



## WHITESHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

### OFFER OF EARLY HELP

***“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**

Whiteshill Primary School is committed to safeguarding children and promoting their welfare at all levels. Early Help is offered when we as a school, or yourselves as parents, 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. We ensure that children are identified as soon as possible and that we work with them, their families and any necessary outside agencies to try to ensure that the situation does not reach a crisis point. We understand that family life can, at times, be difficult and complicated and we recognise that there may be situations where pupils and their families need extra help and support. We know that all needs should be taken into account when considering the type of support that would be beneficial and identifying which professionals can help, with the consent of the family. The aim of early help is to identify which level of help is needed and how we can ensure that the children are safeguarded and that their needs are met. Our school follows guidance set out in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 and links to our Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, amongst others.

Early help is offered can be offered at Whiteshill Primary School, in collaboration with other agencies, where one or more of the following areas are of concern:

- Additional needs or disability (see our SEN information report on the SEN page of the school website for more information).
- 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
- Family members in prison
- 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
- Child on child abuse

Once it has been identified that a family may benefit from early help support, the school will work with you as a family to help you get appropriate support in place.

The support that is available in school includes the following:

- Taking the time to listen to concerns. All of our teachers are available in a pastoral capacity should parents have a concern. Parents are welcome to talk directly with our teaching staff and this is the first point of contact to discuss their child's wellbeing.
- In-class support from teachers and teaching assistants e.g. daily wellbeing check-ins, self-soothe boxes, emotion cards, time-out spaces.
- Trained Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) who can work with children on their mental wellbeing needs through planned intervention.
- SCARF Relationships, Sex and Health Education (see the curriculum page of our website for more information). This is fully comprehensive and offers a range of support for children e.g. me and my relationships, keeping safe, valuing difference, rights and respect, being my best, growing and changing.
- Online safety education through our RSHE and computing curriculum including parent and children workshops from 'Stay Safe Workshops' and information through the newsletter and website.
- MyPlans – this is a plan that we can put in place alongside yourselves and your child to ensure we understand their needs and are providing them with the support they need in school and at home to thrive.

Support can be offered from a wide range of professionals from outside of school. This list is not exhaustive and is continually updated through our close working relationship with the Gloucestershire Early Help team and our attendance at their termly forums.

This may include but is not limited to:

- Health visitors, school nurse service, GP
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Educational Psychologists
- Young Carers
- CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Support)
- TiC+ (Teens in Crisis+)
- The Door mentoring service
- Gloucestershire Families First
- CCP (Caring for Communities and People)
- Housing support
- 2gether NHS Trust
- Children's social care and GSCE (Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Executive)

- Police
- GDASS (Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service)
- Advisory Teaching Service
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Gloucestershire Children's Helpdesk
- Play therapists

### **Gloucestershire Family Support**

Family Information Service advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. They are a useful source of information for parents and professionals, supporting families, children and young people aged 0-19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. They can help link parents up with other organisations that might be able to help or provide the information themselves e.g. parents could ask them about holiday clubs for children in their local area or where to find an equine therapist near them!

They also provide advice, guidance and support for school through Community Social Workers and Early Help Co-ordinators. They will provide targeted support where necessary, including a range of family support interventions such as whole family intensive work, parenting groups or specific interventions linked to an assessment of need. We as a school have contact with this team on a regular basis and they help us to identify what appropriate support is available. To find out more about this team or the services they provide please visit: [www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)

There is also support and advice available at the Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning webpage here: <https://www.ghll.org.uk/family/>

### **What do I do if I think my child/ren needs additional support?**

If you feel that your child may have needs at this time, a good starting point is to come and discuss these with the Head Teacher and SENCo, Miss Francis. If we decide that an Early Help may be of use to you as a family and you are happy to proceed, we will invite you to meet with us for an initial 'Team around the child/family' meeting. At this meeting, we will discuss your child or family need in order for us to create a MyPlan which, with your engagement, will ensure they get appropriate support going forwards. If we feel the need cannot be met just with support from school, we will ask for your consent at this meeting to share information with other professionals in order for us to create an effective plan.

This MyPlan will then be reviewed every term after the initial meeting in order to ensure that the support is having the impact we hoped or before as necessary. By having regular meetings, we hope that everyone will be clear about what we are trying to achieve and what support will be put in place. It also means that we can keep a regular track on how the child's need is changing and whether the support is effective. Older children will sometimes be asked to attend meetings when necessary, as well as older siblings and other adults in the home if appropriate. We will take into account the child's wishes and feelings wherever possible.


For an early help assessment to be effective, the support and engagement of parents and carers is key. Often opportunities for support will be identified outside of school time. We will signpost you to possible services and you can choose which is the most appropriate – it is entirely in your control, but

if your child's need is to be met, engagement from yourselves with these services is essential, alongside our work in school.

