

# Early Help Offer



Every family has its ups and downs. Being a parent is hard work and there are no instructions. Sometimes, you or your children may need extra support. This may be before your children are born, when they are very young, or throughout their school years. There is nothing to be ashamed of in asking for help.

Early Help helps you recognise what's going well for you, where you may benefit from extra help, and who is the best person to work with you and your family to make this happen.

At Fairfield Infant and Nursery School, we have an open door policy and encourage parents to talk to your child's class teacher straight away if you have any worries about your child.

## **You can also talk to:**

Jenny Allin – Headteacher and Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Sarah Hewitt - Deputy Head and the school's Safeguarding Lead.

Rachel Mellor – Family Support Worker and Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Kerry Hill - Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Sometimes staff at school may spot signs that show a family may be finding things difficult and these concerns will be passed to the Safeguarding team, who may invite you in for a chat to see how we can help.

We have a designated Family Room within school where parents/carers can discuss their concerns privately. This is also used for multi - agency meetings and as a space for group work.

We are also able to do home visits where appropriate.

## **Early Help Assessment**

This starts with an Early Help conversation. You will chat with our Safeguarding Lead or Family Support Worker about what's going well and what is not going well for you and your family and they will let you know what sort of help is available. This conversation might lead to an Early Help Assessment (EHA). This is how we get a full picture about the whole family. We use it to help you see what is working well and identify the areas you could do with a bit of extra support. We will then create a plan where we will work together and include other agencies if needed to ensure the correct support is put in place for your family.

## **What happens after the Early Help Assessment**

With your permission, people from different organisations working with your family will share information and work together to help support you and your children. This could be school, health visitors, counselling services, etc. This may then be followed by a 'Team around the family' meeting.

## **Why do I need to give my permission (also known as consent)?**

Your personal information belongs to you. Agencies cannot share your information unless you agree, because your information is protected by law under the Data Protection Act.

## **What is a 'Team around the family' meeting?**

The family and workers involved come together to make a support plan. This is reviewed at regular intervals to ensure that progress is being made for your family and that the right support is in place. At this meeting, you will choose a 'lead worker'. This can be any one of the people working with your family – you might choose the worker you see most often, or the person you find most approachable. Your lead worker will arrange the review meetings and be someone you can speak to at any point about any concerns or issues you and your family are experiencing.

### **What if I just want someone to talk to for some advice?**

Sometimes we all need someone to talk to who is not part of our direct family. You are always welcome to pop in or make an appointment to speak to Rachel our Family Support Worker (or the person on our safeguarding team you feel most comfortable with). These conversations do not have to be part of an Early help Assessment – they are about time and space for you to talk about anything that you want to. Sometimes a brew and a good chat to someone can make all the difference to your day!