



Dovelands
Primary School

Early Help Policy

Ratified by Full Governing Body
Review date

14th October 2025
October 2028

At Dovelands Primary School staff use the 'Signs of Safety' Model to recognise 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 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): Miss Jenny Slinger (Head Teacher)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL): Miss Williams (DHT) Miss O'Connell (AHT), Miss Bolton (AHT), Miss Newby (IL), Miss Harris (PSL)

The DSL and all DDSLs complete inter-agency safeguarding training on a two-yearly programme. All other school staff complete safeguarding training on a 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 to the DSL/DDSL immediately. Staff are expected to report a concern as soon as possible in person and then log the concern and any actions on CPOMs.

It is school policy that at least one member of the safeguarding will be contactable at all times that there are children on site and at least one will be on site during the hours when all children are on site. This enables all concerns to be reviewed quickly and for any advice to be sought.

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 it can only be put in place with their consent and engagement. The school will aim to work with families in a holistic, 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. The parents/carers will be informed in a timely way either by or with guidance from the appropriate body.

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 and online abuse. The school has no pre-prescribed criteria for supporting children and families. Each case is assessed, using the early help quick thinking plan and neglect toolkit (when appropriate) according to needs and a bespoke programme put in place for that child and/or family.

Indicators for early help include:

- Positive Parenting Support
- Substance misuse

- Domestic Abuse and parental conflict
- Child Mental Health
- Bereavement
- Child Unaware of Danger and How to Keep Themselves Safe
- Extremist views
- Lifestyle and nutrition needs
- 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
- Physical Health
- Child Unaware of How to Keep Themselves Safe Online
- Cleanliness and Hygiene
- Families impacted by imprisonment

For more information about Early Help contact 0116 454 1004 or email early-help@leicester.gov.uk.

Early Help at Dovelands Primary School

Below is a list of how we aim to support our families with issues that may arise. Each case is judged separately and on its own merit and will vary according to the family and the context. Where issues continue to be a concern and more support is needed, the school will make an early help referral with families.

Attendance	
What we offer	Measurable Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance data monitored • Attendance officer (Office Manager) • EWO (Educational Welfare Officer) • EWO meetings with parents • First day phone calls made to find out the reason for absence • Home visits • Letter home when attendance falls or a pattern is spotted • Meet and greets • Regular monitoring and of groups • Monitoring of leave of absence requests • Panel meetings • School nurse (where there's a medical condition) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall and individual pupil attendance improves • Whole school targets are met

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap around care- before and after school club • Full time Family Support Worker (Pastoral Support Lead) is available to all families • Nurture breakfast club 	
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Transition	
What we offer	Measurable Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra visits/induction for vulnerable students • EYST (Early Years Support Team) • Health visitors / school nurse • Induction Day • Link between educational phases • Nursery Home Visits • Open afternoon/meeting for FS2 & FS1 parents • Children are adequately supported upon entry • Planned entry in FS1 - where appropriate • Pupil Profiles • SALT (Speech and language therapists) • SEMH team (Social Emotional and Mental Health) • Social stories and transition books • Staff meetings between educational phases • Transition days • Visits for prospective families • Visits to feeder schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's needs are met during transition.
SEMH	
What we offer	Measurable Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAMHS (Children, Adolescent Mental Health Service) referrals • Educational Psychologist referrals • Fun time intervention • Kooth (age dependent) • Laura centre referrals • Meet and greet intervention • Positive Behaviour / Handling Plans • School Nurse referrals • SEMH team (Social Emotional and Mental Health) referrals • Staff training in SEMH & SEND as appropriate • Team Teach/positive handling training • Mental Health Support Worker • Restorative Approaches to positive behaviour management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil learning data shows improvement • Reduction in number of behaviour incidents • Increase in pupils self-help skills

Staying safe	
What we offer	Measurable Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bikeability • Advice point via Children's Centre • Anti-bullying Week • Assemblies • Year 6 First Aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil learning data shows improvement • Increase in turn-over of families accessing support

