

Dilton Marsh C of E VC Primary School

Early Help Offer and Procedure.



<p>Intent</p>	<p>At Dilton Marsh C of E V.C. Primary School, we place robust safeguarding practices at the heart of everything that we do. We want all children to feel safe, happy and protected to enable them to have the best possible start to their lives. We understand the place that Early Help can play in this.</p> <p>What is Early Help?</p> <p>‘Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges at any point in a child’s life from foundation years through to the teenage years.’ (Keeping Children Safe in Education September 2022.)</p> <p>Our primary aim is to identify any needs early and to ensure that appropriate support is put into place. We believe that information sharing and timely effective support can provide the best opportunities for all children and their families.</p> <p>Families need support from a wide range of agencies. Therefore our role is often to signpost families to the resources that will best support their needs. These agencies can provide support for parents, children or whole families, with the intention being to improve experiences for the child.</p> <p>Early help can be offered in many ways to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent concerns arising. • Intervening in problems early on through school support. • Supporting children and families in accessing other agencies through the Early Support Framework.
<p>Recognising</p>	<p>At Dilton Marsh Primary School, we build positive relationships with all children and their families to enable us to know the children well, we can therefore recognise any signs that a child or family may need support.</p> <p>A change in behaviour is often a sign that support is needed, as well as other signs, such as-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Displaying disruptive behaviour. • Poor attendance. • Being bullied or bullying others. • A change in academic performance. • Having poor health, either physically or mentally. • Experiencing difficulties at home. <p>As well as the strong relationships that provide information about children and their needs, we have a range of other ways to recognise the need for early help-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ELSA sessions. • Worry Boxes in classrooms. • PSHE lessons and the opportunities for pupil voice. • Thrive practises. • Parents meetings and regular opportunities for contact. • Surveys for parents and children. • Attendance monitoring. • Pupil Progress meetings. • Review of SEND progress through passports and meetings.
<p>Responding</p>	<p>The benefit of early help comes when a family works together with the school to find ways to offer support. We will always work with you and support you in making decisions about what you feel will offer the maximum support for your child, children or family.</p> <p>There are a range of early help strategies that can be put into place in school, these can include-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsa Sessions • Meet and Greet sessions • Support on the playground • School attendance support • Learning support and scaffolding within class • Access to the Talk Hub at lunchtime • Breakfast club <p>We may also decide to begin an Early Support Assessment (ESA), this is a supportive process and starts with an conversation. As a parent or carer you will chat with the Headteacher or a member of the school staff about what’s going well and what’s 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 Support Assessment (ESA). 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. It’s your choice to take part in the assessment and you can choose who else should be involved.</p>

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	<p>An ESA will-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help you see what's going well and not so well for your family • Help you and others to see what support you might need • Create a picture of your family's circumstances, which can be shared with your permission so you don't have to repeat yourself to different workers • Help you to be part of a team of people working together on the same plan to get things going well again. <p>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, nursery staff, school health, etc. This may then be followed by a 'Team Around the Family' meeting.</p> <p>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 these meetings a 'lead worker' is selected- it may be the person the family see most frequently or the one most involved. The lead worker arranges the review meetings and is someone you can speak to at any point about concerns or issues you or your family are facing.</p> <p>External Agencies that we can refer to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Carers • Barnardo's • Education welfare Officer • School Nurse • Health Visitor if there is a child under 5 years in the family • Thrive support • Families Connect • Mental Health Support team • Speech and Language • Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMS) • SENDIAS • Advisory teacher support through a DART referral • Young Minds
Reviewing	<p>Any early help intervention or support will be reviewed regularly, if an ESA is in place, there will be at least termly meeting to review and add to targets.</p> <p>Any in school intervention is set up on a six weekly, 'Plan, do, review' cycle to assess if the intervention has offered the level of support required and to decide on next steps.</p>
Guidance	<p>Early Help foundation- www.eif.org.uk/</p> <p>Accessing children's services-Wiltshire- www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/1444/Accessing-children-s-services</p> <p>Early help-NSPCC- www.learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection/early-help-early-intervention</p>