



# Early Help Policy



Approved By:	Full Governing Board	Date:	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
Last Reviewed on:	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Next review due by:	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2026
Signature:	<i>T.A. Bartlett</i>	Signature:	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
	Chair of Governors		Headteacher



**Stow on the Wold  
Primary School  
Early Help Policy**

**STOW-on-the-WOLD  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**heart hand mind**

At Stow on the Wold Primary school staff are trained in recognising the signs of Child Abuse and Extremism and are committed to and know the benefit of Early Help as a way of supporting families and young people before their needs become acute and Social Care or other specialist intervention may be necessary.

The school has a range of robust safeguarding procedures in place which puts the safety and protection of children at the heart of any decisions. The school's safeguarding team is made up of the following school personnel:

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – Mrs Rebecca Scutt
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL) – Mrs Alison Swallow Mrs Elizabeth Hamilton, Ms Alison James
- Safeguarding Governors Lucy Busby

The DSL and all DDSLs complete inter-agency safeguarding training on a two yearly programme. All other school staff complete safeguarding training on a three yearly basis and are updated regularly to any changes in legislation.

### **Reporting Concerns**

If any member of school suspects that a child may be at risk of harm or who has been harmed they will report the incident through the schools email reporting system. The email is received by all members of the safeguarding team. Staff are expected to report a concern as soon as possible through the reporting system. If a member of staff believes that a child is at risk of or has been subjected to significant harm then this must be reported immediately via email and then in person to either the school's DSL or one of the DDSLs.

It is school policy that at least two members of the safeguarding team will be on site at any one time and that one of these must be the DSL or a DDSL. This enables all concerns to be reviewed by at least two members of the team at any one time and an appropriate course of action decided upon.

The primary aim of the school's Early Help systems is to try to intervene early with families before it gets to the stage when a child may be at risk of harm.

### **Involvement of Families**

The school will always involve the family in all Early Help strategies and most will only be put in place with their permission. The school will aim to work with families in a supportive, non-judgemental way so that trust is built up and the best possible outcomes achieved.

There are occasions, however, when the school’s safeguarding team or member of school staff may believe that a child may be at immediate risk of significant harm and that by informing the parents/carers of the concern may put the child at further risk. In these cases the school will implement section 47 procedures. This will involve an immediate referral to social care without the parents/carers knowledge.

### School Indicators for Children or Families That May Require Early Help

The following list provides examples of areas where, without intervention a family may break down or a child may be put a risk of neglect, emotional, physical or sexual harm. This also includes the risk of extremism. The school has no pre-prescribed criteria for supporting children and families. Each case is assessed according to needs and a bespoke programme put in place for that child and/or family:

Indicator	Indicator	Indicator	Indicator
Low Parenting Skills Substance/Alcohol Abuse Domestic Abuse Child Mental Health Bereavement Child Unaware of Danger and How to Keep Themselves Safe Extremist views	Poor Diet - Obesity, Malnourished Young Carer Breakdown in community relationships Adult Mental Health Changes in Behaviour and Risk of Exclusion Child Demonstrates Sexualised Behaviours	Low Income or Poverty Breakdown in family relationships Isolation Disability of a Child Poor Attendance and Punctuality Frequent House or School Moves	Limited Community Integration Transport Special Educational Needs (refer to Local and School offer) Disability of an Adult Child Unaware of How to Keep Themselves Safe Online Cleanliness and Hygiene

**EXAMPLE EARLY HELP**

The school has divided its Early Help strategies into 4 areas:

- Universal Support is for all and is what all children and families would normally receive,
- Community Support is for a child or family who may need some extra support,
- Specific Support is for children and families who need specialist support
- Crisis Support is where a child or their family need a high level of support to prevent harm.

Universal Support	Community Support	Specialist Support	Crisis Support
<p>Family Friends School Staff Nursery staff Governors Parent Teacher Association Breakfast Club After School Clubs Children’s centre staff Keep Safe Work Parent Support Advisor offers of early help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephone/email contact and support for parents.</li> <li>• Home visits</li> <li>• Referrals into statutory and charitable service.</li> <li>• Liaising with organisations and</li> </ul>	<p><b>Our Multi-Agency Team:</b> Cluster Head Teachers Local Police Officers Local Health Visitors Local Midwives Local School Nurses Local Housing Officers Local Home Start Manager Community Social Worker Parent Support Advisor Family Support Worker Children’s centre staff and Manager School Safeguarding Team Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) Local GP School Nurse District/County Council</p>	<p><b>Mental Health For Children</b> CYPS emotional well-being team CYPS referrals MIND.org website PAPYRUS Anxietybc.org CINCH 1:1 Therapy from Specialist Therapists Children and Young People’s Services (CYPS)</p> <p><b>Mental Health for Adults</b> Referrals to Cotswold Counselling Referrals to AXIS well-being Letters/phone calls to G.P Accompanying parents to mental health appointments Working with mental health team</p> <p><b>Bereavement Support</b> Winston’s Wish SWITCH Programme CRUISE – bereavement counselling for</p>	<p>Social Care - Child Protection (CP), Child in Need (CIN) School Safeguarding Team Social Worker Police - Police Protection Order (PPO) Courts - Care Proceedings Counselling Channel Panel</p> <p><b>Local Support for Families and Groups</b> Referral to Young Carers Referral to Family Lives Referral to Home Start Targeted Support Team (TST) Parenting Courses (Webster Stratton, Triple P, Families and Schools</p>

Universal Support	Community Support	Specialist Support	Crisis Support
<p>professionals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to build and work as part of a local multi-agency team.</li> <li>Behaviour and emotional support and advice given.</li> <li>Carry out CAF assessments.</li> <li>Support given to complete forms and applications.</li> </ul> <p>Community Clubs (i.e. sports, arts etc.)</p> <p>Rotary Club Northleach Lions Club Local clergy</p>	<p>Food Bank LA SEN Team LA Transport Team Churches and Religious Leaders Housing Association – Fosseway housing Bromford Housing Landlords Young Carers Citizens Advice Bureau Job Centre Traveller Support Services Army Support Services Interpreter Education Entitlement and Inclusion Team (EEI) Children's Centre ArtSpace Paediatrician Counselling Play Therapy Communication with Previous Settings</p>	<p>parents samaritans <b>Domestic Violence</b> GDASS Cotswold Domestic abuse Support <b>Divorce/Separating Families</b> Cheltenham Family Mediation CORUM – online legal advice CINCH – counselling for children <b>Finances/Housing</b> Rural CRB Referrals to P3 Liaising with housing officers Support to complete benefit claims. <b>Food/Clothes/Christmas</b> Foodbank vouchers issued Application to local charity for clothes, shoes and uniform. Second hand uniform stock held. Christmas presents, stocking fillers and Christmas food given. <b>School Admissions and Transport</b> Support to complete free school meal application Support to apply to schools Support to appeal, including letters of support. Escort and advocate at tribunals</p>	<p>Together (FAST) Functional Family Therapy <b>Local Support for Families and Groups</b> Referral to Young Carers Referral to Family Lives Referral to Home Start Targeted Support Team (TST) School Safeguarding Team Social Care (Initial/Core Assessment) Parenting Courses (Webster Stratton, Triple P, Families and Schools Together (FAST) Functional Family Therapy Education, Entitlement and Inclusion Team (EEI) NSPCC Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) Channel Panel</p>