



1 Introduction

1.1 Definition of Early Help: Early Help is all services that work with children, young people and families. When a child or family is in need of support the best way forward should be identified at the earliest opportunity. Early Help is implemented to support families and young people before their needs become acute and other specialist intervention may be necessary. Our primary aim is to ensure the safety of the young people in our care.

1.2 Where Early Help comes from

- 1.2.1 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 gives the following guidance on 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.”
- 1.2.2 It is this document and The Children Act 2004 which promote the requirement for Early Help. Section 10 of The Children Act states that the local authority should: “make arrangements to promote cooperation between the authority, its relevant partners and any other appropriate bodies working with children with a view to improving the wellbeing of all the children in the authority’s area.

2 **Our Aim:** Education is not just the responsibility of the teacher but also of the wider community and students excel when they feel supported and part of their local, national and global communities. We have a dedicated safeguarding team at WHIS who are trained comprehensively to deal with any concerns and put in place any support required.

2.1.1 **Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Becky Gwynn

2.1.2 **Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead:** Tom Carrick

2.2 Safeguarding is a separate process from the Early Help offer, however the two processes do overlap. Please read our Safeguarding Policy for information on how concerns are recorded and processed within the school.

3 **Your Needs:** You might need support from Early Help if:

- 3.1 You are struggling with parenting or a child’s behaviour
- 3.2 You, or someone in your family, is experiencing violence
- 3.3 You, or someone in your family, is experiencing domestic abuse
- 3.4 You, or someone in your family, has substance abuse issues
- 3.5 You, or someone in your family, is making unhealthy choices
- 3.6 Your child has Special Educational Needs (SEN) or a disability

4 **Our Offer:** If things aren’t right at home and you need some extra support, our offer of Early Help includes:

- 4.1 Listening to your child(ren)’s concerns. Becky Gwynn, our School Counsellor, is on hand to listen to and guide children through the trying times and support where necessary.
- 4.2 Listening to concerns about family life; this applies to students and their families. If you feel that there is something we should be aware of, please let us know. We are always ready to listen and respond accordingly.
- 4.3 Running a comprehensive PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum and SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) programme covering a range of issues from E-safety to domestic violence.
- 4.4 Parent sessions in which you can learn about the curriculum, safeguarding issues affecting us everyday,

E-safety and many more. Please ask if there is anything else which you feel should be covered.

4.5 Access to Community Social Workers who can respond should their involvement be necessary.

4.6 Access to a range of agencies who can support you in the community.

5 **Contacts:** Should you wish to contact any agencies independently, the following is a (non-exhaustive) list of community support available:

5.1 Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) <http://www.gdass.org.uk/>

5.2 Family Information Service familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk

5.3 Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

5.4 Mind - Mental Health support charity <https://www.mind.org.uk/>

5.5 National Stalking Advocacy Service <http://paladinservice.co.uk/>

6 **Consent:** If your family has a range of difficulties which we can help with, a range of services would possibly need to be contacted. We would do this by completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA) but we can only do this with your consent. We are there to help with this process and it opens up a range of options for you and your family to provide the necessary support.

7 **Your information:** Only those who need to know your information will know unless there is a risk of serious harm or the potential to prevent or solve a crime in which case the safeguarding team will act without parental consent to achieve the best possible outcome for the child. Should you have any queries or concerns regarding anything in this document, or the safeguarding policy, please ask one of the safeguarding team who will be happy to assist.

Revision Control Table	
Drawn up by	S Richards
Date	21/11/17 Approved by DS, JA
Review schedule	Annual
Reviewed	21/11/18 by DS
Reviewed	21/11/19 by DS
Reviewed	21/11/20 by DS
Reviewed	01/06/21 by DS
Next review	01/06/22