



EARLY HELP OFFER

What is Early Help?

At Vale of Evesham School, we have a commitment to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of children and young people and believe that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Early help means providing support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in child's life. Early help is not about passing the issue on to an expert, it's about thinking about the best support that can be offered to achieve the best outcome for the child and the family.

At the Vale of Evesham school, we recognise the challenges that families face and that there may be times where extra help and support are needed. We encourage families to talk to us where this is the case.

Early Help may be appropriate if:

- A parent or carer is worried about their child's development,
- Staff at Vale of Evesham School identify a worry or concern,
- A family is vulnerable, for example, as a result of relationship difficulties, substance misuse, health issues or debt,
- There are concerns about a child's attendance at school.

The diagram below shows the range of different need levels. We use this graduated approach to make sure we provide the best support for families depending on their own individual circumstances.





Providing early help to our pupils and families at the Vale of Evesham School means we are more effective in supporting the welfare of the families in our community.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 it makes it clear that staff must 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 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 (regardless of EHC plan),
- Is a young carer,
- Is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- Is frequently missing from care or home;
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- Is at risk of modern-day slavery, trafficking or exploitation (CSE/CCE);
- Is in a family circumstance which presents challenges for the child; such as substance misuse, adult mental health issues 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,
- Is a Child Looked After.

Vale of Evesham's Early Help offer:

Within school we provide the following early help support for all children, striving to ensure concerns, no matter how small, are listened to and supported effectively, maximising the chances of effectively safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all of our children and young people.

This list is not exhaustive, Vale of Evesham is flexible and innovative in adapting and creating additional early help where the circumstances arise.

Pastoral Co-ordinator: Xanthe Sliwinska is a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. She is the point of contact for many families who face difficulties and need additional support in accessing services such as transport for their children or assisting with shopping. Xanthe offers a wide range of family liaison opportunities and is on hand to support by speaking to social workers, arranging meetings with professionals, signposting to other services – internally based or external agencies. Xanthe also conducts home visits where attendance or accessing education for any reason is difficult.

Pastoral Support: Cathy Wilkinson is our school's internal Pastoral Support. Cathy is available to the pupils on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Cathy's room is a 'safe place' where the children are able to express their emotions and are then encouraged to 'unpick' the negative behaviours and emotional responses they have and look for alternative ways to manage emotions and feelings.

Pastoral Support Plan (PSP): PSP's are put into place in order to identify the boundaries to learning, these draw in information from parents/carers, school staff and the child. Collectively a plan can be constructed and agreed to by all parties in order to support any difficulties the family may be experiencing at that time that may be affecting the child's ability to access or attend school.



Wellbeing & nurture provision: All children across the school receive input at a 'universal level' through the Personal, Social and Emotional Development area of learning within EYFS and the PSHE (including RSE) curriculum. Where additional need in this area has been identified, small groups receive extra support at a 'targeted level' through a wide range of interventions such as protective behaviours and feelings work.

Mental Health first aid: At Vale of Evesham we have a dedicated Mental Health team, who have attended the appropriate courses in able to support children with common mental health issues and the signposting to external professionals where necessary.

Art Therapy: Jess Butler is an Art Therapist who attends school once a week to work with individual children, giving them an opportunity to encourage self-expression, develop new coping skills, relieve stress, explore their emotions and improve their self-esteem through Art.

Bereavement Support: Andy Schwab, Specialist Palliative Care Worker, works with children who have been referred for specialist bereavement support with a great deal of experience working with and supporting children and young people with learning difficulties and Autism.

Sensory room: In school we have a sensory room that the children are able to access during their school days and additionally, when extra time here would be beneficial and aid support for the child.

Links with Children with Disabilities Team Social Workers: We communicate frequently with social workers on the CWD team. We work closely with them to ensure that all children who have a Child in Need plan due to their disability receive the support they need and that wider family, including siblings, receive the right level of support.

Nursery stay and play: Our Stay and Play sessions are in Nursery every Thursday afternoon supported with the Nursery staff. These sessions are open to all children in the area with an additional need, they do not need a referral but Health visitors, SaLT and Paediatricians are aware of our stay and play and will often recommend it to families and will contact us.

During the stay and play sessions we can support with communication, play and behaviour as well as developing sensory exploration and we have access to the sensory room too. There is also the chance to meet other families that also have children with additional needs.

Links with Worcestershire Children First Family Support Workers: We communicate with our local Family Support workers and work closely with them to ensure appropriate and consistent support is given to the families both at home and when the child is at school.

