



## Early Help for Children and Families at Pauntley Church of England Primary School

**'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 teenage years.'**

**Working Together (2015)**

Staff at Pauntley regularly meet, both formally and informally to discuss the needs of the children in school. More formal pupil progress meetings take place twice a year to discuss each child's performance.

At the meetings mentioned above we discuss:

|                          |                  |                         |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| How the child presents   | Behaviour        | Attitudes to learning   |
| Friendships              | Family issues    | Additional needs        |
| Any support they receive | General progress | Other agencies involved |

This allows us to identify any children and families that would benefit from early help; it allows us to help them access services in the school and beyond the school.

Our Early Help Offer 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. It includes both universal and targeted /specialist services, to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched

**What outcomes do we want for our children following an early offer of help?**

We aim to identify children who require early help in order to ensure that

- There is improved educational attainment

- Vulnerable children are protected
- Life chances are improved
- Children are healthy and positive

### **Who may need to access early support?**

Early support may be required in a variety of different situations such as:

- Children and young people who are disabled and have additional needs
- Children and young people with Special Educational Needs
- Young carers
- Children showing signs of engaging in anti-social or criminal behaviour

A child or young person in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as substance abuse, adult mental health, domestic violence and/or is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect and/or sexual exploitation.

**If we feel a child may need access to early help using external sources, we will complete a referral form, and send it to our local Families First Plus team. Our request for help will be processed and be taken to a multi-agency meeting to be discussed, in order to ensure the right support from the right agency is offered.**

**At Pauntley C of E Primary School we meet the needs of our children through a variety of ways:**

**Pupil Voice** - our children are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff. In lessons children are taught to speak openly about their emotions. Our children know our staff take all their concerns very seriously.

**SENDCO** - Mrs Tyler - works with children and families with additional needs and can access support from many different agencies including for example, speech and language therapists, Educational Psychiatrists, advisory teachers, health workers and occupational health services.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead** - Mrs Branwen Tyler, Mr Chris Ward (deputy) and Cathy Goodway (Child Protection Governor) ensure rigorous and

robust systems in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Staff are encouraged to sign up for Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Boards' alerts keeping their knowledge and awareness of Safeguarding up to date and at the heart of their practice.

Staff understand the correlation between Domestic Abuse and Child Protection - Staff are vigilant, listening to the child and making referrals as required.

The school raises the awareness to parents of Self-Harm and Eating Disorder websites understanding the correlation between self-harm and suicide and aiming for early identification of pupils at risk.

The school uses the Child Sexual Exploitation Tool for early identification and makes referrals as necessary.

Staff are aware about the extent of Female Genital Mutilation and Forced Marriages and understand how to fulfil their legal responsibilities.

Designated Senior Staff for child protection are aware of the issues and have ensured that all staff in school are aware of the Prevent Duty for Schools. Staff and governors have undertaken on-line Prevent training. Staff are able to identify those children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation, and know what to do when they are identified. We are building young people's resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental British values and enabling them to challenge extremist views.

#### Further Information

For further information on Gloucestershire County Council's offer of Early Help please click on the link below:

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-help-for-families>