

EARLY HELP OFFER

What is Early Help?

Early help means providing support to our children and families at Cotmanhay Infant and Nursery School as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life.

We understand just how complicated family life can be. From time to time, there may be situations where you need some extra help and support.

If things are not right at home, please come and talk to us.

We can help in many ways.

At Cotmanhay Infant and Nursery School, we pride ourselves in knowing the children well: we are alert to the welfare of our children and are vigilant regarding any situation in which we can provide support.

We have a number of systems in place to help and we seek at all times to work in collaboration with families, with openness, integrity and understanding and with the needs of the child at the centre of all we do.

Early Help is everyone's responsibility. You can speak with any member of the school team who would be happy to work with you or pass your concerns on to one of our Early Help team.

Early Help is vital because there is clear evidence that it results in better outcomes for children.

Our Early Help Team are:

- Miss Latchford, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Mrs Delbridge, Family Support Worker and DSL
- Miss Dawson, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCO
- Mrs Lane, Attendance Welfare Officer

1. Support for all children and families

We have an 'open door' policy to communicate, providing time to talk to all parents, children and families, to ensure all children are safe, happy and learning.

We are available to talk via telephone, Class Dojo and face to face and provide time for our parents to communicate and work with us (eg. Through structured conversations, Parents Evening meetings and good daily availability)

Our children are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff.

- They know that our staff take all their concerns very seriously and they know that they can speak to any adult in school.
- The Children's Voice is also represented by the School Council, which regularly meets with Miss Dawson.
- We have a school counsellor who liaises with our Early Help Team to provide TALK TIME for any child who needs it.

We have an effective PSHE curriculum which supports children and develops key skills, not only for school but for life.

2. Support for all children and families

We can work more closely with families and children who need some extra support

INCLUSION:

Miss Dawson is our Inclusion Leader and, with all staff, identifies children who have more specific and individual needs.

Interventions / personalised programmes may be used for educational, social, physical and emotional needs.

SEND funding pathways and target setting may be implemented. Parents / carers are always fully involved.

A different approach in school may be used including The Hideout or Busy Bees.

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER:

Mrs Delbridge is our Family Support Worker. She can speak to you about any support you might need for children and families. She is based in The Treehouse opposite the Headteacher's Office.

We can refer to other agencies to provide support.

Mrs Delbridge might complete an Early Help Assessment with you to help decide the support that would be best.

The Children's Voice is heard throughout all support.

Mrs Delbridge is a trained counsellor and trained to deliver the Solihull Parenting Programme.

ATTENDANCE is an essential part of early help - supporting parents / carers to ensure their children have good attendance and punctuality.

EARLY YEARS SUPPORT

The Early Years Leader is Miss Foster

Our Early Years team support children and families in many ways including with:

- Toileting
- Routines
- Feeding
- Behaviour
- Being ready for their next stage in education
- Partnership with other agencies such as the Health Visiting Team
- Encouraging strong parent partnership
- Speech and language development: we have 2 ECAT (*Every Child a Talker*) leads
- Physical Development: we use the ECAM (*Every Child a Mover*) targets
- Delivering parenting programmes based on the Solihull model, 'Understanding your child' course

SUPPORT AGENCIES WE LINK WITH:

- Cotmanhay People's Centre
- School Health
- Health Visiting Team
- Medical support
- Speech Therapists
- Inclusion Support Advisory Service ISAS
- Educational Psychology
- Local Police Community Support Officers
- DIASS (Derbyshire Information Advisory and Support Service)
- Homestart
- Talking Mental Health
- Children's social care

3. Beyond Early Help

We can seek further support to best support children and families

If the support we can offer and source for you just isn't enough then we can request further support and intervention.

This may be to Children and Families Services via a referral to Starting Point.

If your family experiences a crisis or a safeguarding emergency referral is made then a social worker may become involved.

We will continue to support children and families.

Mrs Delbridge or Miss Latchford will attend meetings and provide reports.

The following members of staff are trained
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS:

Miss Latchford

Mrs Delbridge

Mrs Bailey

There are 2 DEPUTY SAFEGUARDING LEADS

Mrs Haddon

Miss Stallard

USEFUL CONTACTS:

If you think a child is at risk of harm always phone CALL DERBYSHIRE: 01629 533190

- ❖ Domestic abuse support and information services in Derbyshire: 0800 019 8668
- ❖ DIASS - Derbyshire Information Advice & Support Service for S E N D: 01629 533668
- ❖ School Health Team: 01246 515100
- ❖ Health Visiting Team: 01246 515100
- ❖ Citizen's Advice Bureau: 0300 456 8390
- ❖ Derbyshire Recovery Partnership (alcohol / drugs): 0845 308 4010
- ❖ Talking Mental Health Derbyshire: 0300 123 0542
- ❖ P3 Derbyshire Homelessness Service: 0115 972 9874

If you have any questions please contact us...

via DOJO, phone 0115 930 2064 or email info@cotmanhay-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk

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- Mrs Lane, Attendance Welfare Officer
- Miss Dawson, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCO
- Miss Latchford, Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)