Talk time for parents: The time to talk sessions we do are also on the Thursday in the Stay and Play time but once or twice a half term - dates are given out at the start of term. Parents have a time to talk supported by Sara and the rest of the Nursery staff run a creche in Nursery. This not only gives the parents the time to talk but some brief respite and the children the chance to practice being away from their parents for a short time. These sessions tend to be parents that also attend Stay and Play but is also open to parents of children in school

Links with NHS professionals: Our school nurse is on site for the majority of the week and meetings with the families are easily arranged. Our school nurse liaises with other health professionals to ensure that families are receiving the right levels of support. Professionals from Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy are on school site during some of the week. The local community paediatrician also runs a clinic from school on a Wednesday.



Online safety: Online safety is embedded into our curriculum and taught to the children in line with their level of development. The school website has a section dedicated to online safety with links to helpful sites for parents to access. Parents are also invited to online safety sessions to talk about any e-safety questions they may have. #WakeupWednesday initiative from National Online Safety Centre is used and sent to parents weekly. Our IT technician is CEOP trained and is on hand to remove and upload software, apps, parental controls etc, when this support is either requested by parents or advised by school.

Attendance: Attendance is monitored and parents are contacted if there are concerns about a child's attendance, support is then put in place in order to rectify the issue or boundary to learning.

EHC Planning and review: Clear procedures are in place to ensure that all SEND needs of pupils are recognised, met and regularly reviewed.

Residential: At Vale of Evesham, we have a residential setting within school where children stay Monday-Friday (4 nights) during term time. Our Head of Care Sharan Brain is also a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and available to discuss potential boarders. Residential boarders are decided through EHCP review meetings with families, school staff and external agencies where appropriate, to provide the extra support needed.

Team Around the Child Meetings (TAC): All children at Vale of Evesham school have complex needs that require input from many different professionals. The school is able to organise TAC meetings for children and their parents in order to ensure that all of the child's needs are met in a co-ordinated way, thus reducing the stress on families and the need to attend lots of different meetings.

Early Intervention Family Support Service (EIFSS): Our pastoral co-ordinator is able to request support, with the consent of families to the EIFSS. This service may then be able to offer additional support with issues such as sleeping difficulties or routines.

Pupil Premium grant: Where requested by parent or if a concern is identified by school, Pupil Premium money can be used to assist in the purchase of uniform, equipment needed for school or to help pay for school trips/initiatives.

Vale of Evesham staff also liaise with other agencies and people within the community. In the table below are some national organisations that can support children young people and families.

<p>Worcestershire Early Help Offer</p>	<p>Early help guidance for professionals is available at http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/eha</p> <p>There is a lot of information and advice on the Advice, Care, Health and Support pages as well as detail of local services that can provide support for children, young people and families.</p> <p>The following documents can also be downloaded: Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy</p>
<p>Family Front Door</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.</p> <p>School staff are aware that they should not wait to discuss issues concerning immediate risk</p>



	with the DSL/DDSL if they are not readily available but should report it afterwards.
WSCP (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Partnership) website	<p>https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/</p> <p>This website provides important information for parents and professionals across Worcestershire in relation to keeping children safe and avenues of support including early options.</p> <p>This website has all of the agreed Worcestershire safeguarding and child protection processes on it.</p>
Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS)	<p>Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS) Advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>FIS can help link parents up with other organisations that might be able to help or provide the information themselves.</p> <p>https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20507/childcare/1579/family_information_service</p>
Home-school support and the Worcestershire Education Network	<p>Home education is becoming an increasingly popular option for families in Worcestershire and there is a growing community that are able to offer each other support.</p> <p>The Home Education Network holds meetings usually at least weekly, throughout term time at various locations round the county-for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social gatherings occur monthly in North Worcestershire for all ages, with climbing/zip-wires/grass sledging for 8+.• Bowling or ice-skating most months.• "Education group" workshops organised regularly.• <p>The Network also meets up with people from neighbouring counties and goes along to the national camps and gatherings that are organised by home educators throughout the year.</p> <p>The Worcestershire Home Educators Newsletter (WHEN) lists all of the activities for the coming month and run a Worcestershire Home Educators Internet support list.</p> <p>The service can be contacted on: info@worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk</p>
Mental Health Organisations	<p>The following on-line resources can be used to support mental health and wellbeing:</p> <p>www.hacw.nhs.uk/a-to-z/letter-s/ (select self-help guides)</p> <p>Staying safe – http://staying-safe.net/</p> <p>SANE - 0845 767 800</p>



