

The Acorn School

OFFER OF EARLY HELP POLICY 2018-2019

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Reviewed and approved by Proprietors: September 2018

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Approved by Headteachers: September 2018

James Whiting _____ *Barney Franklin* _____

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OUR OFFER OF EARLY HELP

Definition: “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 foundation years through to teenage years”.

Working Together to Safeguard children, DfE, March 2015

Our Early Help Offer identifies the need to help our children and families as soon as a problem starts to emerge, or when there is a strong likelihood that problems will develop in the future. All staff must be aware of the offer of early help. At all times staff should consider if there is any offer of Early Help that we can make in order to help a child to thrive. Early Help is an approach not necessarily an action. It includes prevention education as well as intervention where necessary or appropriate. In some cases immediate urgent action might be necessary if a child or young person is at risk of immediate harm.

The Gloucestershire Early Help and Targeted Support Service is made up of local teams of professionals who deliver practical advice and support to children, young people and their families.

Early Help at our schools are offered through the following areas in collaboration with other agencies:

The help offered is delivered by a wide range of professionals including:

- Education Psychologists
- Early Help Officers
- Early Help Social Workers
- Family Support Workers
- Play Workers
- Child mental health specialists
- Specialist behavioural support teachers and workers
- Gloucestershire Families First Plus Team;

The role of the Families First+ teams include:

- Supporting the co-ordination and development of local partnerships.
- Co-ordinate all requests for additional support on behalf of the partnership.
- Provide advice, guidance and support through Community Social Workers and Early Help Co-ordinators.
- Provide targeted support- a range of family support interventions including whole family intensive work, parenting groups, specific interventions linked to an assessment of need.

How can I access this service?

If you have some concerns a good starting point is to come and discuss your concerns with our designated safeguarding lead, Sarah Whiting, who can on your behalf, make a referral on a CRF (Common Referral Form) to the Gloucestershire Early Help and Targeted Support Team. If your child is pre-school age GPs, health visitors and children’s centre staff all know about the Early Help Service and can help to make a referral if that is what you think would help.

Our approach is to work closely with families and to hold a Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting so that everyone is clear about what we are trying to achieve and who is doing what. Before we can start to work with your family we need your consent. The work is confidential and you will be asked for permission for us to speak with other relevant professionals on your behalf.