

# Kingsfleet Primary School



'Be the best you can be!'

## Early Help Information for Parents and Carers

At Kingsfleet Primary School, we recognise that all families may need support at different times. We are committed to working in partnership with children, parents and carers to identify concerns early and provide the right support at the right time.

Early Help is support provided as soon as a need emerges. It is designed to prevent problems from escalating and to improve outcomes for children and families. Support may be provided by school staff, external agencies or a combination of services working together.

If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing, learning, behaviour, attendance, friendships, emotional health or family circumstances, we encourage you to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Together we can identify what support may be helpful and work collaboratively to ensure your child can thrive both in school and at home.

Our aim is to ensure that every child is safe, supported and able to achieve their full potential.

### What is Early Help?

Early Help is support offered to children, young people and families when difficulties first arise. It is a voluntary process that focuses on identifying strengths, addressing needs and preventing concerns from becoming more serious.

Early Help may be appropriate when a child or family is experiencing challenges such as:

- Attendance concerns
- Friendship difficulties
- Anxiety or emotional wellbeing concerns
- Behaviour changes
- Bereavement
- Family separation
- Housing difficulties
- Financial pressures
- Parenting support needs
- Sleep difficulties
- Additional learning or developmental needs

## **How can school help?**

We offer a range of support within school and can work alongside other services where needed.

## **Universal Support**

Available to all children without a referral:

- Signposting parents and carers to external sources of support.
- Assessments undertaken by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENCo) to identify appropriate support and adjustments.
- 'Bucket Fillers' activities to help children express and understand their emotions.
- Transition support for children moving from Nursery to Reception, between year groups and from Year 6 to Year 7.
- Breakfast Club and After-School Club.
- Displays and resources promoting safety, health and wellbeing.
- Early Minds and other wellbeing initiatives to support positive mental health.

## **Targeted Support**

Where children require more individualised support, this may include:

- Small group or individual therapeutic sessions led by trained staff.
- Nurture Group provision.
- Speech and Language support delivered by appropriately trained staff.
- Emotional wellbeing interventions.
- Additional learning support tailored to individual needs.

## **Working with Other Services**

Sometimes a child or family may benefit from support from more than one service. In these circumstances, the school may suggest completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA).

An EHA helps to identify strengths, needs and desired outcomes for the child and family. It is completed with the involvement and consent of parents/carers and, where appropriate, the child or young person.

Following an EHA, a Team Around the Family (TAF) may be established. This brings together the professionals involved to coordinate support and review progress.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), SENCo and Senior Leadership Team work closely together to identify children and families who may benefit from Early Help support.

## **Specialist Support Services**

Where appropriate, the school may seek support from external agencies, including:

- County Inclusion Support Service Outreach.
- County Resource Outreach for Dyslexia.
- NHS Speech and Language Therapy.
- Occupational Therapy.
- Physiotherapy.
- Educational Psychology.
- Children's Social Care.
- Suffolk Early Help Service.
- General Practitioner (GP).
- Paediatrician.
- School Nursing Service.
- Suffolk SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service).
- Suffolk Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Services.

## **Additional Sources of Support**

Families may also find the following services helpful:

- Activities Unlimited – opportunities for children and young people with additional needs and disabilities aged 0–18.
- Suffolk Family Hubs – support, advice and activities for families with children and young people.
- Suffolk Family Information Service – information about childcare, activities and local services.
- Health Visiting Service – support for families with young children.

### **Safeguarding**

Early Help is a voluntary process designed to provide support at the earliest opportunity. However, if at any time a child is considered to be at risk of significant harm, the school has a duty to follow Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership procedures and make a referral to Children's Social Care where appropriate.

## Who can I talk to?

| <b>School Contact</b>              | <b>How they can help</b>  |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Class Teacher                      | First point of contact for any concerns about your child.                   |
| SENCo                              | Advice and support for special educational needs and learning difficulties. |
| Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) | Support with safeguarding, wellbeing and family concerns.                   |
| Headteacher                        | Strategic support and escalation where needed.                              |

If you think your family may benefit from Early Help support, please contact the school office who will direct you to the most appropriate member of staff.

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