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trained DSLs • Data protection procedures • Early Help referral • Safer Internet Use / Lessons • Fire Service • Health and Intimate Care Plans • Home visits, F1 New Starters and SEND • Monitoring of leave or absence requests • NSPCC Workshops • Parent workshops • PEP/CLA meetings • PHSE and RSE curriculum (Personal Health Social Education, Relationships and Sex Education) • Library Leaders • Playground Buddies • Internet safety week • Warning Zone for Year 6 • Prevent issues awareness and training for concerns around radicalisation • FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), CSE (Child Sexual exploitation), Forced marriages awareness and training • Road Safety • Safer recruitment procedures • Sustrans • Referrals to School nurse service • Early Help Referrals • Sports leaders • Support group for anxious students • Tracking of incidents e.g. CPOMS • UNICEF Rights Respecting School • Whole school safeguarding training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare and neglect issues on Social Services caseload reduced • An increasing percentage of parental engagement
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Supporting Families	
What we offer	Measurable Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time Family Support Worker • Advice Point via Children’s Centre • Fill out forms & apply for school places • Housing support fund applications • Home visits • Housing applications – letters of support • Parents’ evenings • Pastoral support • Positive Parenting Programme • Living with Teenagers • SENDCo • SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice Support Service) • Signposting to Local Offer • Signposting to charitable organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil learning data shows improvement • Uptake of support services increases • An increasing percentage of parental engagement

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signposting to external agencies • Signposting to training • Signposting Wrap around care • Signposting to Food Banks • Early Help • Food and toiletries collections for struggling families 	
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The local community	
What we offer	Measureable Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full time Pastoral Support Lead (Miss Harris) • Bikeability • Councillor Service • Community Clubs After School • Governors • Link with fire services • Links between schools – school to school support / collaboration • Religious Visits • Supporting charities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families have a better understanding of the wider community

Appendix

Useful Contacts

Family Support

Early Help: 0116 454 1004 <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/support-for-children-and-young-people/early-help>

Braunstone Children, Young People and Family Centre: 0116 373 7150

New Parks Children, Young People and Family Centre: 0116 231 4418

Food

Braunstone Foodshare: 0116 279 5020

Woodgate Foodshare: 0116 4030146 <https://www.givefood.org.uk/needs/at/woodgate-community-food/>

Housing

Supporting Tenants and Residents Star <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/housing/council-tenants/your-tenancy/tenant-support/>

Leicester City Housing: 0116 4541008 <https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/housing/>

Health

Care Navigation & Neighbourhood Team: 0300 3000 007 / <https://www.leicspart.nhs.uk/Library/CareNavigationandtheNeighbourhoodTeam1.pdf>

Healthy Together (School Nurse): 0300 3000 007 / 0116 2153231 / www.leicspart.nhs.uk/Library/HealthyTogetherSpecialSchoolsBriefing.pdf

Chat Health: 07520 615 384 / www.leicspart.nhs.uk/Library/HealthyTogetherSpecialSchoolsBriefing.pdf

Mental Health

ADHD Solutions: 0116 261 0711 / <http://cmsms.adhdsolutions.org/>

CAMHS Telephone Advisory Service for Professionals: 0116 295 5048

Anna Freud: On My Mind <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/>

Young Minds: 0808 802 5544 / www.youngminds.org.uk

The Mix: 0808 808 4994 / www.themix.org.uk

Kooth: www.kooth.com

Education Support Partnership: 08000 562 561 / www.educationsupportpartnership.org.uk

MindEd (E-Learning Platform): <https://www.minded.org.uk/>

Bereavement

The Laura Centre: 0116 2544341 / www.thelauracentre.org.uk

Cruse Bereavement Care: 0808 808 1677 / www.cruse.org.uk

Winston's Wish: 08088 020 021 / www.winstonswish.org

Safeguarding

Childline: 0800 1111 / www.childline.org.uk

Duty and Advice Leicester City: 0116 454 1004 / www.leicester.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/childrens-social-care/