



**Churchfields**  
The Village School

Atworth ∞ Monkton Farleigh

## Early Help Offer

Updated	September 2021
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Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later. Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the teenage years. Early help can also prevent further problems arising, for example, if it is provided as part of a support plan where a child has returned home to their family from care.

Effective early help relies upon local agencies working together to:

- *identify children and families who would benefit from early help;*
- *undertake an assessment of the need for early help; and*
- *provide targeted early help services to address the assessed needs of a child and their family which focuses on activity to significantly improve the outcomes for the child.*

'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)' guidance re-emphasises the collective responsibility placed on all agencies – including schools – to identify, assess and provide effective targeted early help services. An aim is to ensure that professionals are clear when it is their responsibility to help children and families as problems emerge from families living in difficult circumstances.

When involved in assessing needs the school will, where possible, seek to obtain the views of the child about their experiences, and will ask for their thoughts and feelings about their circumstances. Assessments will also include as much information as possible about the family history, needs, risks and strengths. This should lead to sound conclusions and outcomes, based on a good analysis of the information.

The school is committed to support young people and families, offering early help to avoid an escalation of issues. We aim to provide help as soon as problems start to emerge or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will arise in the future.

The following are examples of the types of help available from the school:

- *Benefits Advice*
- *Parent Counselling (subject to availability)*
- *Parent cafe / social groups / siblings groups*
- *Details of Out of School and holiday activities*
- *Provide contact details of other support services and agencies*
- *Parent Workshops, in school and externally*
- *Pastoral Support through our ELSA programme at both bases*
- *General care, support and advice*
- *A listening ear*

The Wiltshire Parent/Carer Council (WPCC) also publish their Early Help Offer [here](#).