



## Newport CE Junior School Early Help Offer

### **Statement from the NSPCC September 2021:**

Early help, also known as early intervention, is support given to a family when a problem first emerges. It can be provided at any stage in a child or young person's life.

Statutory guidance in each nation of the UK highlights the importance of providing early intervention, rather than waiting until a child or family's situation escalates (Department for Education (DfE), 2018; Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, 2017; Scottish Government, 2021; Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, 2020).

Early help services can be delivered to parents, children or whole families, but their main focus is to improve outcomes for children. For example, services may help parents who are living in challenging circumstances provide a safe and loving environment for their child. Or, if a child is displaying risk-taking behaviour, early help practitioners might work with the child and their parents to find out the reasons for the child's behaviour and put strategies in place to help keep them safe.

Providing timely support is vital. Addressing a child or family's needs early on can reduce risk factors and increase protective factors in a child's life (Early Intervention Foundation (EIF), 2021).

Protective factors can reduce risk to a child's wellbeing. They include:

- developing strong social and emotional skills
  - having a strong social support network for the family – including support
  - for good parental mental health
  - income support, benefits and advice
  - good community services and facilities
- (EIF, 2021; Cleaver, Unell and Aldgate, 2011).

It is more effective to provide early help when problems first arise than to intervene later (DfE, 2018; EIF, 2021).

Early intervention can also prevent further problems from developing – for example, as part of a support plan for a child and their family when a child returns home from care (DfE, 2018).

### **Why early help is important:**

Early help can offer children the support needed to reach their full potential (EIF, 2021).

It can improve the quality of a child's home and family life, enable them to perform better at school and support their mental health (EIF, 2021).

Research suggests that early help can:

- protect children from harm
  - reduce the need for a referral to child protection services
  - improve children's long-term outcomes
- (Haynes et al, 2015).

Early help can also support a child to develop strengths and skills that can prepare them for adult life (EIF, 2021).

**At Newport CE Junior School we recognise that families may, at times, require some additional support. At NJS we pride ourselves on our Early Help Offer to ensure that our families, and most importantly our children, are well supported by us. Over the page we have detailed some practical offers that may be made by ourselves when looking at Early Help.**

Referral to Newport Group of School Family Support Worker for: wellbeing work, signposting, transition work, Early Help Assessment...

Referral to agencies for support e.g. School Nurse, FoodBank, WinterCoat Scheme, Telford and Wrekin Happy Healthy Active Holidays Scheme, Crisis Support...

Referral to Newport Group of Schools Family Support Worker for: wellbeing work, signposting, transition work, Early Help Assessment...

Curriculum additions to ensure children are informed when matters arise.

Referral to Newport Group of Schools Education Welfare Officer for attendance support, school refusal, wellbeing support...

Support to access the enriched provision at NJS e.g. support registering for clubs, residential visit support etc.

Early Help Assessment and Early Help and Support Meetings to gather information around the family, establish actions to support and routinely meet to review.

Mentoring from an NJS member of staff for pupils. Offering them routine opportunities to talk and share news, feelings and any worries.

Nurture Mentor Support: HLTA trained in trauma and wellbeing support to offer routine opportunities for children to meet and talk.

Art Therapy: Articulate led by trained HLTA. Opportunity for children to express wishes and feelings through Art.

Additional meetings, phone calls and emails to support parents/carers to engage with school and to work together to support the family and pupil.

Resources such as fidget toys, wellbeing resources, worry boxes etc. to support wellbeing.

Build to Express: trained support staff able to use Lego as a tool for children to talk and express wishes and feelings. Linked to this we also have a HLTA trained in 'Six Bricks'

### Early Help Initiatives at Newport CE Junior School