**Miss Francis – Headteacher, SENCo and Designated Safeguarding Lead**



Please find below a table of possible support for different 'Early Help' needs:

Family Needs	Possible Provision
Young carers	<a href="https://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk/">https://www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk/">https://gloucestershirecarershub.co.uk/</a>
Parenting Support	<a href="https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page">https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page</a> Parenting programmes including Triple P, Incredible Years and Stepping Stones can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> .
Signs of anti-social or criminal behaviour	<a href="https://www.astonproject.co.uk/">https://www.astonproject.co.uk/</a> <a href="#">PCSO for Whiteshill – Amy Webb</a>  <b>Amy Webb</b> PCSO
Emotional and behavioural needs	Advisory Teaching Service Educational Psychologist Emotional Literacy Support Assistant In-class support from teachers and TAs <a href="https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page">https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/kb5/gloucs/glosfamilies/home.page</a> <a href="https://thedoor.org.uk/">https://thedoor.org.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.ticplus.org.uk/">https://www.ticplus.org.uk/</a>
Child on child abuse and harmful sexual behaviour	RSHE curriculum NSPCC <a href="#">Pants</a> and <a href="#">Speak Out Stay Safe</a> programmes Hackett Continuum of harmful sexual behaviour to identify level of need and intervention.  <a href="https://safeguarding.network/content/safeguarding-resources/peer-peer-abuse/">https://safeguarding.network/content/safeguarding-resources/peer-peer-abuse/</a>  Police support – see child protection and safeguarding policy for school response.  <a href="https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/">https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/</a>
Child sexual exploitation	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners</a>  <a href="https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/">https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/</a>  <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/">https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/caa/child-abuse/child-sexual-exploitation/</a>

	<p><a href="#">Barnardo's</a> A national charity helping children in poverty, supporting young carers and helping families looking to foster or adopt.</p> <p><a href="#">Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command (CEOP) Education</a> National Crime Agency advice for parents, children and young people on staying safe from sexual abuse and online grooming.</p> <p><a href="#">National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)</a> A national children's charity, preventing abuse and helping those affected to recover.</p> <p><a href="#">Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)</a> The leading national charity working with parents and carers of sexually exploited children.</p> <p><a href="#">ECPAT UK</a> A UK organisation campaigning against child trafficking and exploitation.</p> <p><a href="#">Fearless</a> A service that allows you to pass on information about crime 100% anonymously.</p> <p><a href="#">Enough Campaign</a> A national campaign to tackle violence against women and girls.</p> <p><a href="#">Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre</a> Free and confidential advice for anyone who has suffered rape or sexual abuse.</p> <p><a href="#">Email</a> Gloucestershire's Social Services children's helpdesk or call <a href="#">01452 426565</a> (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5pm).</p> <p><a href="#">Gloucestershire Take a Stand</a> Local, practical support and help for all types of violence and abuse, including child sexual exploitation.</p>
Online safety	Our school website includes links and information for support <a href="#">here</a> .
Modern slavery and trafficking	<p><a href="https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking">https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/crime-threats/modern-slavery-and-human-trafficking</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ms/modern-slavery/">https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/ms/modern-slavery/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/">https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/</a></p>
Radicalisation and criminal exploitation – including county lines, gangs, organised crime and Youth Violence.	<p><a href="https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/">https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/resources/gloucestershire/</a></p> <p>PCSO Amy Webb and Gloucestershire Constabulary</p> <p><a href="#">Prevent Duty</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation/">https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/gangs-criminal-exploitation/</a></p> <p>The Children's Society - <a href="#">County lines and criminal exploitation toolkit</a></p> <p>The Children's Society, <a href="#">#LookCloser</a> exploitation awareness campaign</p>

	The Children's Society <a href="#">county lines and criminal exploitation toolkit</a>
Children in care or previously children in care	Designated teacher in school Virtual Schools' support - <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/vschool/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/vschool/</a> Personal Education Plan PCIC support – GCC - <a href="https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/vschool/about-us/previous-children-in-care/">https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/vschool/about-us/previous-children-in-care/</a>
Healthy eating and nutrition	<a href="https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/">https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/</a>  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/">https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/</a>  <a href="https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/">https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/</a>  Stroud Foodbank
Homelessness	<a href="https://www.cbh.org/services/help-support/homelessness-advice/">https://www.cbh.org/services/help-support/homelessness-advice/</a>  <a href="https://www.stroud.gov.uk/housing">https://www.stroud.gov.uk/housing</a>
Gender based violence (violence against women and girls, including FGM)	<a href="https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fgm/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/">https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fgm/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/</a>  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/">https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/</a>  <a href="#">GDASS - Gloucestershire</a>
Faith abuse including 'honour based' violence	<a href="https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/honour-based-abuse/honour-based-abuse/">https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/honour-based-abuse/honour-based-abuse/</a>
Drug and alcohol misuse	<a href="https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/">https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/</a>  <a href="https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/">https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://recoveryhub.co.uk/">https://recoveryhub.co.uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.talktofrank.com/">https://www.talktofrank.com/</a>  <a href="#">Glos Families Directory</a>
Domestic abuse	<a href="https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/">https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/getting-help-for-domestic-violence/</a>  <a href="#">GDASS - Gloucestershire</a>  Gloucestershire Constabulary  Family Support Worker
Family members in prison	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/help-with-prison-visits">https://www.gov.uk/help-with-prison-visits</a>  <a href="https://www.prisonersfamilies.org/">https://www.prisonersfamilies.org/</a>  <a href="https://www.impactpathways.org.uk/Children--Families/">https://www.impactpathways.org.uk/Children--Families/</a>
Attendance in school – including those who frequently go	See attendance page of our school website including school policy.  <a href="#">Education Inclusion Service</a>

missing from home or from care	
Adult mental health	<a href="https://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/your-health-services/community-and-hospital-care/mental-health/">https://www.nhsglos.nhs.uk/your-health-services/community-and-hospital-care/mental-health/</a> <a href="https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/">https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/</a>
Child and adolescent mental health	<a href="https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/">https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/</a> <a href="https://www.youngminds.org.uk/">https://www.youngminds.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/camhs/">https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/camhs/</a>  <a href="https://www.ticplus.org.uk/">https://www.ticplus.org.uk/</a>  <a href="https://thedoorgroup.org.uk/">https://thedoorgroup.org.uk/</a>