

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School



Early Help Offer

‘Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven’

(Matthew 5: v.16)

Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community

What is Early Help?

Early Help means providing help for children, young people and families as soon as problems start to emerge or where it is likely that issues will impact negatively on children's outcomes.

Early Help

- is for children of all ages and not just the very young,
- can be very effective in supporting a child, young person and/or their family to step down from statutory services as well as preventing the escalation of issues.
- is important because there is clear evidence that it results in better outcomes for children.

Lancashire County Council recognises that Early Help is a term that describes much of the everyday work of schools. <https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/practitioners/supporting-children-and-families/>

Early Help Offer at Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School

Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School is committed to providing appropriate Early Help for families who may need some local, lower-level support. Early Help may involve working with your child in school to support their emotional and mental health. We offer nurture group to children in all classes. Class teaching assistants are on hand to help your child and we also have a dedicated learning mentor, Miss Walwin-Holm.

This support is arranged by school. If you feel that your child or your family may benefit from some support, please contact Miss Helen Smith.

Key Personnel

The Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Mr Stuart Booth

email: head@grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01772 653600

The Deputy Headteacher and Deputy DSLs is: Miss Helen Smith

email: h.smith@grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01772 653600

The School Learning Mentor is: Morgan Walwin-Holm

e-mail@ m.walwin-holm@grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone 01772 653600

The Chair of Governors and nominated Safeguarding Governor is: Mr Wayne Bretherton

e-mail: w.bretherton@grimsargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk

Telephone: 01772 653600

In Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) 2022, it makes it clear that **ALL** staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it. In addition, this statutory document makes it clear that any child may benefit from early help, but all school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory Education, Health Care Plan)
- 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
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- Is in a family circumstance that presents challenges for the child; such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse
- Has been affected by a family bereavement or long-term illness
- Has returned home to their family from care
- Is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect
- Is at risk of being radicalised or exploited
- Is a privately fostered child
- Is experiencing financial hardship

This list is by no means exhaustive. Anyone can need help at any time in their lives. If we can be of any help to you what so ever, please get in touch!

What is Early Help?

Early help is a way of getting extra support when your family needs it, but getting it as soon as difficulties start, rather than waiting until things get worse. It's for children and young people of any age. Help can come from all kinds of services and organisations who work together to support your family. You might be using some of these services already, but we want to make sure they are providing the right support for you and your family's needs.

Why would I seek early help?

It could be that you're worried about your child's health, development or behaviour or perhaps because you are caring for a disabled child. Maybe your child is affected by domestic abuse, drugs or alcohol? Perhaps your child is a carer for other people?

Who do I ask?

Have a chat with Miss Smith or health professional. They can help you look at what types of support are available and who might be able to help. Your local children, young people and families centre (Sure Start) also has lots of services and support for families with children, some especially for children with additional needs.

What sort of services or help do I get?

It depends on what you need and it might include services you already receive. We will agree it with you and make sure it all joins up. The best thing to do is to contact a member of staff you feel comfortable with for a confidential chat. We can help in all manner of ways- here are just a few examples:

- Youth support
- Parenting groups
- Drop-in sessions
- Domestic violence support
- Groups for male carers/dads
- Behaviour support
- Education welfare
- Housing advice
- Benefits advice
- Food Bank referral
- Domestic Energy Tokens
- School drop-off and pick up

Early Help Assessments

On 6 September 2021 the Your Family's Early Help Assessment replaced the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) across Lancashire.

The Early Help Assessment is an intervention with a family to gather, explore and analyse with them information about all aspects of the child or young person (and their family's) life and then to identify areas where change will address support needs and positively impact on their lived experiences.

This is recorded on an Early Help Assessment form which includes the family's Early Help Plan. The Early Help Assessment is **not** a referral form for professionals to complete to access other services supporting children, young people and families. The Early Help Assessment should be completed by the professional supporting the family to identify the family's unmet needs and develop a plan of support with the family.

Your Family's Early Help Assessment is available to all practitioners and professionals working with children, young people, and their families across Lancashire.

Working alongside families from a holistic, strength-based approach when areas of support are first identified will stop escalation towards crisis and the need for more intensive and specialist intervention.

Through the Early Help Assessment, Plan, and reviews via Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings the wider partnership of services can provide families with the right support at the right time.

Lancashire’s Children and Family Wellbeing Service-early help referrals

Lancashire’s Children and Family Wellbeing Service (CFW) offers practical support to children, young people, parents/carers and families.

This support can be provided on a whole range of issues which may be affecting individuals or the family and is offered through a network of centres as well as in the community or in the family home. The main focus of the service is to provide an enhanced level of support which is prioritised towards those groups or individuals who have more complex or intensive needs or who are at risk and particularly where we think that providing early help will make a positive difference.

We want any problems to be identified early and appropriate support be put in place on a basis OF mutual respect and sensitivity to the family. Any concerns and referrals are made via early help and by having parental consent for an early help assessment.

Lancashire Children’s Services Safeguarding Hub (MASH)-the single point of contact to support the child and family.

We use the Continuum of Need to establish the level of support needed. Please see diagram below:



The Role of Schools

Day to Day Support

Most families, most of the time, can get on with their lives quite happily with little or no outside help. If they need help it is usually provided by universal services, such as schools.

Focused Pastoral Support

Some families can have times, however, when difficulties arise and they either may not recognise it or may not know how to start putting things right. Schools play a role in supporting families to address these difficulties through more focused pastoral support, which might include bringing in support via an external agency.

Early Help Assessment

For those children and families whose needs and circumstances make them more vulnerable, or where schools need the support of other agencies to meet the needs of the family, a coordinated multi-agency approach is usually best. In Lancashire, this is achieved through undertaking an Early Help Assessment and assigning a Lead Practitioner to work closely with the family to ensure they receive the support they require. Schools should be a key partner in any multi-agency work to support families

The following five commitments are the core elements to Grimsargh St Michael's C of E Primary School.

By implementing these commitments, we aim to ensure:

- Pupils, parent/carers and staff are clear on the Early Help support available through the school
- Clarity for partners, supporting improved multi-agency working
- Delivery approaches of Early Help support for more vulnerable families are up to date with local offers
- Commitment to the personal development and well-being strand of the Ofsted Framework
- All pastoral support is done to support the whole child.

For more information about Early Help, please contact Miss Helen Smith h.smith@grismargh-st-michaels.lancs.sch.uk