

Early Help Offer

What is Early Help?

Early Help means providing help for children, young people and families as soon as problems start to emerge or where it is likely that issues will impact negatively on children's outcomes.

Early Help...

- is for children of all ages and not just the very young,
- can be very effective in supporting a child, young person and/or their family to step down from statutory services as well as preventing the escalation of issues.
- is important because there is clear evidence that it results in better outcomes for children.

Leicestershire County Council recognises that Early Help is a term that describes much of the everyday work of schools.

Early Help in Leicestershire

The vision of all partner organisations working with children and families in Leicestershire is to improve children's lives by working in partnership to raise aspirations, build achievement and protect the most vulnerable.

This is based on the belief that:

- Children, young people and families develop resilience if there are protective factors in place such as: a positive relationship with an adult; good literacy and communication skills; good school attendance; and, parents in or actively seeking/ready for work
- Children's needs are best met when help is offered in a universal setting within a socially mixed group and early on when problems start to emerge
- Children and young people's needs are best met when addressed in the context of the whole family, meaning that parents/carers/siblings' needs are addressed with consent as part of a holistic and integrated Early Help response

Early Help services should **support** and **strengthen** families so that they can **thrive**.

The Role of Schools

Day to Day Support

Most families, most of the time, can get on with their lives quite happily with little or no outside help. If they need help it is usually provided by universal services, such as schools.

Focused Pastoral Support

All families can have times, however, when difficulties arise and they either may not recognise it or may not know how to start putting things right. Schools play a role in supporting families to address these difficulties through more focused pastoral support, which might include bringing in support via an external agency.

Early Help Assessment

For those children and families whose needs and circumstances make them more vulnerable, or where schools need the support of other agencies to meet the needs of the family, a coordinated multi-agency approach is usually best. In Leicestershire this is achieved through undertaking an Early Help Assessment and assigning a member of staff to work closely with the family to ensure they receive the support they require. Schools should be a key partner in any multi-agency work to support families

The following four commitments are the core elements to Brookside Primary School's Early Help Offer.

By implementing these commitments Brookside Primary School aims to ensure:

- Pupils, parent/carers and staff are clear on the Early Help support available through the school
- Clarity for partners, supporting improved multi-agency working
- Delivery approaches of Early Help support for more vulnerable families are up to date with local offers
- Commitment to the personal development and well-being strand of the Ofsted Framework

The following lists show what Early Help Support is available at Brookside Primary School:

Attendance

Primary Offer

- Attendance data is monitored by assigned staff (Headteacher, Class Teachers, Home School /Pastoral worker, School Attendance Officer)
- Regular reporting to Governors around attendance
- 'Lates' letters home treated as a measure of disadvantage
- Letters home at 95% attendance, followed up by warning letters
- Home School /Pastoral worker who works with families around attendance concerns
- First day calling followed up by calls after.
- Home visits for attendance concerns requiring investigation
- Monitoring groups in high mobility or absence requests
- Weekly Class Rewards for good attendance and punctuality
- School nurse/ Healthy Together referrals for medical conditions that affect attendance.

Measurable outcomes across key stages:

- Overall and individual pupil attendance improves
- Improvement in PA (Persistent Absence) data
- Reduction in number of leave of absence requests
- Reduction in number of penalty notices issues
- Lateness data shows reduction in number of interventions
- Whole school targets are met

Transition

Primary Offer

- Extra visits / induction for vulnerable students to their new school
- Family Support meetings with Health visitors / school nurse, EYST (Early Years Support Team) vuln pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage before entry to school
- Induction Days
- Class handover sessions between teachers at end of academic year.
- Reports and targets transferred between schools
- Liaison with SENCOs from other schools to pass on records and information about pupils on the SEN register

- Support for online school applications for parents as needed
- Transition programme with designated link teachers e.g. for pupils with special educational needs or vulnerable.
- Visits for prospective families
- Work with key partners
- Induction/visits with Home School /Pastoral worker
- Staggered part time start tailored to the needs of children
- Photo booklets of staff and the school environment, what they need to start school eg uniform
- Open days
- Staff visit Nurseries and Pre Schools
- At home visits we discuss ways we can support them eg PP

Measurable outcomes across key stages

- Pupils obtain a place at their chosen school
- Support for families with appeals
- Family needs are met whilst awaiting placements

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

Primary Offer

- Qualified Mental Health First Aider (Grace Brown)
- ELSA workers
- Referrals to CAMHS (Children, Adolescent Mental Health Service) with medical professionals
- Referrals to Educational Psychology Service
- Home School /Pastoral worker support for a variety of mental health needs
- Laura Centre
- Lego therapy
- Happy Lunchtime Programme ran each day.
- Pastoral Support Programme with ELSA
- Play Therapy
- Staff training in dyslexia, ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), ASD (Autism), Attachment and Trauma Training
- Access to Virtual School Team for Looked after Children
- Counselling service for school staff
- Home visits for vulnerable children as needed.

