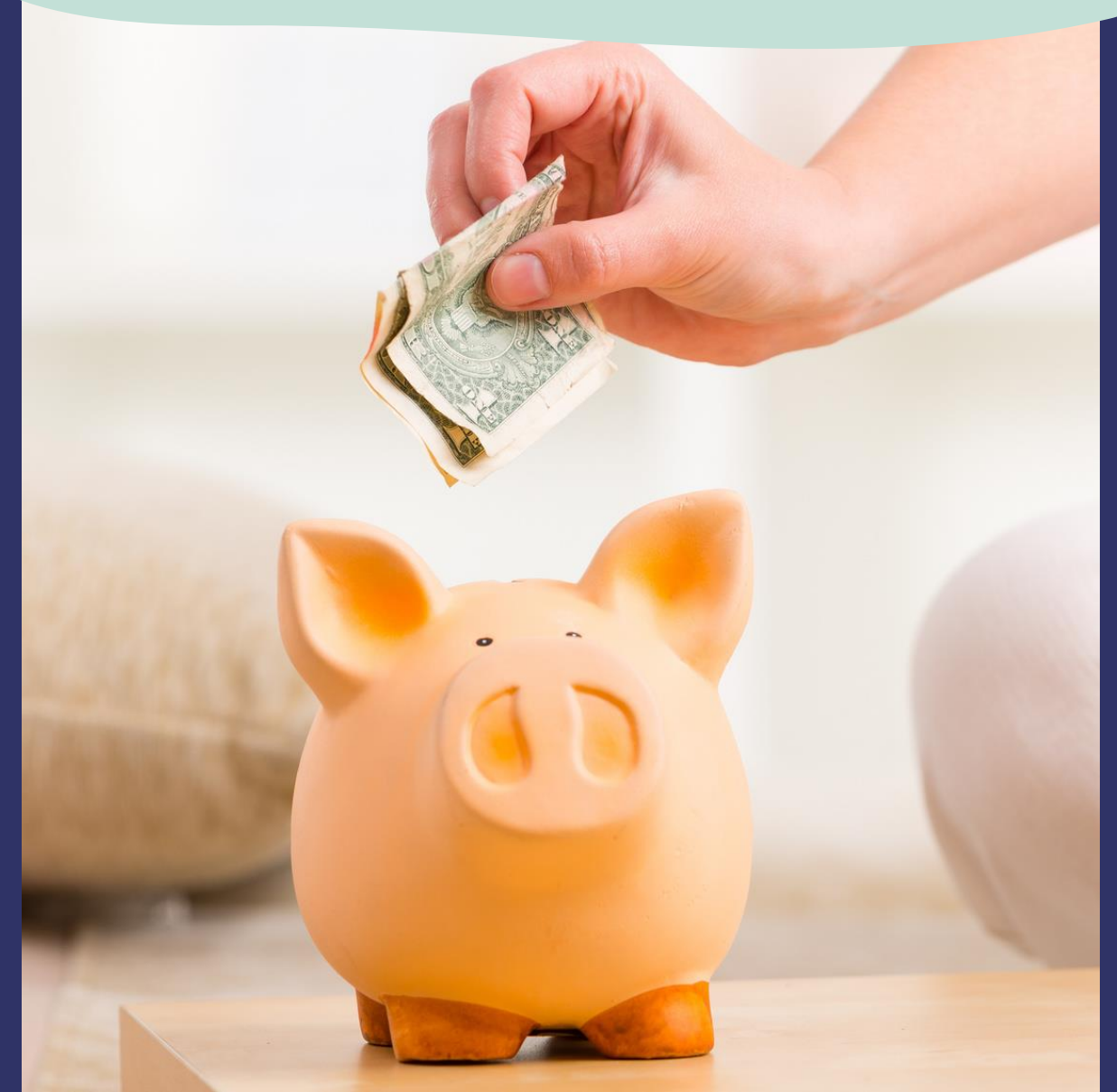
We also save £5 a week for you while you stay with us. You'll get this money when you leave Vernon House, and it can go towards your future.

We'll help you with clothing, money, and toiletries, so you always have what you need. If you'd like help shopping—online or in a store—just let the adults know and we'll support you.

