

# Dallimore Primary and Nursery School



**Early Help Offer**  
**October 2019**



## **Introduction**

Dallimore Primary and Nursery School works to provide Early Help to families in the school community.

As part of our Early Help offer, the school uses the Thrive Approach. This supports children's social and emotional development.

Early Help services aim to provide advice and support when families need it and, hopefully result in circumstances improving for everyone. This handbook is our school offer outlining the services available under the Early Help umbrella and also the key processes associated with this.

## **Early Help**

Our primary aim is to identify needs early and to make sure that appropriate support is put into place. **All** staff recognise their role in ensuring safeguarding practices for **all** children at **all** times. We believe that information sharing and timely effective support can ensure that all children and families get a good start in life.

Families may need support from a wide range of agencies and we recognise that other agencies will be able to support families based on their specialism. Therefore our role is often to signpost families to the resources that will best support their needs.

## **How will we know when Early Help is needed?**

Staff have daily contact with children and their families throughout term time. All staff recognise their role in identifying needs of children and their families possible need for Early Help.

We have rigorous safeguarding procedures which are shared and understood by all stakeholders and all adults who work in school have annual safeguarding training and regular updates as necessary. All reports of concern are logged on the school reporting system, My Concern, which is available to all staff at the most suitable level of access.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Mrs R Crowther, Headteacher), supported by the Deputy Headteacher (Mrs K Smith) and Foundation Unit Co-ordinator (Mrs S Henshaw), monitor the entries logged onto My Concern and, where appropriate, will assess the needs of a family. This may identify that Early Help is required.

The Headteacher and the School Business Manager monitor attendance in school. They are active in their role to ensure that families recognise the importance of their children attending school regularly and will take appropriate action in line with Derbyshire County Council procedures.



### **Recording, Reporting and Referrals**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputies have case management responsibility. They identify needs based on safeguarding thresholds e.g. low level, emerging, complex/serious (Section 17) or Child Protection concerns (Section 47).

Where emerging needs are identified an Early Help Assessment Form may be completed with parents/ carers. This will be the approved Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board (DSCB) form and will identify where support is needed and formulate a plan for the family (either in-house or support or involvement of an outside agency). This plan will be reviewed regularly and, if necessary further actions identified. All plans, actions and outcomes will be recorded on My Concern and, as necessary, staff will contribute to a child's profile.

If there is no improvement to the welfare of the child, and there are escalating concerns around the safety and wellbeing of a child it is likely that there will be a referral to Starting Point. We would, if appropriate, discuss this with parents/ carers first.

### **Early Help Interventions**

At Dallimore Primary and Nursery School we have full time learning mentors, who provide support for **children** in Thrive. They would be happy to discuss their role with parents/ carers so that there can be a consistent approach to supporting children.

Our school website contains information for families actively seeking advice and support. Based on the needs of each family, staff will coordinate the support of the appropriate services. Where appropriate Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings are arranged to monitor the work of all the agencies involved. The Early Help Assessment Tools and a 'safety and wellbeing grid' are used to assess progress and achievements made by the families and professionals supporting them.

Joint working arrangements with partner agencies, such as school health, CAMHS (Child and adolescent mental health service) and with the PCSOs (police community support officer), are already in place and information is shared through meetings, email and telephone communications.

As a family's needs change, further links to agencies may be established and maintained. Clear lines of communication are essential to support long term improvements for families. The Derbyshire Children's Services - Early Help Offer Guide to Children & Family Services – provides a directory of support that families will either be signposted to, referred to, or engaged with on behalf of the families we support.



### **Beyond Early Help**

Following a review of a family's needs, or at a time of crisis, it may be appropriate to escalate the support that a family requires. If Early Help intervention has not been successful and/ or a social worker becomes involved we will continue to support children and families.

Ongoing communication with all services involved continue to be essential. The DSLs will be available to discuss a child's needs at Case Conference or Child in Need Reviews, and will provide reports when required.

### **Quality Assurance**

The best quality assurance will be received from the families receiving the support.

The school community is committed to the welfare and safety of children and as such are relentless in questioning the support families are receiving. Dallimore Primary and Nursery School Governing Body actively challenge the Senior Leadership Team at termly Governors' meetings regarding safety and welfare of all the pupils.

Governors are involved in the annual safeguarding audit and meet with the Designated Senior Leads for Safeguarding and Attendance. The resources used are those recommended by the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership.

The school networks with family resource workers and keeps up-to-date with developments in safeguarding families by attending DCC Safeguarding briefings and training.