BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
AND DAY NURSERIES

Offer of Family Help Policy

At Berkhampstead School, we understand that any child may benefit from Family Help, but all school staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for Family Help for a child who:

- is disabled or has certain health conditions and has specific additional needs
- has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health and Care Plan)
- has a mental health need
- is a young carer
- is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups or county lines
- is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, sexual or criminal exploitation
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending
- is in a family circumstance presenting challenges for the child, such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues and domestic abuse
- is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves

Our offer of Early Help is designed to support all our children and families. Family Help is not Social Services but is about providing families with support as soon as problems emerge. The school recognises that early identification of risk is key to safeguarding all children/young people and adults. Through the Graduated Pathway of Family Help and Support, we utilise a range of approaches and services, including our CWB curriculum and outside agencies to provide bespoke support.

Any child may benefit from support before statutory intervention, including from universal services and community based Early Help or the targeted early help level of Family Help.

All staff are aware of their responsibilities for Family Help. Once a referral has been made for example, to a parenting course for helping with anxiety, the designated safeguarding lead will generally lead on liaising with other agencies and setting up an inter-agency assessment as

appropriate and by working with parents. Staff may be required to support other agencies and professionals in an assessment, in some cases acting as the lead professional. Any such cases should be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care for assessment for statutory services, if the child's situation does not appear to be improving or is getting worse.

Useful advice and information can be found online, including:
www.gov.uk
www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk
www.nspcc.org.uk
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gscp
https://www.familylives.org.uk/

Staff receive ongoing updates on potential risks such as Domestic Abuse, Honour Based Violence, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Child Sexual Exploitation, Prevent etc. and know what to do should they identify a person at risk.

Outcomes of Family Help may include:

- Creating a healthy space for structure and nurture to be established
- understanding that relationships are fundamental for child development
- Identifying the most pressing issues and offer support over time
- Enabling the parent whilst keeping a clear focus of the impact on the children
- Focusing on the children and their lived experience
- Seek to build up competency and confidence of parents
- Refer to appropriate parenting programmes/coaching and mentoring/intensive family support
- Involvement of Early Help Coordinators, Family Support Workers and Community Social Workers
- Focus on risk and minimisation of any risk
- Escalation to social care where necessary

If you feel that your family would benefit from Family Help, or you would like any more information, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs Stephenson – our Designated Safeguarding Lead.