

## **Early Help Offer**

The physical, emotional, and mental well-being of our children is our first priority, and we go to great lengths to prevent problems arising or to tackle issues before they become bigger issues. For example, some of our staff are trained practitioners in pastoral support and our Family Support Worker has many years of experience working in a wide range of areas.

We offer support for children suffering from anxiety and other issues affecting their well-being.

Sometimes though, this alone is not quite enough and sometimes children and families will require some additional and specific support. Our Early Help services aim to both provide advice and/or intervene where there is evidence of emerging needs with the objective of preventing escalation to higher-level services.

## **Early Help**

Hadfield Infant School works to provide Early Help to those children and families in the school community with emerging needs, which may not be appropriate for Social Care intervention. Our Early Help service may involve supporting children and families both in the home and in the school setting.

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 always ensuring safeguarding practices to all children.

We believe that information sharing, and timely effective support can ensure that all children and families get a good start in life.

Our role is often to signpost families to the resources that will best support their needs. Staff will work together to assess the needs of a family and we may identify that an **Early Help Assessment** is required. If there are immediate Safeguarding concerns, it will be taken to Starting Point (Derbyshire Children's Social Care) following consultation with the Designated Safeguarding Lead in school.

## **Early Help Interventions:**

At Hadfield Infants we have a Family Support Worker who provides support for children and families when needed.

We might offer sessions in school, such as one to one support sessions to help with anxiety, behaviour and a regular parenting classes/advice sessions take place each week. We will use the skills and resources available to provide the most appropriate support that we can. 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. Low-level needs can usually be managed with some intervention and without an Early Help Assessment.

Where emerging needs are identified, the school will make an assessment using the [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership](#) (DDSCP) approved Early Help

Assessment Form which will and will be reviewed under the single plan format with reference to the safety and well-being grid.

If the concern is assessed as complex/serious in the first instance, it will by-pass Early Help Assessment and will be referred to Starting Point.

### **Monitoring/Escalation Beyond Early Help**

The Family Support Worker and the Head Teacher meet regularly to discuss the children and families on Early Help support, and the progress that is being made. Where there has been no improvement to the welfare of the child receiving Early Help Support, and there are escalating concerns around their safety and well-being, we will step up the Early Help Assessment to Starting Point.

**If you are concerned about the safety of a child or require urgent help or advice, Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.**