Measurable outcomes across key stages:

- Pupil learning data shows improvement
- Reduction in number of safeguarding disclosures
- Reduction in number of both high and low level behaviour incidents
- Increase in pupils self-help skills
- Few if any fixed term exclusions
- Assessments show that social, emotional, mental health needs are met e.g. through Boxall Profile, as required.

Staying Safe

Primary Offer

- Relevant policies and procedures e.g. Safeguarding, Child Protection, Special Educational Needs, Anti-Bullying, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) in place
- Routes to Resilience network supports pupil and staff mental health and well-being
- Advice point and Early Help response through Home School /Pastoral worker
- Assemblies on themes around staying safe e.g. 'Stranger Danger' 'Anti-bullying'
- PHSE Jigsaw programme used across the school.
- Individual PP records kept ensuring support is prioritised.
- EVOLVE system to ensure safety on school trips
- PEEPs (Personal Evacuation Plans) and Risk assessments for vulnerable pupils as needed.
- Priority 1 referrals for safeguarding concerns as needed.
- E-safety policy and procedures and filtering system
- Home visits for families of children starting Foundation Stage
- Link PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) at Wigston
- Parent workshops and Family Learning sessions
- PEP (Personal Education Plan) and LAC (Looked After Children) review meetings led by designated safeguarding teacher
- Prevent issues awareness and training for concerns around radicalisation
- FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), CSE (Child Sexual exploitation), Forced marriages awareness and training
- School nurse referrals.
- Tracking, recording and analysis of incidents e.g. through CPOMS
- Whole school safeguarding training

Measurable outcomes across key stages:

- Greater awareness of bullying within the community and a zero tolerance approach to bullying incidents
- Increase in turn-over of families accessing Social Services / Family Support Worker
- Welfare and neglect issues on Social Services caseload is reduced
- All staff have signed and are adhering to the AUP (Acceptable User Policy)
- Quality displays evidence pupils' new learning and promote 'resilience' vocabulary / school drivers
- An increasing percentage of parental engagement
- An up-to-date rolling programme of CPD (Continued Professional Development) in relation to Safeguarding / Training for all staff (2 years - DSP and 3 years - all staff plus yearly updates)

Supporting Families

Primary Offer

- Induction meeting with Home School /Pastoral worker (Faiza Sattar)
- Translation for main community languages
- Curriculum days / evenings
- School-based Family Support Worker working every morning
- Support for form completion including financial support and housing as needed
- Home visits for families with children starting FS2

- Parents evenings
- Pastoral support from Home School /Pastoral worker and ELSA workers.
- SENCO support for families of children with special educational needs or disability
- Access to SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice Support Service)
- Signposting to external agencies and training
- Family Learning led by Home School /Pastoral worker alongside class teachers
- Creche places provided so that parents can attend Family Learning sessions.

Measurable outcomes across key stages:

- Pupil learning data shows improvement
- Uptake of support services increases
- Reduction in number of DNAs (Did Not Attend) to appointments
- An increasing percentage of parental engagement

The Local Community

Primary Offer

- Community events e.g. school fair
- Donations from community e.g. sponsored events
- Community Links such as Fire, PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), Sports and local businesses
- Religious groups
- Supporting charities

Measurable outcomes across key stages:

- Families have a better understanding of the wider community
- Reduction in the percentage of Anti-Social Behaviour incidents
- Reduction in PCSO call outs

The Curriculum

Primary Offer

- Access to one-to-one support, paired and group work where needed
- Themed Assemblies
- Academic tutoring
- Interventions for vulnerable pupils
- Citizenship and PSHE delivery
- Inter-school events
- Topics and themes driven by pupils' aspirations, relevance to both own culture and the local area, key questioning and development of language skills
- Access to Pre and After care as needed.
- Homework clubs
- Free after school sports clubs for Yr 2 and above

Measurable outcomes across key stages:

- Increase in percentage of children attending a school club
- Pupil learning data shows improvement