



WHITESHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

OFFER OF EARLY HELP

Definition:

“Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. 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”

Working Together to Safeguard Children, DfE, March 2015

Early Help is offered when we identify a need to help a child or family as soon as problems start to emerge, or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will develop in the future. The Gloucestershire Early Help and Targeted Support Team is made up of local teams of professionals who deliver practical advice and support to children, young people and their families. We as a school have contact with this team and are briefed regularly on the support that is available where a need has been identified.

Early help is offered by Whiteshill Primary School in collaboration with other agencies, where the following areas are of concern:

- Disability and specific additional needs
- Young carers
- Signs of anti-social or criminal behaviour
- Attendance in school – including those who frequently go missing from home or from care
- Emotional and behavioural needs
- Parenting skills
- Delay in development and learning
- Identification and assessment of special educational needs
- Family members in prison
- Speech and language delay
- Domestic abuse
- Drug and alcohol misuse
- Faith abuse including ‘honour based’ violence
- Gangs, organised crime and Youth Violence
- Gender based violence (violence against women and girls, including FGM)
- Adult mental health
- Homelessness
- Healthy eating and nutrition
- Child and adolescent mental health
- Family support including Gloucestershire Families First Plus Team
- Private fostering
- Returning home after entering care
- Radicalisation and criminal exploitation – including county lines.

- Modern slavery and trafficking
- Sexting
- Child sexual exploitation
- Peer on peer abuse

Help is offered by a wide range of professionals including:

- Educational Psychologists
- Early Help Officers
- Early Help Social Workers
- Family Support Workers
- Play workers
- Child mental health specialists
- Specialist behavioural support teachers and workers

Help can also be offered by Gloucestershire Families First Plus Team and their role includes:

- Supporting the co-ordination and development of local partnerships
- Co-ordinate all requests for additional support on behalf of the partnership
- Provide advice, guidance and support through Community Social Workers and Early Help Co-ordinators
- Provide targeted support – a range of family support interventions including whole family intensive work, parenting groups, specific interventions linked to an assessment of need.

How can I access this service?

If you have some concerns, a good starting point is to come and discuss these with the Head Teacher, Miss Francis or our SENCO, Miss Boor. We can, on your behalf, make a referral on an Early Help form to the Gloucestershire Early Help and Targeted Support Team and work with you to create a plan of action.

If your child is pre-school age, GPs, Health Visitors and Children's Centre staff all know about the Early Help Service and can help to make a referral if that is what you think would help.

Our approach is to work closely with families and to hold Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings so that everyone is clear about what we are trying to achieve and who is doing what to help the children and/or family.

For an early help assessment to be effective, it is always best for it be undertaken with the agreement of the child and their parents or carers. We will take into account the child's wishes and feelings wherever possible.

Before we can start to work with your family we need your consent. Our service is confidential and you will be asked for permission for us to speak with other relevant professionals on your behalf, including sharing your information with the Gloucestershire Early Help and Targeted Support Team.