

### **St Francis' Early Help Offer**

Every family has its ups and downs and everyone can find themselves in circumstances where they need a little extra help. Early Help works with families to recognise what's going well for them, where they may benefit from extra support and who is the best person to work with the family to make this happen.

Early Help is available for children and young people up to the age of 18. It is entirely voluntary, so if you don't think it is right for you, then you don't have to consent.

Our school can offer advice, support and targeted work with children and families within school and can if necessary suggest external and more expert avenues of help.

If you feel your family needs some additional support, please contact your class teacher, the head teacher or the SENDCo and you will be directed to the person who can best help. We will treat your conversations with us in confidence and will ask your permission before we share anything you tell us. The exception to this is of course any immediate safeguarding issues, where we will follow our safeguarding procedures and policy.

### **Some of the areas we can offer support for families includes:**

Bereavement  
Low-self esteem  
Food issues  
Parental separation  
Conflict resolutions  
Routines at home  
Anxiety  
Bullying

Friendships  
Challenging behaviour  
Sibling links  
Transition between classes  
Transition between schools  
Attendance  
Young Carers

Some issues may require long term support whilst others may need short blocks of time or an isolated session. All additional support works in tandem with general support from the class teachers, our Christian ethos and our school values.

### **What sort of help is offered by the school?**

Often it may be that parents want to talk about concerns they have about their child, but support can be offered in many different ways to help you in your role as parents. Here are just some of the ways we have been able to help families:

- Making phone calls on your behalf
- Writing letters of support to other agencies
- Help with filling in forms
- Giving a listening ear when parents and children just need to talk
- Attending meetings with parents
- Pointing families in the right direction for specialist help and support
- Parent Groups – offering training and support
- Parent Drop In Sessions
- Advice for school transition
- Additional settling in sessions for children starting school
- Working with children in small targeted groups or 1:1
- Individual educational or behaviour plans
- Working with individuals or classes on friendship issues
- Regular and additional check-ins with families and children
- Staff or pupil mentors
- Working with families to access specialist help eg psychologists, counsellors, speech therapist.

North Somerset Early Help can be accessed directly by parents and carers by following the link below.

<https://www.northsomersetsafeguarding.co.uk/children-safeguarding-board/i-am-a-parent-carer/early-help>