	<p>Email: sanemail@org.uk; www.sane.org.uk</p> <p>Samaritans – 116 123 (24-hour helpline) www.samaritans.org</p> <p>Rethink Mental Illness – 0300 5000 927 www.rethink.org</p> <p>Mental Health Foundation – www.mentalhealth.org</p> <p>MIND – 0300 123 3393 or text 86463 www.mind.org.uk</p> <p>Anxiety UK – 08444 775 774 www.anxietyuk.org.uk</p>
Hollie Guard – A personal safety app	<p>Hollie Guard enables parents/carers to keep an eye on their children while they're travelling to and from school with Journey. Teens can get help quickly while out with friends. Parents, guardians, and caregivers are automatically contacted by both SMS and email. https://www.hollieguard.com/</p>
CAMHS BESTIE app	<p>BESTIE has been developed by clinicians at Health and Care Worcestershire NHS Trust in collaboration with young people and IT designers, to create a safe, online space, which supports young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing. www.camhsbestie.co.uk</p>
Kooth	<p>An online mental wellbeing community. www.kooth.com</p>
Hate Crime	<p>A hate crime is a criminal offense whose motivation can be shown to be race, national origin, religion or sexual orientation.</p> <p>West Mercia Police: Email: contactus@westmercia.police.uk Emergency number: 999 Non-Emergency number: 101 Report online: www.westmercia.police.uk</p> <p>report online to True Vision https://educateagainsthate.com/parents/</p> <p>or call in at the local police station.</p>
Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) (County Lines)	<p>Guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines, part of the government's approach to ending gang violence and exploitation: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-childrenand-vulnerable-adults-county-lines</p>



	<p>Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Though perceptions are altering these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having 'made a choice' to take part in illegal activity.</p> <p>https://www.catch-22.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/</p>
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	<p>Worcestershire Children First have an initiative called GET SAFE that helps to inform and support children who have been exploited, there is also signposting for families who have lived experience or concerns.</p> <p>Downloads: GET SAFE support services for children, young people and their families</p> <p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appropriate Language: Child sexual and/or criminal exploitation guidance for professionals• Child Sexual Exploitation: Definition and a guide for practitioners <p>Making a referral 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 the Local Authority know via the referral form linked below;</p> <p>Family Front Door Referral</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 https://www.barnardos.org.uk/what-we-do/protecting-children/cse• Department for Education (Gov.uk) National; Action Plan for Tackling CSE• Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation. Pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited. https://paceuk.info/• 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.
Domestic Violence	<p>Here is a very helpful website for what to do in many different difficult situations: http://worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_violence_and_sexual_abuse</p> <p>West Mercia Women's Aid: 0800 980 3331 0800 783 1359 helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org</p> <p>Further reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlling or Coercive Behaviour in an Intimate or Family Relationship Statutory Guidance Framework• Groups for parents - information and guidance• Multi-agency Statutory Guidance for the Conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews
Fabricated and induced illness (FII)	<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>NHS.uk - Fabricated or induced illness</p>



<p>Private fostering</p>	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA) 0800 284 9226</p> <p>Kinship Care Kinship care means that relatives or friends look after children who cannot live with their parents.</p>
<p>SEN Services and Support Groups</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.autismlinks.co.uk <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 & Learning Disabilities Group a group for family members and carers – Kidderminster Hospital • https://www.autismwestmidlands.org.uk/ a support group for young people aged 16-24 with Asperger’s Syndrome in the Malvern Hills area • Autism in Worcestershire • Children’s Centres. Find out what’s happening at your local Children's Centre • Community Paediatric Service is concerned with developmental delay and learning disability The Community Paediatric Service (Redditch and Bromsgrove) • Council for Disabled Children. A host of useful leaflets on SEND issues, many in Easy Read format to help children understand • Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) Worcestershire. Website of the disability advice line South Worcestershire; local information on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mobility; Benefits & Finance; Carer’s support & Respite; Community & Voluntary Support; Disabled Children’s Services; Education & Employment; Health; Housing; Independent Living; Learning Disabilities; Legal Support; Leisure & Holidays; Mental Health; Mobility & Aids to Daily Living and Older People’s Services • Dyslexia Parent Support Group. Find out more from the Worcestershire Dyslexic Support Group affiliated with Hereford and Worcester Dyslexia Association • Footsteps Support for Bereaved Children and their Families in Worcestershire
<p>Gangs and youth violence</p>	<p>Support and information can be found in this guidance: Preventing youth guidance and gang involvement Website for the Youth Prevention Initiative: http://www.worcesterma.gov/announcements/worcester-youth-violence-prevention-initiative</p>
<p>Faith abuse</p>	<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>Further contacts for advice can be found from the local representatives for some faiths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AN Exploration of Knowledge About Child Abuse Lined to Faith or Belief (2016) • National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2012) • AFRUCA: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse
<p>Forced marriage</p>	<p>For information on Forced Marriage: UK Forced Marriage Unit fm@fco.gov.uk Telephone: 020 7008 0151 Call 999 (police) in an emergency www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage Multi-agency Practice Guidelines - Handling cases of Forced Marriage www.gscb.org.uk</p>



