



Early Help for Children and Families

Meadows First School

An Annex for Early Help COVID 19

At Meadows First School we recognise the challenges that families face in bringing up children. There may be times when you need extra help and support. If this is the case, please come and talk to us. There are many ways our school can help and support you and your family as outlined in this offer of early help.

We can help to plan specific support for families by following the Early Help Pathway, meaning we can carry out a whole family early help assessment where extra support is identified. We will work with you as a family to work together to set and achieve positive outcomes in a family plan

Providing early help to our pupils and families at Meadows First School means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can. Early help in schools 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 and beyond.

In **Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020** it makes it clear that ALL staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it. In addition, this statutory document makes it clear that any child may benefit from early help, but all school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health care plan);
- Is a young carer;
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- Is in a family circumstance present challenges for the child; such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- Has returned home to their family from care;
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- Is a privately fostered child.

Everyone may need help at some time in their lives and therefore an ethos of early help is important for any school or PRU.

The coordinated Meadows First School offer of Early Help is outlined in the table below. We believe that early interventions for children and families, in many cases, will prevent needs from escalating into statutory services.

All Meadows First School staff must be aware of the Meadows First School offer of early help. At all times, staff should consider if there is any offer of early help that we can make in order to help a child thrive through using the Early Help Pathway.

We also liaise with other agencies and people within the local community. In the table below are some National organisations that can support children, young people and their families



<p>The Front Door to Children's Services</p> <p>(Previously: Children's Helpdesk).</p>	<p>If a member of staff, parent/carer or member of the public thinks a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm they should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) – 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999. Do not wait to discuss this with the DSL/DDSL but do report it afterwards.</p>
<p>WSCB (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board) website.</p>	<p>http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren Important information for parents and professionals across Worcestershire in relation to keeping children safe and avenues of support including early help options. Everyone should know how to access this website which has all of the agreed Worcestershire safeguarding and child protection processes on it.</p>
<p>Universal source of help for all families in Worcestershire: Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS)</p>	<p>Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. FIS are a useful source of information for parents and professionals. They support 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. http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20507/childcare/1579/family_information_service</p>
<p>E-safety (Online Safety)</p>	<p>Online Activity (phones, computers) can be a serious risk to children: The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation – technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. With the right support, education and safety measures in place the internet and new technologies can also bring great benefits but we must all be vigilant PACE (parents against child exploitation) UK is a useful website to engage parents with safety issues. www.paceuk.info/ https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ - This is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. It's a one stop shop for most information about online safety. https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers (excellent resources) http://educateagainsthate.com/ - This is the government website to help parents and professionals understand the risks of children and young people being radicalised by extremists online and how to keep children safe from this. A great site for helping parents keep their children safe online https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/</p>
<p>Add school's EH offer in COVID 19</p>	<p>This should cover additional support linked to your school communities and general parents/children's specific needs. This may include signposting to employment support, benefit and advice in your community as well links to public health advice. This also may include using the Early Help Pathway to carry out whole family early help assessments and plans https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/eha</p>
<p>Here to help</p>	<p>This is part of Worcestershire's response to Covid19. By accessing this, parents can be signposted to community support in their own community so that support is sustainable and bespoke for the families in your school's community. http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help , or call 01905 768053.</p>
<p>Starting well</p>	<p>The Starting Well service has a parenting and community team that can offer on line and telephone support for parents, as well as parenting courses. The parenting team can offer 1-1 parenting advice over the phone as well as virtual parenting groups around issues such as support with children's behaviour, anxiety, eating and sleeping routines etc, and can also signpost to agencies that can support parents in their own community. In addition to this the parenting team can also supports parenting to complete Sollihull on line, as well as Birth and Beyond for expectant parents.</p>



