



## West Ashton C of E Primary School



### Early Help Offer and Procedure

Intent	<p>West Ashton CofE Primary School recognises its legal and moral duty to promote the well-being of children and keep them safe. School policies at West Ashton CofE Primary School are robust and applied by all members of our community. We do whatever we need to do to keep our children safe, happy and confident in order to give them the best opportunity to aspire, believe and celebrate as they 'shine among them like stars in the sky.'</p> <p>A large proportion of safeguarding work we do at West Ashton CofE Primary School is through early help. Our children and families get the support and intervention they need, at the time they need it.</p> <p><b>"Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years."</b> (Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2022)</p> <p>Statutory guidance in the UK highlights the importance of providing early intervention, rather than waiting until a child's or family's situation escalates. Early help services can be delivered to parents, children or whole families, but our focus is always to improve outcomes for the child. Early help can be offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• so that problems don't arise in the first place (prevention)</li><li>• so that problems are dealt with early (early intervention)</li><li>• so that we support children, young people and their families when they are more vulnerable and have more complex or longer-lasting needs e.g. SEND.</li></ul> <p>Providing timely support is vital because addressing a child's or family's needs early on can reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in a child's life (Early Intervention Foundation – EIF - 2021). At West Ashton we offer a range of Early Help support.</p>
Recognising	<p>At West Ashton we know our children and families well and are vigilant in order to recognise any small change in behaviour. We are aware not only of those who may be more likely to need early help, but also of signs that may suggest our children could benefit from early help, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• displaying disruptive or anti-social behaviour</li><li>• being bullied or bullying others</li><li>• having poor attendance at school</li><li>• a change or regression in their academic attainment</li><li>• being involved in, or at risk of, offending</li><li>• having poor general health</li><li>• having anxiety, depression or other mental health issues</li><li>• having a particularly challenging relationship with parents or appearing to be unusually independent from their parents</li><li>• experiencing difficulties at home (NSPCC, 2023)</li></ul> <p>Aside from this, we have a number of different ways to identify the need for early help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• safeguarding welfare concerns and procedures</li><li>• check-ins in class</li><li>• buddy systems</li><li>• ELSA</li><li>• pupil voice and pupil surveys</li><li>• teacher and teaching assistant observations</li><li>• Thrive online profiling</li><li>• parental concerns and parent surveys</li><li>• parent evenings and meetings</li><li>• open door policy</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pupil progress meetings</li> <li>• pupil passports and SEND baseline assessments</li> <li>• attendance monitoring and procedures</li> </ul>
Responding	<p>If we feel that a child and family would benefit from early help, we will always get in touch and discuss next steps with you. Working together is the most important part of ensuring early help is successful.</p> <p>It may be that we start an Early Support Assessment (ESA) which is a supportive process. It involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gathering information from the child, family and anyone working with them</li> <li>• completing the ESA form to identify the child's needs and what is working well</li> <li>• working together with professionals to agree an action plan</li> <li>• meeting regularly to review the process and record any progress made</li> <li>• referring to other professionals and services to support where necessary</li> </ul> <p>There are a range of early help interventions that may be put in place. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ELSA</li> <li>• Thrive</li> <li>• play therapy</li> <li>• Acorn Education Trust Behaviour Support and Forest Schools</li> <li>• meet and greet</li> <li>• use of breakfast club and afterschool</li> <li>• calming areas in classrooms</li> <li>• safe spaces</li> <li>• alternative and structured break and lunch times</li> <li>• adult led 1:1 support</li> <li>• learning support: phonics and early reading intervention, maths and spelling intervention, precision teaching</li> </ul> <p>We also may refer to external support and external agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Triple P and Time Out parenting courses</li> <li>• Trowbridge foodbank</li> <li>• Five to Thrive and additional services through Spurgeons and the Children's Centre</li> <li>• Barnado's</li> <li>• Young Carers</li> <li>• Educational Psychologist</li> <li>• Education Welfare Officer</li> <li>• Speech and Language</li> <li>• HCRG for neurological assessment (ASD and ADHD)</li> <li>• Advisory teacher support through the DART</li> <li>• SENDIAS</li> <li>• Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)</li> </ul>
Reviewing	<p>Any intervention in place will be frequently assessed and reviewed. This is usually on a 6-week 'plan, do and review' cycle. We will meet and discuss progress with you termly through a team around the child meeting. If your child has a SEND passport, these are also updated and shared with you termly.</p>
Guidance	<p>Accessing children's services – Wiltshire:  <a href="https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1444/Accessing-children-s-services">https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1444/Accessing-children-s-services</a></p> <p>Early Intervention Foundation – EIF:  <a href="https://www.eif.org.uk/">https://www.eif.org.uk/</a></p> <p>Early Help – NSPCC:  <a href="https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/early-help-early-intervention#skip-to-content">https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/early-help-early-intervention#skip-to-content</a></p>