	<p>Prevention</p> <p>Aneeta Prem 'But it's not fair' book. A book for teenagers looking at forced marriage from the point of view of school friends of the girl who went to India and didn't come back.</p> <p>The Freedom Charity (UK Charity) have a helpline, text facility and app which can be downloaded to help to provide support and protection for victims of abuse, FGM or forced marriage; www.freedomcharity.org.uk 0845 607 0133 or text 4freedom to 88802</p>
Gender-based violence/ violence against women and girls	<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of 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 of 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 https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/female-genital-mutilation-fgm/ for NHS information and signs of FGM.</p> <p>So called 'Honour' based violence (HBV) occurs when perpetrators believe a relative or other individual has shamed or damaged a family's or community's 'honour' or reputation and that the only way to redeem the damaged 'honour' is to punish and/pr kill the individual.</p> <p>There is a very strong link between 'honour' based violence, forced marriage and domestic abuse. The term 'honour based' is the internationally recognised term describing cultural justifications for violence and abuse.</p> <p>Honour based violence cuts across all cultures and communities.</p> <p>Where a culture is heavily male dominated, HBV may exist. The police have made it a high priority to help communities fight back to tackle both honour-based violence and hate crime.</p> <p>Honour Network Helpline: 0800 5 999 247.</p> <p>Honour based violence is a violation against human rights and is a high priority area of the national and local Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda. It is, primarily, an issue for young women and girls aged between 13 and 30 years.</p> <p>Strategy to end violence against women and girls</p> <p>Hope House SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre): 01452 754390</p> <p>For information about West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse visit: www.wmrsasc.org.uk www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk for 'I've been raped or sexually assaulted' information.</p>
Gender Identity Issues	<p>The Gender Trust is a listening ear, a caring support and an information centre for anyone with a question concerning their gender identity, or who's loved one is struggling with gender identity issues. People who might be Transgender, Transsexual or people who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth or those who are simply unsure.</p>



	<p>76 The Ridgeway, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX 0845 231 0505 www.gendertrust.org.uk</p>
<p>Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/HATE (PREVENT duty)</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.</p> <p>www.educateagainsthate.com is the government website providing information and practical advice for parents, teachers and school leaders on protecting children from radicalisation and extremism.</p> <p>Anti-Terrorist Hotline: 0800789 321 Counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Let's talk about it is an excellent website for parents: www.ltai.info</p> <p>www.preventradegies.co.uk</p> <p>Channel guidance: Channel Duty Guidance</p>
<p>Children Missing Education (CME)</p>	<p>Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity e.g. school, alternative provision, elective home education and has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks.</p> <p>CME also include 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 continuous absence from school without explanation, or has left school suddenly and the destination is unknown.</p> <p>This is the link for Children Missing Education on the Worcestershire website: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/behaviour-and-attendance, children missing education</p> <p>Worcestershire Children First Educational Welfare Team: https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk - Educational Welfare Team</p> <p>EdWelfareCME@wocrschildrenfirst.org.uk</p> <p>01905 844666</p>
<p>Missing Children and Adults strategy (vulnerable children and adults who go missing)</p>	<p>The strategy has three key objectives which provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy to tackle the issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention – reducing the number of people who go missing, through prevention strategies, education work and early intervention where children and adults repeatedly go missing; • Protection – reducing the harm to those who go missing, 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; • Provision – providing support and advice to missing persons and families by



	<p>referring them to agencies promptly and ensuring they understand how and where to access help</p> <p>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.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy</p>
Children with family members in prison	<p>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.</p> <p>www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/child-protection/issues/children-family-prison/</p>
Children and the court system	<p>Children are sometimes required to give evidence in courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed.</p> <p>There are two guides to support these children which can be found at: www.gov.uk "Young witness booklet for 5 to 11-year olds" Going to court and being a witness age 12 to 17"</p> <p>Making family arrangements via court can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. The ministry of Justice has launched an online dispute resolution service. This can be useful to parent and carers. Go to www.gov.uk and search for "Get help with arrangements".</p>
Stalking	<p>National Stalking Helpline For advice and support. The helpline operates a triage service for local support and to make referrals. 0808 802 0300 www.stalkinghelpline.org avice@stalkinghelpline.org</p> <p>Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service For advice and referral. 020 3866 4107 info@paladinservice.co.uk www.paladinservice.co.uk</p> <p>Hollie Gazzard Trust www.holliegazzard.org</p>
Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges	<p>Here is advice from the WCC webpage: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help</p> <p>West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: www.wmrsasc.org.uk 01905 724 514</p>
DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks)	<p>DDN's are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks.</p> <p>These criminals are using extreme violence to establish a presence, displacing an existing drug supply chain and intimidating rivals, witnesses and victims.</p> <p>DDN's exploit vulnerable teenagers to become drug runners for their network. Early intervention and intelligence are key to safeguard and protect the vulnerable.</p>



Vale of Evesham School
"a specialist school for cognition and learning - enabling inclusion in the community"