



Offer of Early Help

Woodside Primary School fully recognises its responsibilities for protecting all children and individual children. Early Help is all about recognising and supporting difficulties before issues escalate and referring/signposting families to a range of external help.

Our aim is to provide an enriched and secure learning environment in which every child can achieve their full potential across all areas of school life: academic, creative, sporting and social.

Section 1: How do we support early recognition of problems and provide early help in school?

- Talking to children; listening and responding to children's concerns; asking if everything is alright for them.
- Responding to non-verbal communication such as anti-social behaviour.
- Building up positive relationships with parents so they feel able to ask for help and school feels that speaking with them would help matters for the child.
- Providing particular opportunities for children to express their concerns during 'circle time'/nurture groups/assemblies.
- Using a 'worry box' in each class in KS2 and 'Worry Bill' in KS1 for children to be able to ask for help discretely.
- Employing a Family Support Worker to support the child and the family.
- Running a Family Club for parents and children to enjoy activities together (suspended due to Covid-19).
- Monitoring the use of Pupil Premium spending and keeping a reserve for support that may need funding.
- Staff talking regularly to each other, to ensure we have a full picture of any difficulties a family might be facing.
- Weekly staff meeting item to alert staff to concerns about individual children, where appropriate
- Phoning social workers for informal advice; logging any concerns on My Concern
- Ensuring staff know how to contact Children's Helpdesk with a concern
- Use the Windscreen approach/ displays around school for staff to act upon.
- Using the CYPS team helpline /Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) and Trailblazers referrals.
- Working with other agencies towards a positive outcome.
- Preventative signposting for parents/carers, such as Family Information Service; online advice such as Family lives.

- Access external agencies, including Social Services, Family First plus team, Teens in Crisis, Domestic Abuse Support, Winston's Wish, Toucan, Childline, Behaviour Support, Trailblazers to provide early intervention and support.
- Providing Safeguarding training in line with Gloucestershire guidelines/signing up for the Safeguarding' Children Boards' alerts/GHLL alerts.
- Holding 'Around the Child' meetings.
- Working with the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.
- Supporting families through the Early Help/My Plan or EHCP process through our FSW and/or SENDCo.
- School values utilised and encouraged by staff for every child to seek **Friendship, Respect, Determination, Self-belief, Tolerance and Courage**.
- Themed assemblies, linked to SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and school values
- Being proactive in dealing with any accusations or incidents of bullying; highlighting issues during our annual Anti-Bullying week in November
- Children understand that it is right to ask for help if they are in trouble or worried about bullying, abuse or any other concern.
- Developing the notion that everyone is special and deserves to be treated well.
- All staff able to log records on My Concern so that any patterns can be identified and tackled before things escalate.
- Ensure that staff and governors read relevant parts of 'Keeping Children Safe'
<http://www.gscb.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=63390&p=0>
- Update our Policies regularly and to ensure that staff/governors are aware and act accordingly.

Section 2: Raising Awareness; Providing Support

Bullying including Cyberbullying

Woodside Primary School has an Anti-bullying Policy and recognizes the harmful effects that bullying can have. At our school, bullying is defined as **deliberately hurtful behaviour, repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those being bullied to defend themselves**. The three main types of bullying we discuss at school are: Physical (hitting, kicking, theft); Verbal (name calling, racist remarks); Indirect (spreading rumours, excluding someone from social groups)

We are alert to the signs of:

Physical: May include: repeatedly being pushing, kicked, hit, taking and damaging your personal belongings.

Verbal: May include: constant teasing, repeated violent threats, name calling, sarcasm, gossiping.

Emotional: May include: being tormented, humiliated, ridiculed, ignored, excluded, spreading rumours, turning your friends against you.

Sexual: May include: unwanted sexual contact, unwelcome sexual comments or suggestions.

Racist: May include: gestures, taunts, graffiti, and physical violence, mocking about your race or ethnic origin.

Homophobic: May include: anti-gay name-calling, being beaten up, offensive comments relating to your sexuality.

Cyber: May include: all the above only by text or over the internet, alarm, distress or humiliation that uses internet-related and telephone technology.

External support:

- ChildLine - 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- Kidscape - 020 7730 3300 (Bullying Counsellor available)
- NSPCC - 0800 800500 www.nspcc.org.uk/fullstop/education
- Stonewall – www.stonewall.org.uk
- Papyrus (Preventing youth suicide) - Helpline 0870 1704000 www.papyrus-uk.org
- Samaritans - 08457 909090 www.samaritans.org.uk
- Department for Children, Schools and Families - www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying
- Educational Action Challenging Homophobia (EACH) - 0117 946 7606
www.eachaction.org.uk
- Gloucestershire Education – Race Equality and Diversity Service – 01452 427261
www.irespect.net
- Gloucestershire Young Carers Project - www.glosyoungcarers.org.uk
- Parentline Plus - 0808 8002222 www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- School and Young Person's Unit – Gloucestershire Constabulary - 0845 0901234
www.crimeconcern.org.uk
- School Nursing Service (Providing one to one support via confidential drop-ins) - 01452 29776
- www.bullying.co.uk
- Anti-Bullying Alliance - www.anti-bullyingalliance.org

Child Missing from Education

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect. School staff should follow the school's procedures for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of their going missing in future. At Woodside School, parents are contacted by 10am if a child is not at school without our prior knowledge. We follow the LA's procedures before taking any child off our register.

