OUR EARLY HELP OFFER

Working together to support children and families

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At Moulton CEVC Primary School, we recognise that every family is unique and that family life can sometimes bring challenges. These might include difficulties with money, housing, relationships, health, bereavement, attendance, behaviour or a child's emotional wellbeing. Sometimes, a little help at the right time can make a significant difference and prevent difficulties from becoming more complicated.

Our door is always open. We have a friendly, approachable staff team who are happy to listen, offer advice and help families find the right support. We encourage parents and carers to speak to us as soon as they have a concern, however small it may seem. In the first instance, this might be your child's class teacher, a member of the leadership team or the headteacher. You do not need to wait until a problem becomes serious before asking for help.

Our Early Help Offer is not a separate service; it is part of the way we work together as a school community. We aim to identify needs early, listen to children and families, build on existing strengths and work alongside parents and carers to find practical solutions. Support is available to all families, and we will help you access further support when it is needed.

We believe that:

- Every family has strengths, and we will work with you to build on these.
- Children and families should be at the centre of decisions about the support they receive.
- Early help can prevent difficulties from escalating.
- Families should be listened to and treated with respect, kindness and without judgement.
- We will work alongside families and other professionals to find the right support.
- We will continue to offer support and encouragement, including when families are finding it difficult to engage.

How our Early Help Offer works

We recognise that families need different levels of support at different times. Our approach is therefore graduated, with support developing in response to individual needs.

1. Universal support – available to everyone

We want Moulton to be a place where children and families feel welcome, listened to and supported. Our universal offer includes:

- An open-door approach and approachable, friendly staff.
- Regular opportunities for parents and carers to speak with teachers and discuss their child's progress and wellbeing.
- A broad, inclusive PSHE curriculum, supporting children's personal, social and emotional development.
- Regular pupil voice and pupil perception activities.
- Effective online safety teaching.
- Attendance monitoring and early communication with families when concerns arise.
- Parents' evenings to identify and respond to barriers to learning.
- Extra-curricular clubs and enrichment opportunities.
- Wraparound care.
- Opportunities for children to develop responsibility and positive relationships
- Signposting to relevant support, information and community services.

2. Early identification and targeted school support

If we notice that a child or family may benefit from additional support, we will seek to understand what is happening and explore how we can help. Concerns may be identified through conversations with parents, observations in school, pupil discussions, staff meetings, attendance information or changes in a child's presentation, behaviour or learning.

Staff discuss emerging concerns regularly, including at weekly meetings, so that we can identify patterns and respond promptly. Where appropriate, we will speak with parents and carers to share our observations, listen to their views and agree on possible next steps.

Depending on a child's needs, additional support within school may include:

- Individual support and check-ins.
- Small-group interventions.
- Nurture group provision.
- Anxiety and emotional wellbeing group work.
- Lunchtime mentoring and support.
- Support with friendships and social relationships.
- Targeted work around behaviour, emotional regulation and self-esteem.
- Additional opportunities for pupil voice and individual discussion.
- Signposting to parenting courses and other sources of family support. (We subscribe to Face – ask for a code!)
- Bereavement and family separation support.
- Liaison with the school nursing team and other relevant professionals.

We will review support regularly, considering what is helping and whether anything needs to change. We will involve children and families in these discussions wherever appropriate.

3. Coordinated support – working with other services

Sometimes a family may need support that goes beyond what school can provide. With parents' knowledge and involvement, we can help identify appropriate services and work alongside other professionals to coordinate support.

This may include:

- Supporting families to access Suffolk's Early Help Assessment (EHA) process.
- Liaising with the school nursing team and other health professionals.
- Signposting to emotional wellbeing and mental health services.
- Supporting families to access parenting programmes.
- Working with services supporting children with additional needs and disabilities.
- Signposting to local charities and organisations offering practical or financial support.
- Working with other professionals to develop a shared plan where several services are involved.

Make a referral for an Early Help Assessment (EHA)

Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Hub (east and west Suffolk)

Where appropriate, an Early Help Assessment can help bring together the views of the family and professionals, identify strengths and needs, and agree on clear actions. The aim is to ensure that families receive the right support at the right time, rather than having to navigate services alone.

4. Safeguarding and specialist support

The safety and welfare of children is always our priority. We work together as a staff team to ensure that robust safeguarding procedures are in place and that concerns are acted upon appropriately.

All staff receive regular safeguarding training and updates, including training about different forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation. We follow our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and work with relevant statutory agencies when concerns require a safeguarding response.

Early Help is not a substitute for safeguarding action. Where a child may be at risk of harm, we will follow the appropriate safeguarding procedures and make referrals to the relevant services.

How to access support from school

If you have a concern about your child or your family's circumstances, please speak to us. You can contact the school office, speak to your child's class teacher or arrange a conversation with the headteacher.

We will listen, take your concerns seriously and work with you to consider what might help. Sometimes a conversation and a little support from school are all that is needed. At other times, we may work together to access additional support from another service.

You do not have to manage things alone. We are here to help, and we would always rather you spoke to us early than felt you had to wait until things became difficult.

At Moulton CEVC Primary School, we believe that working together, listening carefully and offering support at the right time can make a real difference to the lives of children and their families.