

ILKETSHALL ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL



EARLY HELP OFFER

Here at Ilkeshall St Lawrence School, we understand just how complicated family life can be. From time to time there may be situations where you need extra help and support.

If things aren't right at home, please come and talk to us. We have what we call an offer of early help. There are many ways in which we can help! Listed below is our school offer;

- Taking the time to listen to children's concerns. We have an ELSA (emotional literacy support assistant) Mrs Booth, who is available to chat to pupils when they feel they have a problem they would like to share. Pupils can self-refer to her if they have concerns.
- Taking the time to listen to families. Sometimes, you might need to share information or have a difficult situation you need to make us aware of. We will listen. We have families too!
- We have a counsellor, Mrs Sargent, who works in school once a fortnight, she will meet with parents and children to support well-being.
- We have an effective PSHE curriculum which supports children and develops key skills not only for school but for life.
- We have a school nurse linked to Ilkeshall. You can speak directly with the school nurse team or we can refer you as a school.
- There are a number of support agencies out there who we can access or signpost you to if you are experiencing difficulties at home.

There are also agencies which you can contact independently should you wish to do so, who might be able to help and provide the support for your family.

Early Help Assessment (CAF)

School staff will identify children who may benefit from early help in order to provide support as soon as the problem emerges. The designated safeguarding lead or alternate will liaise with other agencies in setting up an inter-agency assessment as appropriate. Early Help Assessment is designed to be used when:

- There are concerns about how well a child or young person is progressing (e.g. concerns about their health, development, welfare, behaviour, progress in learning or any other aspect of their wellbeing).
- A child or young person, or their parent/carer, raises a concern
- A child's or young person's needs are unclear

If early help and/or other support is appropriate, the case should be kept under constant review and consideration given to a referral to children's social care if the child's situation is not improving.

If a child or young person reveals they are at risk, school staff will follow child protection procedure immediately.

School staff work with social care, the police, health and other services to promote the welfare of the children and protect them from harm, including a coordinated offer to help and allow access for local authority staff to conduct or consider conducting Section 17 or Section 47 assessments.



Family Network Meeting (FNM, previously TAC)

After gaining consent from the child/family to share information gathered in discussions, relevant professionals will be invited to come together in a FNM to assess the child's needs and decide with the child/family a course of action to provide the services needed.

A FNM is a multi-disciplinary team of practitioners established on a case-by-case basis to support a child, young person or family. FNM supports particular elements of good professional practice in joined-up working, information sharing and early intervention. The FNM is a model of service delivery that involves:

- A joined-up assessment (usually an Early Help Assessment)
- A lead professional (LP) to coordinate the work
- The child/young person and family at the centre of the process
- A virtual or flexible multi-agency team that will change as needs change
- Coordination at the point of delivery
- A FNM support plan to meet the needs of the child/young person
- Regular meetings to which the child/young person and families are invited to attend.