	<p>The school nursing service can remain in contact with primary, middle and high schools via phone and email. They are providing a Chat health texting service for young people and can also provide consultations via WebEx. The School Nurse team can also offer a call or WebEx monthly session for all vulnerable families.</p> <p>https://www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk/</p>
Supporting happy parental relationships	<p>We recognise that during Covid 19 parental relationships maybe under pressure for several reasons, whether parents are living together in the family home or not. This website contains a range of self-help information and links to support.</p> <p>http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20793/here2help_supporting_happy_parental_relationships</p>
Mental Health	<p>We have some useful self-help guides/leaflets available for you to access online. The guides are available for you to read online. The self-help guides can be accessed by typing the below link into your URL and selecting 'Self Help Guides':</p> <p>www.hacw.nhs.uk/a-to-z/letter-s/ Staying Safe http://stayingSAFE.net/ SANE 0845 767 800 Email: sanemail@org.uk www.sane.org.uk Samaritans 116 123 (24 hour helpline) www.samaritans.org.uk Rethink Mental Illness 0300 5000 927 www.rethink.org Mental Health Foundation www.mentalhealth.org.uk MIND 0300 123 3393 or text 86463 www.mind.org.uk Anxiety UK 08444 775 774 www.anxietyuk.org.uk</p>
Bullying (including cyberbullying)/ Child death/suicide/prevention	<p>Cyberbullying is using the internet, email, online games or any digital technology to threaten, tease, upset or humiliate</p> <p>If the police consider a message or post to be potentially criminal, they will take appropriate action. This could involve arresting the person responsible or interviewing them under caution. Cases involving sustained abuse or where someone's life is threatened will be treated seriously. The police will consider all of the circumstances when considering the best response to a report of cyber bullying. They will assess how vulnerable the victim is and what resources are required to trace the offender via social networking sites that often operate abroad and to different legislation. In certain cases it may be difficult to take action if the offender isn't in the UK. They will work with the victim to bring about the most suitable and proportionate conclusion, this will include alternative options that include the officer in the case using their discretion and working with the offender to record an apology to the someone else.</p> <p>Useful links: Bullying UK ,Childline</p> <p>KidScape: Our resources provide information on issues surrounding bullying, online and personal safety. They can be used directly by young people and parents, as well as in the classroom within schools and youth organisations.</p> <p>https://www.kidscape.org.uk/resources-and-publications/</p>



<p>Children with disabilities team (CWD)</p>	<p>The Children with Disabilities (CwD) Social Work Team provide services designed to meet the needs of children and young people who have complex disabilities.</p> <p>The CwD Social Work Team is one of a range of services that can provide support to children and young people with disabilities and their families. Other services available are those provided by health, education, play and youth services as well as community resources provided by voluntary agencies.</p> <p>The CwD team offer services to those children and young people requiring additional resources in respect of their disability, where the disability has a profound impact on the child or young person's life.</p> <p>An assessment will be offered where the child has a condition which is substantial, long lasting or permanent, is a physical and/or learning disability or a life limiting, life threatening condition. These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • severe learning disabilities • severe physical disabilities • severe developmental delay in motor and or cognitive functioning • profound multiple disabilities • severe sensory impairment (registered blind and/or profoundly deaf) • complex and severe health problems that arise from the disability, that are life threatening, degenerative illness or organic disorder resulting in severe disability • a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition with an associated learning disability and where the condition severely affects day to day functioning <p><u>SEN Services and Support Groups</u></p> <p>Links to events, services and information of use to families of people with Autism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism Spectrum Condition and Learning Disabilities Group , a group for family members and carers, Kidderminster Hospital • Autism West Midlands a support group for young people aged 16-24 with Asperger's Syndrome in the Malvern Hills area • Autism in Worcestershire <p>ASPIE is a social self-help and motivation group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome. We provide a centre in Worcester where Aspies feel welcome and accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childrens Centres. Find out what's happening at your local Children's Centre • Community Paediatric Service <p>Community Paediatric Service is concerned with developmental delay and learning disability; Motor difficulties such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy; Neuro-developmental conditions including ADHD and ASD; complex behavioural difficulties; sensory impairment; statutory medical & educational assessments</p> <p>(The Community Paediatric Service South Worcestershire, The Community Paediatric Service Wyre Forest and The Community Paediatric Service Redditch and Bromsgrove) and annual reviews from your local SENDIASS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council for Disabled Children <p>A host of useful leaflets on SEND issues many in Easy Read format to help children understand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) Worcestershire Website of the disability advice line South Worcestershire; local info on: Mobility; Benefits and Finance; Carers Support and Respite; Community and Voluntary Support; Disabled Children's Services; Education and Employment; Health; Housing; Independent Living; Learning Disabilities; Legal Support; Leisure and Holidays; Mental Health; Mobility and Aids to Daily Living and Older People's Services • Dyslexia Parent Support Group. Find out more from the Worcestershire Dyslexic Support Group • Footprints Support for Bereaved Children and their Families in Worcestershire Support for bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire
--	---



