



## Early Help at KSM

### Kington St. Michael C.E. Primary School

Sometimes children and their families face challenges and difficulties and they may need additional support. Early Help is about providing effective support as soon as possible to assist children and their families before these difficulties become more serious.

At KSM, we work with the whole family and the child is at the centre of everything we do. We strongly believe that:

To be proactive and to **provide Early Help, in a timely fashion, is more effective than promoting the welfare of children in a reactive way, later on.**

At KSM, Early Help is our approach to identifying and providing support for children and their families where there are indicators of emerging difficulties or additional needs. These needs can include anything that affects health, development, wellbeing and safety of our pupils.

We support families and children by helping them to access specific agencies and signpost them to services which are specialised to help and advise us. This may include support to access a variety of different services such as: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), The Rise Trust, Relate, Barnados, NSPCC, Wiltshire Housing, Splitz, Citizens Advice, Wiltshire Children's Services, school nursing service and speech therapy.

We also offer a number of Early Help pastoral interventions in school, including:

- ELSA Support
- Parent Coaching
- Play Buddies and Mud Kitchen Recipe making
- Calm Club
- Repair Projects
- Forest School Nurture Group
- Repair Kits

In order to ensure we identify the most relevant service to support a family or a child, we may request to undertake an assessment of their needs. This is known as an **Early Support Assessment** or **ESA**. This is a **voluntary**, supportive process and helps to identify what support the child or family might require.

The focus of the ESA is to formulate a plan and a support package to help the family and child move forward. **The ESA is completed with the child, family and school in partnership.**



## What does an ESA involve?

### **The ESA involves:**

- Gathering information from the child, parent and anyone working with them.
- Completing the ESA to help identify the child's needs and what is working well for them. Once all of the information has been gathered, the parent or carer will be asked to sign their consent for the Early Help Assessment and for the sharing of the information. The ESA form is then registered and a copy is sent to all the services working with the child, along with any other services the parents or carers may wish to seek support from.
- Working together with other professionals to agree an action plan, which will aim to put support in place to meet the child's needs.
- Meeting regularly to review the process and record any progress through a Team Around the Child meeting, referred to as a TAC.
- A Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting is arranged to discuss the agreed Action Plan, ideally within 15 working days. TAC meetings are usually held every 6 to 8 weeks.
- Referring to other professionals and services to support and work with the child and family where it is felt necessary.
- When everyone agrees the child's needs are being met by the relevant services, the ESA can close.

## How will the Early Help Assessment help my child?

- It can help access the appropriate services for your child.
- It can bring all of the people supporting your child together for regular meetings.
- It can enable you and your child to have a say about their needs and how best to support them.
- It can help prevent you and your child having to repeat your story to different professionals.
- Successful ESA's can help reduce the need for accessing statutory children's services.