

Smithstown Lodge Information for Parents

What is Smithstown Lodge

Smithstown Lodge is a residential facility offering high quality short to medium term care (3 months to 2 years) for teenagers.

Manager and Staffing

Vanessa Higgins is the manager of the Smithstown Lodge. She has been working in this area for over ten years. She leads a qualified and highly motivated team of social care leaders and workers.

What We Do

Smithstown Lodge Strives to provide a high quality needs led service, offering each young person the opportunity to grow and develop as an individual in a safe child-centered, trusting environment.

We offer a range of programmes and activities. These are individually designed by the key worker to help young people build confidence in their achievements and ambitions. The aim is to help each young person grow and develop to their full potential, receiving the best possible resources in assisting them to lead a positive and well balanced life.

Smithstown Lodge- The Home

Smithstown Lodge is a large bright, bungalow house situated in Julianstown, co. Meath. Each young person will have their own bedroom. All bedrooms are spacious and en-suite and each young person will have their own television. There's a lot of space throughout the house for privacy, access visits, plus indoor and outdoor activities. You and your child will be invited to visit the house as part of the induction process.

Life in Smithstown Lodge

Our professional, highly qualified team recognizes the individual, physical, emotional, social, intellectual and spiritual needs of each young person. We aim to meet these needs through individual; placement plans in accordance with the "National Standards for Residential Care". These standards ensure that your child will be well looked after.

Your child will be encouraged to:

- Join any local clubs which they have an interest in e.g. dancing clubs, sports club etc.
- Join in on individual or group activities in and outside the house, e.g. going to the cinema, swimming etc.

- Visit their friends or have their friends over to visit.
- we also encourage family visits as long as this is agreed by the social worker

Family contact

We encourage and welcome family contact- access arrangements should be written in your child's care plan, i.e. where and when visits will take place and whether these visits will be supervised or not. Whatever arrangements are made for access visits we will always aim to make your visit a happy one. This will be made possible through mutual respect between all concerned. We will always make sure that you are kept up to date on matters concerning your child's life. We will ask you to be part of making decisions about your child's life. If you have any questions regarding your child you can contact the staff at Smithstown Lodge, we will be happy to help you. You can phone your child whenever you want and they will also be able to phone you.

Education

Every young person is entitled to an education. Your child will attend a school or a course while they are living here. If it is practical we will facilitate your child to attend their current school or course. We will ensure that your child gets all the educational help they need in order to succeed in their education. We will attend school meetings regarding your child and we would also encourage you to do so. Staff in Smithstown Lodge will guide and support your child with their homework/study. Your child will be encouraged to go onto higher education or training we will help them find something that best suits your child's abilities. All school expenses will be taken care of while living in Smithstown Lodge e.g. school uniforms, school trips, books and stationery.

Clothing

While your child is living in Smithstown Lodge we will ensure that they have / get all the clothes that they need e.g. runners, shoes, underwear, casual clothes, school uniforms.

Pocket Money

Your child will get pocket money from us each week. The amount depends on their age. This money is not expected to cover the cost of their toiletries, clothes activities etc, Smithstown Lodge will provide money for these things.

Health

Your child will receive whatever medical treatment they need, including dental, optical or any kind of specialist treatment that might be necessary. The cost of any treatment will be covered either by their medical card or by Smithstown Lodge.

Care Plan

Your child will have a Care Plan while they are living in care. All those that care for your child will be involved in writing up this plan including you. This plan will outline important issues in relation to your child e.g. the kind of care that is suitable for them, their educational needs, health care any specific needs e.g. counseling, their religious beliefs and hobbies etc. This plan ensures that everybody working with your child knows their exact needs and how to give them the best possible chance in life, school, in their placement and with their family.

Complaints

If you are not happy with the care that your child is being given you have a right to make a complaint. If you wish to make a complaint you can make it to the manager or staff of Smithstown Lodge or your child's Social Worker. All complaints are taken seriously and are dealt with promptly. Complaints are notified to the relevant person as soon as possible. If you make a complaint to Smithstown Lodge we will do everything we can to try and resolve it for you. If this is not resolved it will be passed onto your child's Social Worker, s/he will aim to solve this complaint and if this is not possible it will go further until your complaint is resolved. If you are unhappy with the outcome you can appeal it. All this will be dealt with in the quickest possible manner. You will be guided and supported in the event that you need to make a complaint.

If you have any other queries or questions please feel free to contact us in Smithstown Lodge on 041-9811956. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your family better and working together to provide the best possible care for your child.