We believe that doing well and making good choices should be celebrated. Sometimes a simple "thank you" or "well done" can make you feel proud.

We also use incentive charts to help you work towards rewards or extra treats when you're trying hard or need a bit of extra support.

MONEY, REWARDS AND THINGS YOU NEED



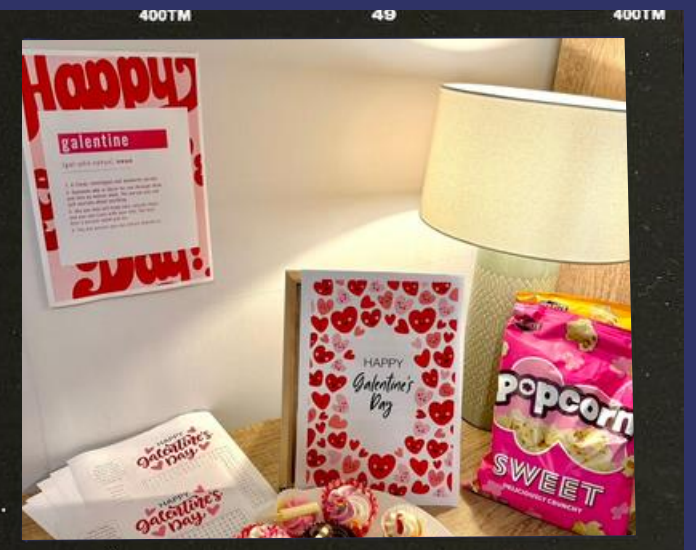
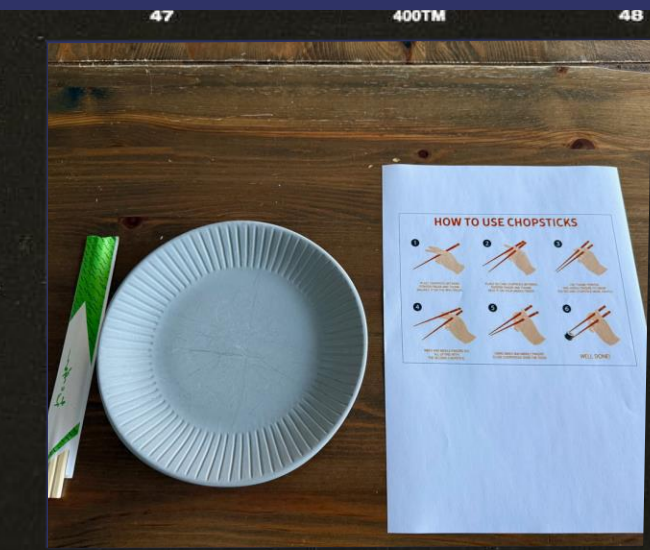
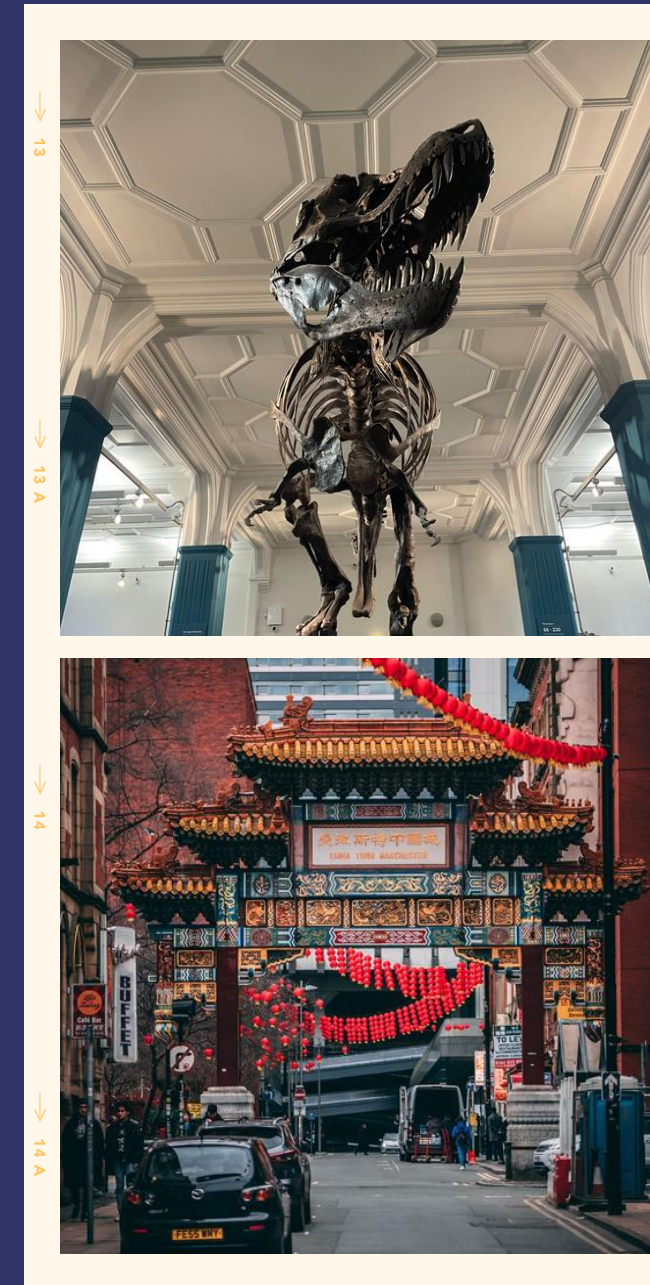
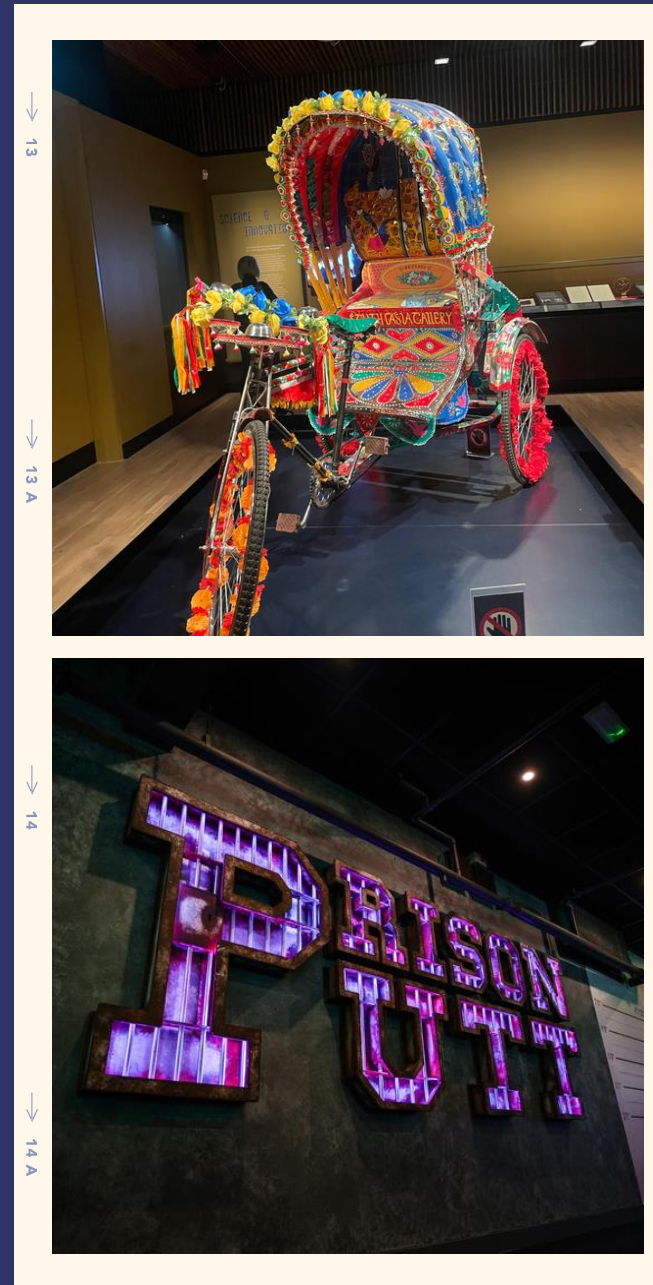
Activities and the Community

There are lots of activities and opportunities in the local and surrounding areas. Poynton has a lovely high street with different types of shops, but we are close to Manchester and Stockport, where there is cinemas, restaurants, games, etc. There is a leisure center close to us offering a gym, swimming, and other sports. Vernon House is near areas to go for walks in the Peak District National Park. In school and college holidays, your keyworker will discuss what you would like to do.

