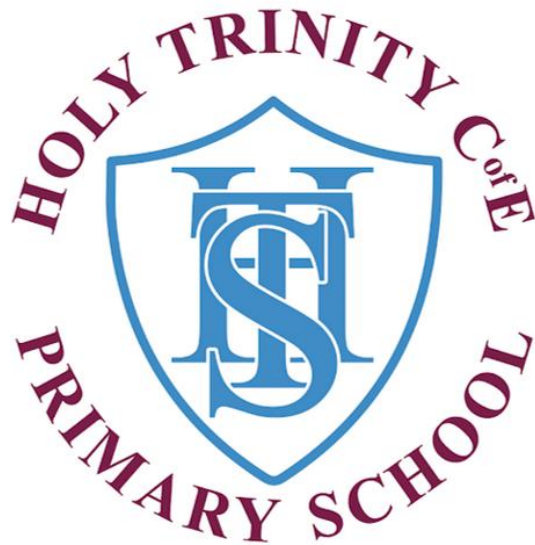




Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

A church school community aspiring for all to live life to the full.

Early Help Offer

Updated to reflect current DfE and Gloucestershire guidance

Issued	September 2026
Next review	September 2027
Committee	Full Governing Body
Early Help Coordinator / Family Support Worker	Mrs Jodie Childs
SENDCo	Mrs Helen Manners
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Mrs Jodie Childs
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL)	Mr David Le Templier, Mrs Lynda Britton, Mrs Helen Manners, Miss Charlie Horsey

1. What is early help?

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 problems escalating; for example, where a child has returned home to their family from care, or where there are emerging parental mental health issues or drug and alcohol misuse.

Effective early help relies on local organisations and 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 that focus on activity to improve the outcomes for the child.

'Early help' is an umbrella term describing the work of many agencies engaged with children and families, including health services, schools, learning providers, local authorities, the voluntary sector, children and family centres, police and housing providers. We are all engaged, to a greater or lesser extent, in work that seeks to avert a problem developing or prevent the deterioration of circumstances that could adversely affect children, young people and families.

There is a large body of evidence on the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on the health and wellbeing of children and young people, which can persist into adulthood. This underlines the importance of early help, particularly through developing positive relationships with trusted adults, which helps build resilience and mitigate the impact of ACEs on child and adolescent development. It also stresses the importance of whole-family working in early help, to understand and address ACEs in adults that may affect their capacity to care for their children.

Early help is about focusing on how we can help people to do things for themselves and build on strengths within families. Getting this right early, at the right time, gives people the opportunity to address areas of their life they may be struggling with, supporting a better long-term future. Support can be offered at any and every stage of a child's life: pre-birth, during pregnancy, childhood and adolescence.

2. Legislation and guidance

This policy is informed by:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 (KCSIE 2026);
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026;
- Working Together to Improve School Attendance (DfE, statutory guidance, updated July 2026); and
- the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Statutory Framework.

As a school, we follow the Gloucestershire Practice Guidance and the Gloucestershire levels of intervention guidance, available from Gloucestershire County Council.

3. Who might benefit from early help

Any child may benefit from early help. We are particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- is disabled or has a health condition with specific additional needs;
- has special educational needs, whether or not they have an Education, Health and Care Plan;
- has a mental health need;
- is a young carer;

- is showing signs of being drawn into anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement, county lines or organised crime;
- is frequently missing, or goes missing, from care or from home;
- is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking, or sexual or criminal exploitation;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- has a family member in prison, or is affected by parental offending;
- is in a family experiencing challenges such as drug and alcohol misuse, adult mental health issues or domestic abuse;
- is misusing alcohol or other drugs themselves;
- has returned home to their family from care;
- is at risk of honour-based abuse, including female genital mutilation or forced marriage;
- is a privately fostered child;
- is persistently absent from education, including persistent absence for part of the school day; or
- is exposed to online risks, including misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories.

4. How we offer early help

All staff are alert to the need for prevention and early intervention, and offer the 'right help at the right time' through, for example:

- an approachable, open-door culture for all parents/carers and children;
- pupil progress meetings;
- supervision and consultation with the DSL or a DDSL;
- family support work;
- SENDCo support, including My Plan, My Plan+ and annual reviews;
- additional support for pupils who are Pupil Premium;
- My Plan+ assessments and Team Around the Child/family meetings;
- signposting families to services such as Family Lives;
- referrals to relevant agencies, for example a paediatrician, CYPS, the school nurse, Young Carers, Winston's Wish or Youth Support;
- referral to the Families First Plus team, for example for Triple P Parenting or family support work;
- referral to, and advice from, a Community Social Worker, including involvement in relevant meetings;
- signposting to the Gloucestershire Family Information Service;
- strong links with other agencies, including children's centres, preschools, the police, housing and health visitors;
- good liaison with a child's previous setting when they transfer to Holy Trinity; and
- a behaviour support plan, where appropriate.

5. Gloucestershire's continuum of need

The diagram below sets out Gloucestershire's continuum of need, from universal support through to specialist statutory intervention. Consent to share information is required unless there is a concern that doing so would place the child at greater risk of harm.



If you think a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact the Children's Single Point of Access (C-SPA) on 01452 426565 (option 1). In an emergency, always call 999.

6. Overview of early help services

Early help is about providing support to potentially vulnerable children, young people and their families as soon as problems begin to emerge, or where there is a strong likelihood that problems will start in future. The diagram below gives an overview of Gloucestershire's early help services.



Further information is available from Gloucestershire County Council's early help advice, guidance and support pages.

