We strive for a family-friendly School of Mathematics. Each year we run a Welcome Party, a School Ceilidh (pronounced "Cayley" - and meaning rowdy Scottish dancing), a bike ride into bucolic East Lothian, a "Muddy Boots" hike (with applied mathematicians) and a Christmas party with a visit from Santa. In addition, the city is truly wonderful and green with an incredible range of things to do from a huge castle to a little city farm: it's regularly voted as one of the best cities to live in, both in Europe and the world, see here for instance.

The School and the University have a number of policies to support a good life/work balance. These include:

• Core hour's policy: all meetings that involve the whole School (such as School Forum, School Colloquium, Board of Studies...) take place within core hours 10am-4pm
• Shared parental leave: by UK law parents get 1 year, 2 months of which are paid; the University of Edinburgh has possibilities that can supplement this
• Support for carers: if you need additional caring support when you are away for a conference or other similar activity, the School of Mathematics can contribute
• The Arcadia Nursery: is a beautiful nursery with a big garden, on the campus where Mathematics is located. The children of many of our faculty attend

More generally, the School supports the London Mathematical Society Good Practice Scheme which encourages transparent, fair and inclusive practice in the organisation, procedures and culture of the School

In addition, we are taking many steps to help to support a greater diversity within our School, including gender. As recognition of this we have been awarded the Athena Swan Bronze Award which is a UK-wide programme to encourage and recognise commitment to advancing the careers of women in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine employment in higher education and research. We are currently in the process of applying for a Silver Award, with a longer term goal of achieving a Gold Award.