<p>Early Help</p>	<p>Early help guidance for professionals</p> <p>What is early help? Early help means providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child's life, from birth to the teenage years. Anyone can provide early help – you don't need to be an expert professional. Early help is not about passing the issue on to an expert, but thinking about what is the best support you can offer.</p> <p>You can provide effective support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • listening • working with other people who could help • finding out about specialist agencies who could help • filling out an Early Help Assessment with the person you are helping • contacting Children's Social Care if you think the problem is more serious <p>Download: Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy</p>
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</p>	<p>West Midlands Safeguarding Children Procedures has a page dedicated to Child Sexual Exploitation. It provides information about child sexual exploitation, the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies and the procedures practitioners should follow to ensure the safety and well-being of children and young people whom it is suspected have been sexually exploited or are at risk of sexual exploitation.</p> <p>Key facts about CSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It affects both girls and boys and can happen in all communities. • Any young person can be targeted but there are some particularly vulnerable groups: Looked After Children, Children Leaving Care and Children with Disabilities. • Victims of CSE may also be • Over 70% of adults involved in prostitution were sexually exploited as children or teenagers. • Sexual violence or abuse against children represents a major public health and social welfare problem within UK society, affecting 16% of children under 16. <p>Making a referral</p> <p>The Local Authority has a duty to make enquiries where a child may be suffering harm or neglect. If you think that a child may be at risk then you can let us know via the referral form linked below</p> <p>Useful Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnardos spot the signs: Advice for parents, professionals and young people on the signs of sexual exploitation and how to keep safe • Department for Education (Gov.uk) National Action Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation • Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited • NSPCC definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE. • NWG Network: Fighting against CSE and working to inform, educate and prevent child sexual abuse within the UK. • Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute YouTube clip from Health Education England
<p>Domestic violence</p>	<p>Here is a very helpful website for what do to in many different difficult situations: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_violence_and_sex_ual_abuse</p> <p>West Mercia Women's Aid: 0800 980 3331 0800 783 1359 helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org</p>
<p>Fabricated and induced illness (FII)</p>	<p>Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer, exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Fabricated-or-induced-illness/</p>



Faith abuse	<p>Faith and belief-based child abuse, including practices around 'spirit possession' and 'witchcraft', is a hidden crime, which makes it difficult to quantify in terms of magnitude. However, from our own experience and in consultation with communities, we know this kind of abuse is under- reported.</p> <p>www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-actionplan-to-tackle-child-abuse-linked-to-faith-or-belief</p>
Female genital mutilation (FGM)	<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal or the external female genitalia. FGM is illegal in the UK and as of October 2015 mandatory reporting commenced. If education staff or other professionals discovers that an act FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years old there is a statutory (legal) duty on teachers for them PERSONALLY to report it to the police. Read http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genitalmutilation for NHS information and signs of FGM. Any suspicion of FGM should be referred to the Police and social care.</p> <p>E-learning package- http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/ for interested staff or professionals (free home office eLearning)</p>
Private fostering	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA) Call on: 0808 284 9226 Kinship Care Kinship care means that relatives or friends look after children who cannot live with their parents. Visit this website for more information: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering</p>
Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/HATE (PREVENT duty)	<p>www.educateagainsthate.com is the government website providing information and practical advice for parents, teachers and schools leaders on protecting children from radicalisation and extremism.</p> <p>Anti-Terrorist Hotline: tel 0800 789 321 also be raised by email to the Home office: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk. Let's talk about it is an excellent website for parents: www.ltai.info/ as is www.preventtragedies.co.uk</p> <p>While it remains very rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity to the point of committing criminal acts, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. As with other forms of criminality or risk of harm, early intervention is always preferable. Schools, working with other local partners, families and communities, can help support pupils who may be vulnerable as part of wider safeguarding responsibilities. Channel guidance: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.p df</p>
Children Missing in Education (CME)	<p>Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity eg school, alternative provision, elective home education, and has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks'. CME also includes those children who are missing (family whereabouts unknown), and are usually children who are registered on a school roll / alternative provision. This might be a child who is not at their last known address and either has not taken up an allocated school place as expected, or has 10 or more days of continuous absence from school without explanation, or left school suddenly and the destination is unknown.</p> <p>This is the link for Children Missing Education on the Worcestershire website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20595/behaviour_and_attendance/293/children_missing_education</p>



<p>Missing Children and Adults Strategy (vulnerable children and adults who go missing)</p>	<p>Every year an estimated 200,000 people go missing in the UK. In some cases, missing adults may have made a choice to leave and ‘start their lives over again’, but the vast majority of missing people, children and adults, are vulnerable and need protection and support. The strategy has three key objectives which provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy to tackle this issue: Prevention - reducing the number of people who go missing, including through prevention strategies, education work and early intervention in cases where children and adults repeatedly go missing Protection - reducing the harm to those who go missing, including through a tailored, risk-based response and ensuring agencies work together to find and close cases as quickly as possible at a local and national level Provision - providing support and advice to missing persons and families by referring them to agencies promptly and ensuring they understand how and where to access help. The police should be informed if any child or adult goes missing. The Missing Children and Adults strategy can then be referred to for further information and help. It is a home office publication (2011). https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf</p>
<p>Children with family members in prison</p>	<p>Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health. NICCO (www.nicco.org.uk) provides information to support professionals working with offenders and their children to help mitigate the negative consequences for these children. https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/child-protection/issues/children-family-prison/</p>
<p>Children and the court system</p>	<p>Children are sometimes required to give evidence in courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two guides to support these children which can be found at http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ (young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds) which is a pdf. There is also a document called “going to court and being a witness age 12 to 17” which is also found at http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ Making family arrangements via court can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. The ministry of Justice has just launched an online dispute resolution service. This can be useful to parents and carers. Got to http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/ and search for “get help with arrangements.”</p>