7. Record-keeping

Early help is flagged and recorded on CPOMS, the school's secure system for monitoring safeguarding and a wide range of pastoral and welfare issues, in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Every member of staff has an obligation to report any concerns they may have. CPOMS allows staff to record information in a central, secure record and have relevant people alerted immediately. Senior leaders can build a chronology around a pupil and produce reports on vulnerable pupil groups for case conference meetings, governors and Ofsted, in line with the Data Protection Policy.

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8. School indicators for early help

The table below gives examples of areas where, without intervention, a family may break down or a child may be at risk of neglect, or emotional, physical or sexual harm, including the risk of extremism. The school has no pre-set criteria for support: each case is assessed according to need, and a bespoke response is put in place for that child and/or family.

Indicator	Indicator	Indicator	Indicator
Low parenting skills	Poor diet – obesity or malnourishment	Low income or poverty	Transport
Substance/alcohol misuse	Young carer	Breakdown in family relationships	Special educational needs (refer to Local and School offer)
Domestic abuse	Breakdown in community relationships	Isolation	Disability of an adult
Child mental health	Adult mental health	Disability of a child	Child unaware of how to keep themselves safe online
Bereavement	Changes in behaviour and risk of exclusion	Poor attendance and punctuality	Cleanliness and hygiene
Child unaware of danger and how to keep themselves safe	Child demonstrating sexualised behaviours	Frequent house or school moves	
Extremist views			

9. Points of contact by level of need

The school groups its early help contacts into four broad levels: universal support, which is what all children and families would normally receive; community support, for a child or family who may need some extra support; specialist support, for children and families who need specialist input; and acute support, where a child or family needs a high level of support to prevent harm.

Universal support	Community support	Specialist support	Acute support
Family and friends; school staff; governors; Parent Teacher Association; Breakfast Club; After School Club; community clubs (e.g. sports, arts)	Family Support Worker; SENCO; school safeguarding team; school online safety lead; police community support officers (PCSOs); police; GP; health visitor; midwife; school nurse; district/county council; food bank; school staff; LA SEN team; landlords; Young Carers; Citizens Advice Bureau; Job Centre; Traveller Support Services; interpreter; Education Performance and Inclusion	Families First Plus Team; school safeguarding team; social care (initial/core assessment); parenting courses (e.g. Webster Stratton, Triple P); paediatrician; counselling; play therapy; art therapy; 1:1 therapy from specialist therapists; Children and Young People's Services (CYPS); Education Performance and Inclusion Team (EPIT); physiotherapist; Green Square;	Social care – child protection (CP) or child in need (CIN); school safeguarding team; social worker; police protection order (PPO); care proceedings; counselling

	Team (EPIT); children's centre; liaison with previous settings	Keep Safe Work; occupational therapist	
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10. Sources of support and useful links

The table below sets out examples of sources of support and useful links that staff and families may use. This is not an exhaustive list.

Topic	Details
Advisory Teaching Service	Helps children and young people participate and achieve, by developing the skills of the individual and their families, schools and settings, through collaborative working in which the voice of the child is paramount. See Gloucestershire County Council's SEND support services pages.
Bereavement	Winston's Wish; Cruse.
Children in Care	Virtual School. Designated Teacher: Mrs Helen Manners
Children Missing Education	Education Performance and Inclusion Team. Unauthorised absence over 10 days is reported to the Local Authority, or after 2 days where a child is in care or on a child protection plan. All staff are aware of the Child Missing Education protocol (see the Attendance and Punctuality Policy).
Children of Offenders	NICCO (National Information Centre on Children of Offenders).
Child sexual exploitation	Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL); NSPCC PANTS rule; screening tool available via the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership (GSCP) website.
Domestic abuse	Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS); Your Future; Crush; ISIS Women's Centre.
Educational psychologist	The school can access support from an Educational Psychologist where appropriate.
Female genital mutilation (FGM)	DfE multi-agency practice guidelines. The DSL has completed Home Office FGM training.
Financial hardship	Gloucestershire Welfare Support Scheme; Trinity Cheltenham Money Matters.
Forced marriage (FM)	GOV.UK guidance on forced marriage.
Gender-based violence / violence against women and girls (VAWG)	GOV.UK policy on ending violence against women and girls.
Gloucestershire Families Directory	Families and professionals can be signposted to support services via the Gloucestershire Families Directory.
Honour-based violence (HBV)	Honour-based violence is a crime or incident that has, or may have, been committed to protect or defend the perceived honour of a family and/or community.
Housing issues	Cheltenham Borough Homes.

The Key	The Gloucestershire disabled and young person's register and information service.
Mental health	Children and Young People's Service (CYPS); adult mental health services; Teens in Crisis counselling. A member of staff has completed Mental Health First Aid training.
Private fostering	GOV.UK guidance under the Children Act 1989.
Radicalisation	Channel guidance. Staff have completed Prevent e-learning, and senior staff are confident in referring to the Channel Panel.
Relative in prison	Infobuzz, via the Gloucestershire Families Directory.
Sexting	Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL).
Substance misuse	Turning Point; Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL); Facts 4 Life.
Suicide prevention / self-harm	Children and Young People's Service (CYPS); adult mental health services; Teens in Crisis counselling. The school can access advice through the CYPS professional helpline, and is aware of the school's Primary Mental Health Care worker.
Teenage relationship abuse	Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL).
Wraparound care	Holy Trinity's Breakfast Club runs daily from 8:00am to 8:40am, and the After School Club from 3:20pm to 5:15pm.
Young carers	Gloucestershire Young Carers.

This offer will be reviewed at least annually, and sooner where DfE or Gloucestershire guidance changes.