

Early Help Offer

Early Help - working with you and your family

What is early help?

Every family goes through challenging times at some point. Early help means working with you and your family so that small problems don't become big problems. To offer a blanket of support for families to succeed.

Early help is for everybody, for families with children and young people of any age. And it's your choice whether to have it or not.

Why would I want early help?

There are lots of reasons why people look for early help. It could be that you're worried about your child's health, development or behaviour, or how they're doing at school. It may be that you're worried about money or housing and how that is affecting your family. Maybe your child or family is affected by domestic abuse, drugs, alcohol, or crime. Perhaps your child is a carer for their SEND sibling, or maybe you've had a bereavement in the family that's made life a challenge.

Where can I get early help?

If you feel you and your family might need support to solve some problems, please do not hesitate to contact school.

What will happen when I ask for early help?

I will give you a call to either complete a home visit or you could come into school and we will talk about the problems you're experiencing. I will ask what help and support you think you might need. This is called an early help assessment.

Early help assessment is nothing to be worried about. It's just a conversation to work out how to help you determine what it is you feel you need support with and how this can be done. You can talk about things that are going well and things that you're proud of as well as things that you're finding a challenge.

We will also discuss your child or children in your family to make sure they understand how they are feeling and anything they think they might want some help with.

What happens next will be different for every family. If an Early Help assessment is carried out and actions are identified, we will then call Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings. Again, this is nothing to be worried about. It just ensures we have a regular meeting with all professionals involved to get the best outcome for the family. You have control over what happens next and can say what you want.

All of this is consent based. **IF CONSENT IS WITHDRAWN THEN THE PROCESS STOPS!**

If you decide you'd like some help, the person you talked with will ask if they can share details of your conversation. You need to be happy with this and give your permission. This is to make sure the people who will be supporting you are able to do a good job for you and understand the journey you and your family have been on.

Sharing information

There may be times when the person you talked to has to share information. This includes:

- If they think a child is at risk of harm
- If they think an adult is at risk of harm
- If they think the information could help prevent or detect a serious crime.

Children's Social care won't get involved unless one of these things happens, or unless the circumstances in your family change and become more serious.

Remember, it's your choice to have Early Help. If you have any questions, please contact me.

There are many ways in which we can help in Blueberry Park as outlined in our level 1 offer of early help below.

Support for families may include:

- Open door policy
- Advice and support to promote good attendance
- First day response
- Liaising with external services e.g. Housing and Children Social Care.
- Help to complete paperwork and forms e.g. court appearances, housing, school letters, grant applications and benefits.
- Referrals to outside agencies
- Emotional support for parents
- Information on local specialist training events linked to additional needs through the termly SEND newsletter
- School nurse support
- Early Help Assessment which may involve support from external agencies
- Providing information and signposting to other services in your local area.
- Informal pastoral support
- Pre loved uniforms
- Food parcels/food banks

Support for children whilst in school may include:

- Sensory circuits
- Zones of regulation
- Mental health champions
- Lunchtime reflection room
- Bespoke learning interventions
- Pre loved uniform
- Additional transition support
- Priority for after school and breakfast clubs
- School nurse support
- Think yourself great sessions
- Time to talk
- Lego therapy
- Seedlings
- Desty
- Friendship groups
- Pastoral support sessions
- Calm start
- Breakfast/snack provided