Child Sexual Exploitation

- <http://www.gscb.org.uk/article/113294/Gloucestershire-procedures-and-protocols>
- The school will use the screening tool and follow the protocol by contacting the helpdesk.

- The LA is represented on the Public Protection Bureau as a sub group. We can contact this agency directly 01242 2768446. Parental consent is not necessary but it can be helpful to fill out the form with them.

Child Trafficking and Forced Marriages

- This can be between ANY point – not just across borders but within towns and villages. Staff need to be alert to the conversations.
- A Forced Marriage Protection Order, the UK Border Agency can be used to prevent a child being moved for a forced marriage.
- Call the Children's Helpdesk 01452 426565 or the Police on 101

Drugs

Woodside Primary School staff are vigilant for signs of children who may be experiencing or witnessing drug abuse in their families. A range of external support is available:

- **Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk
- **ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk
- **Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
- **ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk
- **Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com
- **Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk
- **Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/
- **Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)
- **Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/ DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug

information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

- **FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com
- **Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk
- **National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk
- **Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>
- **Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org
- **Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>
- **Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk
- **Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

Domestic Violence (DV)

- If children are in homes where a DV incidence occurs, the school refers them via the help desk 01452 426565 for MARAC (multi agency risk assessment committee)
- <http://www.gscb.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=56459&p=0>
- Social Care may become involved and carry out an initial assessment to ensure the child is protected from harm.

Fabricated or induced illness

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-in-whom-illness-is-fabricated-or-induced>

Faith Abuse

- SAFE is the Multi –faith safeguarding hub for resources and information
- <http://www.safenetwork.org.uk/resources/mfsh/Pages/mfs-hub.aspx>

Female Genital Mutilation

- Most common in 5 – 15 year olds; girls may talk of ‘becoming a woman’ or a ‘spiritual journey’. This may be coupled with a request for holiday or a disappearance. An information leaflet is in the school staffroom; as a school all staff need to understand the term and the clear message that it is not acceptable practice which must be reported.
- The most recent estimates from the Home Office predict that 65,000 girls are at risk of Female Genital Mutilation in the UK with up to 3 million girls worldwide undergoing Female Genital Mutilation every year. The practice is very harmful and can cause long-term mental and physical suffering, difficulty in giving birth, infertility and even death.
- **Call the Children’s Helpdesk 01452 426565 or the Police on 101**

Forced Marriage (FM): A Forced Marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not (or in the case of some adults with support needs, cannot) consent to the marriage and duress involved. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual, emotional pressure.

- <http://www.gscb.org.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=59139&p=0>
- **Contact Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Co-ordinator at Faye Kamara or Jo Murcurio**
- faye.kamara@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Gangs and Youth Violence

- **Contact – Police/ Children’s Helpdesk**

Gender Based Violence/ Honour Based Violence/ Forced Marriage

- Honour based violence is a crime or incident, which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and /or community.

Mental Health

Mental health problems in primary aged pupils are becoming more common and more children are living within families where there are mental health problems. See ‘The Mental Health Handbook for Primary Schools’ Belinda Heaven. Mrs Mel Davis and Mrs Gina Matthews have attended training.

Suicides/ near suicides/ pupils self-harming: primary school staff needs to be aware and listening to pupils who are talking about harming, wanting to kill themselves, wishing they were dead. Gloucestershire's Online Pupil Survey can also be used to identify trends, concerns and issues in the school and can act on that information.

- CYPs professional helpline 01452 894272 for when a child needs help.
- Contact Fiona Quan or <http://www.ghll.org.uk/>
- Child Line 0800 1111
- On Your Mind website(NHS)
- Trailblazers-mental health support for low-level issues. Referral can be made through school

Private Fostering

- We will refer to the Children's Helpdesk if we think there is a private fostering arrangement in place. We will refer before the 28 days notification point.
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274414/Children Act 1989 private fostering.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274414/Children%20Act%201989%20private%20fostering.pdf)

Radicalisation

- We are aware of this issue and raised awareness through staff meetings. Key Staff and Governors have accessed on line training.

Sexting

- This puts the child at risk of exploitation and is a criminal offence. Pupils may not know this and should be informed.

Teenage Relationship Abuse

- **Contact – Jan Courtney at Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning**
- <http://www.ghll.org.uk/>