



Early Help for Welfare and Safeguarding at Sebert Wood School ***January 2019***

The Early Help Offer (the Offer) is an approach not a service. It respects every family's right to access information to help manage their own lives successfully, whilst guiding them to seek support from appropriate sources. Help can then be agreed as soon as concerns start to emerge. The 'Offer' is for all children, as issues may arise at any point in a child or young person's life. It includes both universal and targeted /specialist services, to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched. The school has members of staff who are trained in Early Help assessment. All our Early Help is offered in partnership with parents and carers.

What we mean by Early Help

Early help is about stopping problems escalating. It relies on accurate early identification of difficulties and early action which is targeted and evaluated. It can involve intensive intervention or lighter touch support and is usually based on a clear support plan, with identified actions, responsibilities and outcomes, which is then reviewed. Early help is a form of targeted activity, with a specific action or actions being put in place to address a defined issue or combination of issues. It therefore forms part of a continuum of activity in supporting families.

Effective early help relies upon us all working together, providing local support as soon as a problem arises at any point in a child's life. Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. By identifying emerging problems, sharing information with other professionals and targeting assessed need, positive outcomes for children, young people and their families are increased.

Our commitment

- Help is there when parents, children and young people need it 'nipping problems in the bud'
- Together we will find a way forward that is right for everyone – there is a choice of help and it will be easy to access
- Families are at the centre of everything we do – they will only have to tell us their story once
- We operate an open door policy and are always willing to listen to concerns that affect any aspect of family life
- We will be assertive with families who may not want support but need it – and we will continue to support families until they no longer need our help.
- The school provides a neutral place where the child feels it is safe to talk, sensitivity to any disclosure is vital. Staff listen carefully to what the child is saying, treat it seriously, and value what they say.

Our Approach:

Using the Voice of the Child	The school uses pupil voice on a range of issues. Results are monitored and interventions put in place where appropriate. The school regularly takes pupil voice surveys on a range of issues, including playtimes.
1-1 support for pupils in liaison with families	One of our ELSA team can provide 1-1 sessions and group work to help children tackle issues they may be facing. They work closely with parents to ensure their work is understood by them and can be followed up at home. CAF referrals can be made by the school. Several staff are trained in the referral process and can meet with the parents to explore issues and complete the referral paperwork. Signs of Safety are used to identify strengths and weaknesses.
Wrap-around care	The school offers an inclusive wrap-around care programme with a daily breakfast club from 7.30am and after school club until 6pm from Monday to Friday for Years 2 – 6. New Moreton Hall Pre-School (on Sebert Wood site) provide after-school care for pupils in Reception and Year 1.
Curriculum	The school offers a comprehensive PSHE curriculum. This covers: age appropriate relationships and sex education; gender identity and tolerance; drugs ; keeping safe , including e-safety; emotional well being; risk identification and reduction.
Safeguarding training	The school values Safeguarding training at all levels. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and two Alternate DSLs undergo training every 2 years. New staff have safeguarding training from one of the DSLs as part of their induction. The Head Teacher is signed up for Suffolk's Safeguarding Children's Boards' alerts keeping knowledge and awareness of Safeguarding up to date and at the heart of their practice.
Accessing external support	The DSL or ADSL (or other members of staff if necessary) readily seek advice from the Suffolk Children Safeguarding Board or MASH in the event of a disclosure, or if they are concerned about a child's wellbeing.
E-safety	The school has an e-safety policy and follows a proactive e-safety programme, including an awareness of relevant issues as they arise. Useful links for parents and carers: https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/ https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/sexting E-safety advice is given through newsletters, magazines and awareness sessions.
Mental health	The school responds rapidly to concerns about mental health. The Mental Health lead, ELSA team and SENDCo have had mental health training. We signpost parents and carers to the <i>Emotional Wellbeing Gateway</i> – https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/infolink.page?infolinkchannel=2-1-1 where they can self-refer for support.
Anti-bullying	The school is committed to tackling all forms of bullying and has behaviour and anti-bullying policies. The pastoral lead provides friendship group support for pupils to prevent the escalation of situations. Bullying and cyber bullying are part of the schools PSHCE curriculum. Useful links for parents/ carers: http://www.bullying.co.uk/

Examples of Early Help that may be provided by our school:

- Breakfast and/or After School Club places
- Provision of emergency school lunches
- Provision of breakfast and/or morning snack for families in crisis
- Provision of sports kit for families in crisis
- Providing a named member of staff for both pupils and parents to contact with concerns.
- Providing a named member of staff to monitor individuals and help assess their needs and feelings.
- Signposting parent/carers to other agencies for support – e.g. addiction support, bereavement support, Childline, Citizens Advice Bureau, domestic violence support, financial advice, food banks, housing advice, medical advice, parenting support, SEND support (e.g. Autism Suffolk), women’s refuge helpline, police and domestic violence support, school nursing service.
- Referral to Suffolk Young Carers
- Targeted support from one of our Well-being or ELSA team
- Suffolk Children and Young People’s Emotional Wellbeing Hub
- **CAF** referrals. **CAF** is the acronym for the Common Assessment Framework - a national, standard approach to assessing any additional/unmet needs a child or young person may have and for deciding how any such needs can be identified and should be met effectively.

This list is not exhaustive and wherever possible personalised responses to need will be tailored.

Referrals for Early Help

- School staff are made aware that Early Help is available and it is part of the safeguarding training undertaken at least annually.
- If staff have concerns about a child or family they should refer the concerns to the DSL as detailed in the school’s Safeguarding policy. The referral forms are the universal forms used for Safeguarding, Welfare, Online Safety and Prevent and are stored in the staffroom.
- A member of the school’s safeguarding team will then decide on the appropriate support and liaise with the staff and parent/s.
- The school may complete a CAF in consultation with the parents. Parental consent is necessary for the CAF process.