



ARBORETUM PRIMARY SCHOOL

Early Help Policy & Family Support Offer (2026)

Aims and Principles

Arboretum Primary School is committed to ensuring that all children and families receive **timely, appropriate support at the earliest stage**.

We aim to:

- Identify needs early
- Provide effective support within school
- Work in strong partnership with families
- Prevent escalation to higher-level intervention where possible

Our approach is rooted in:

- Safeguarding first
- Inclusion and equity
- Trauma-informed practice
- Building relationships with families

Definition of Early Help

Early Help is the provision of support as soon as a concern emerges, at any point in a child's life.

At Arboretum, Early Help means:

- Acting early
- Working collaboratively with families
- Providing graduated support
- Using evidence and professional judgement

Graduated Response

Green – Universal Support

Low-level or emerging needs.

Examples:

- Minor behaviour concerns
- Early attendance concerns
- Friendship issues
- Mild emotional needs

School response:

- Classroom strategies
- Pastoral check-ins
- Parent communication
- Monitoring

Amber – Targeted Support

Ongoing or increasing needs.

Examples:

- Repeated behaviour concerns
- Emotional wellbeing needs
- Attendance patterns
- Family difficulties

School response:

- Pastoral involvement
- Family Support Record
- Action Plan (with RAG)
- Regular review

Red – High Need / Escalation

Significant or complex needs.

Examples:

- Safeguarding concerns
- Persistent non-engagement
- Complex family circumstances

School response:

- Immediate DSL involvement
- Early Help referral
- Multi-agency working
- Continued monitoring

Arboretum Early Help Offer

School-Based Support

- Pastoral interventions
- Emotional regulation support
- Behaviour support plans
- Attendance support
- SEND interventions

Family Support

- Parent meetings and advice
- Support with routines and behaviour
- Practical support and signposting
- Support accessing external services

Multi-Agency Working

Where appropriate, we work with:

- Early Help services
- Social Care
- Health services
- External professionals

Family Voice and Consent

We work in partnership with families:

- Parents are involved in decision making
- Consent is obtained before referrals
- Family views are recorded
- Cultural and language needs are considered

Exceptions apply where safeguarding concerns override consent.

Safeguarding and Thresholds

Early Help sits within the safeguarding framework.

Where there is:

- Risk of harm
- Immediate concern

Staff must:

- Report immediately to DSL
- Follow safeguarding procedures
- Record on CPOMS

Roles and Responsibilities

All Staff

- Identify early concerns
- Record accurately
- Follow RAG guidance
- Communicate with pastoral team

Pastoral Manager – Mrs Amanda Carvell

- Leads Early Help provision
- Coordinates support
- Oversees referrals
- Supports staff decision-making

Designated Safeguarding Team

- Oversees safeguarding
- Supports escalation decisions
- Ensures compliance with statutory guidance

Links to Other Documents

This document should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- SEND Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Family Support Documentation Pack