This could be theme parks, attractions in the local area, a holiday away from the home, and much more.

Local Activities:

- Go karting
- Go Ape
- Trafford Centre
- Lego Land
- Access to outdoor pursuits
- Stockport- indoor climbing
- Manchester- Sea Life Centre, Trafford Centre, Ninja Warrior
- Stoke-on-Trent - Water world
- Alton Towers





Food



Each week a new menu is created for the following week which will include your choices as well as other children and adults.

We hope that whilst living at Vernon House you try lots of new foods as well as enjoying lots of fruit and vegetables to keep you healthy.

On a Wednesday, adults will ask you for meal suggestions and ask for food items to be put on a shopping list for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks.

We encourage all our children to try to learn how to cook, and we will support you in learning how to do this. There is always a fully stocked kitchen with different foods and utensils available for you to cook new things. The fruit bowl is always stocked, so help yourself at any time!

We do like to sit down together for a meal where we can, it gives us all chance to have a natter!

Holidays

Holidays at Vernon House are really something special, with lots of fun activities to choose from! While it's still important to follow routines, like keeping your bedroom tidy, we try to make holiday time as fun as possible.

Everyone gets the chance to wake up later and go to bed later, and we go on lots of exciting trips, like our holiday to the Lake District.

Going abroad is something we aim for too, and if it's possible, we'll try to make it happen for you.



Complaints and Compliments



If you are unhappy about the way, you are being looked after or if something has happened that you feel is wrong, then you have the right to tell us about this, and we have the responsibility to take this seriously and look into this.

You can always access a complaints form, and you can then give this back to someone you feel comfortable giving this to.

You will receive a reply telling you we have this then within 10 days telling you what is being done about your complaint.

At times the adults will also ask you to complete feedback forms to see things you like about the home and if there is anything you would like to improve. This helps us to make a better home and ensure everyone is happy!

Advocacy



Advocacy means *getting independent support from someone who helps you express your views and wishes, and stand up for your rights. This person is called an advocate.*

There are different ways to access advocacy. Some organisations offer advocacy services, and sometimes your Local Authority may have a preferred organisation they recommend.

At Vernon House, an independent advocate visits every month to speak with the children. If you have any concerns or things you'd like to talk about, they'll be happy to help.

Staff at Vernon House will always support you in getting your own advocate whenever you feel you need one. Advocates are there to help make sure your voice is heard and your rights are respected.

Children's Commissioner



The Children's Commissioner for England is Dame Rachel de Souza. She speaks up for children and young people so that policymakers and the people who have an impact on their lives take their views and interests into account when making decisions about them.

Contact details

Email - help.team@childrenscommissioner.gov.uk

Freephone - 0800 528 0731.

Reg 44

A Regulation 44 Inspector, otherwise known as an 'Independent Visitor', is required to visit and inspect Residential Children's Homes a minimum of once per month to assess the safeguarding arrangements and quality of care provided.

Our independent visitor is Marisa. She will attend the home once a month and will meet with management in the office.

Marisa would also like to speak to you on her visits to ensure you are happy. You can voice any positive or negative points you may have to discuss.



Ofsted are responsible for inspecting Vernon House and are the governing body that make sure all homes are providing good care to all the children living there.



Ofsted will usually visit once a year and they will give feedback in the form of a report and they even produce a report just for you. They will visit the home, arriving in the morning and will spend the whole day with you and the staff to learn what it is like to live at Vernon House. They may even stay for dinner!!

Our inspector may visit the home during your time here to look at how we are running the home, see what care you receive and to make sure that the home is trying to meet your needs and is helping you to achieve your full potential.

However, if you have any complaints then you can telephone them or write to them at any time and they then may come out and speak to you.



**Welcome to
Vernon House!
We will always be
here to help you.**

**If you ever need
anything all you
need to do is ask!**