

## **Early Help**

### **What is Early Help?**

Early Help is the support we all offer to potentially vulnerable children, young people and their families. The purpose of Early Help is to put in the right support, at the right time, so that the additional vulnerabilities and needs that families may be facing are addressed and are less likely to escalate to a point where intrusive statutory interventions are required.

Early Help means, that as a school, if we know of children and families with unmet needs who need additional support, we are responsible for intervening and making sure that they get help and support to meet these needs. Identifying unmet needs and intervening with the right support, in the right place, at the right time, at the earliest possible opportunity when problems emerge is not optional and is non-negotiable. It is a guiding principle and a responsibility for all of us who work with children.

Early Help support may be provided at any point in a child or young person's life and is effective in preventing issues and problems becoming acute, chronic and costly to the child, young person, the family and the wider community.

### **Who provides Early Help support?**

Everyone is involved in the delivery of Early Help, including communities, voluntary groups, police, GPs, schools, health and targeted support services.

It requires a whole-family approach, involving both children's and adult services. Early Help is a collaborative approach, not a service.

### **Who do I ask for help?**

You can talk with any school staff member who you are familiar with, a teacher, or a health professional or support worker.

You can also contact your local Family Centre who will be able to offer advice around Early Help and how it might be able to support you.

In school, if Early Help is appropriate, the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) will lead on liaising with professional agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. The DSL will review the case and consider a referral to the local authority children's social care if the situation does not improve. All interventions and support will be monitored and reviewed.

'Early Help for Sandwell Children and Families Strategy 2022-2024

For further support please visit:

[Early Help Strategy Apr 2022 \(sandwellcsp.org.uk\)](https://sandwellcsp.org.uk/early-help-strategy-apr-2022)

[Early Help Assessment \(EHA\) | Early Help | Sandwell Council](#)