



Earl Sterndale CofE Primary School

Early Help

Created on	Review Period	Date of review	Changes Made	Approved by FGB on
November 2025	1 year	March 2026	New provision	10.03.26

Created/reviewed by: S Humpleby

If you are a child at home and are worried about something but don't have a trusted adult at home who you can talk to, remember the Childline number 0800 1111



At Earl Sterndale CofE Primary School, we recognise that family life can be complicated and, at times, families may need extra help. Early Help is the support we offer to identify needs early and provide the right help at the right time, so that worries do not grow.

We believe that by working together—children, families, school and other services—we achieve better outcomes. Where appropriate, we can signpost or coordinate support from a range of partners such as health, housing, family support workers, social care and the police. Our approach reflects our Christian values and our school ethos of “Making Good Decisions Together.”

Our aims

We aim to:

- Notice early: identify emerging needs and respond promptly.
- Listen well: hear the voice, wishes and feelings of the child.
- Work together: collaborate with parents/carers, staff and partner agencies.
- Offer the right help: match support to need, avoiding escalation wherever possible.
- Be clear and kind: agree goals, next steps and review progress together.
- Safeguard: keep children safe through proportionate information sharing and timely action.
- Be inclusive: provide respectful, non-judgemental support for all families.

Early Help may be simple advice or signposting, or it may involve a coordinated plan with other services. Our primary aim is to identify support early and put a clear plan in place.

What support do we offer?

Our Early Help offer sits within our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and our broader work to keep children safe.

1) Support offered directly by school

- Advice and signposting from the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Deputy DSL.
- In-school support: pastoral provision (including ELSA), check-ins and reasonable adjustments.
- Liaison and referrals to services such as CAMHS, Crossroads and other local providers.
- Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings held in school, where helpful.
- Voice of the Child work and direct work as appropriate.

We are unable to use the DCC Mosaic system for case notes/documents. Where needed, we will contact the local Social Care Office or the Starting Point advice line.

2) Enhanced offer via our partnership with Lady Manners School Family Support Service

We work with a team of four experienced, part-time family support workers at Lady Manners School, with complementary expertise and a family-centred, collaborative approach. Through this partnership, our families may access:

Therapeutic interventions

- Drawing and Talking Therapy (1:1 or group)
- Lego®-based Therapy
- Sleep Tight courses for families experiencing sleep difficulties

Parenting support

- Parenting courses hosted at Lady Manners School, extended to our primary families

Case management and coordination

- Early intervention case holding for students requiring additional support
- Meetings with parents/carers to complete Early Help Assessments (EHA)
- TAF meetings
- In-school sessions with pupils to support emotional wellbeing
- Referrals to specialist agencies for more complex cases

Access to this support is coordinated through our DSL/Deputy DSL on a needs-led basis and is subject to capacity within the partner team.

What sort of concerns might parents share with us?

Any worries that might be affecting your child, including: behaviour, routines/boundaries, sleep, mental health, domestic abuse, housing, financial stress/debt, mobility or caring challenges, a parent in prison, bereavement and loss, online safety/cyber-bullying, friendship issues, or anything else that's making life difficult.

How will we know when Early Help is needed?

- You tell us: parents/carers, children or school staff raise a concern.
- We notice: patterns in attendance, behaviour, learning, wellbeing or safety suggest that extra help could make a difference.

We will discuss your situation and may suggest completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA) to understand strengths and needs and to agree next steps.

How will families be supported?

1. Initial conversation with the DSL/Deputy DSL to understand your needs and agree what would help.
2. Early Help Assessment (EHA) completed with you (where appropriate).
3. Plan and support: this may include school-based support, Lady Manners' family support, or referrals to specialist services.
4. TAF meetings (if needed) to review what's working well, what needs to change and to agree actions.
5. Review and step-up: if there is no improvement or risks escalate, the DSL may step up to Starting Point. Where there are immediate safeguarding concerns, we will refer to Starting Point without delay.

We share information proportionately, on a need-to-know basis, and with consent wherever possible (unless doing so would place a child at further risk of harm).

Who coordinates support?

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Sarah Humpleby
- Deputy DSL: Dawn Clayton

The DSL/Deputy DSL can offer advice, signposting and coordination, and will make referrals where needed.

When is Early Help available?

- During term time through school.
- The DSL/Deputy DSL may attend pre-arranged meetings in school holidays for open cases where needed.
- During school holidays, we will signpost services and activities that remain open.

How to request support

- Speak to: the class teacher or the DSL/Deputy DSL
- Email: info@earlsterndale.derbyshire.sch.uk
- Phone: 01298 83263
- Ask for: an Early Help conversation or support via Lady Manners School family support service

Urgent safeguarding concerns

If you are concerned that a child is suffering or at risk of significant harm, contact:

- Starting Point (Derbyshire): 01629 533190
- If a child is in immediate danger, call 999.