

Early Help Support at Bramingham Primary

At Bramingham Primary we believe that Early intervention and support for children and families is key in identifying emerging needs and enabling access to support strategies, groups and services. This early intervention can reduce the need to escalate children or families to Social Care. We work with a variety of organization both statutory and voluntary.

Our Early Help strategy is one that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of our children and families.

In the first instance a parent can contact the Family Worker Team either through the Class Teacher or directly themselves. A Class Teacher may also suggest to a parent that support may be useful for their child or the needs that they may have shared with the teacher.

We will discuss with the parent/s or those caring for the child, what their concerns are and where they feel they need support. It is important we have a good working relationship with parents to best meet the needs of their child/children. From these initial meetings and conversations, we will suggest support strategies that may be school based or may need further support from other organizations. We identify with the parents and child the best staff member to work with the child within school.

School based

1:1 session with a Family Worker working on a specific need (for example Self-esteem).

1:1 work with a Teaching Assistant using resources provided by either the Family Workers or SENCO.

Daily “check ins” and prompts or reminders of key strategies a child may need to use

Supporting staff to understand the needs of an individual and enabling them to support them within the class-based environment.

Arranging meetings for parents with other relevant school staff.

Family Worker Parental support

Support for parents/carers can take many forms. We can support parents with making telephone calls to outside agencies or service providers for example: supporting parents on the phone to make payment plans for bills. We can support with filling in forms both paper copies or online.

We can attend meetings with parents in relation to their children, for example assessments at the Edwin Lobo Centre. We also support with High School applications and hold “How to apply for High Schools” session. Support through the transition phase for both parents and children is available where needed, this may be due to the complex needs of a family requiring a through and detailed handover to the recipient school.

We can provide 1:1 or group sessions for parenting. This can focus on routines, bedtime, eating, e-safety or more specific concerns. Miss Legg is accredited to deliver both Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities and Human Givens “Just What we Need” parenting courses.

Where possible we may be able to support with more practical measures. We have a small supply of preloved school uniform and on occasion leisure wear/coats. We have access to supermarket vouchers that we can give families who may not be eligible for Free School Meals or signpost to the Luton Food Bank.

We take time to meet with parents to talk through their needs and where necessary signpost or refer them to services which may be supportive of their needs. Some parents benefit from just having a “sounding board” or being listened to. Miss Legg is a Public Mental Health First Aider and also has completed Senior Designated Mental Health Lead training.

Both Miss Legg and Mrs Altaf are also accredited to use the Graded Care Profile 2 tool which can be useful in gaining an overall view of a family situation and can be used where needed to highlight strength and areas that require support.

We will also use the Luton Directory to look at more individualized support.
<https://luton.directory.luton.gov.uk>

Referral to outside agencies

We work closely with a number of agencies at Bramingham Primary. This may be through a referral into these services, but we may also host drop-in sessions or information coffee mornings/afternoons.

Some support organizations require a professional referral which will complete on behalf of a parents with their consent and input. Other parents can self-refer, and we can support with this where necessary.

We have termly or half-termly meetings with our School Liaison Team from Child and Adolescent Mental health to discuss concerns around children and they can advise on support strategies we can put into place within school or suggest to parents. Where the need is greater, we can refer to their service (with parental consent and input). We have also hosted information coffee sessions on the “Four A’s” (Autism, ADHD, Anger, and anxiety) and also 1:1 drop-in sessions for parents.

Organizations we work with (not exhaustive):

- Child and Adolescent Mental Health team
- CHUMS (Bereavement and Trauma)
- Young Carers Project (CHUMS)
- School Nursing
- Flying Start
- Level Trust (support with uniform, shoes and other resources)
- Green House mentoring
- Dietician
- Access to Education Team
- Education Welfare Team
- Elective Home Education Team
- Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech and Language (referral completed by Helen Shepherd Assistant SENCO)

Signposting

We also signpost to (list not exhaustive):

- Luton Borough Council (all council services including housing, Free School Meals and Transport requests)
- Autism Bedfordshire
- Luton All Women's Centre
- Citizens Advice
- Stepping Stones
- Government Websites (Universal Credit, benefits, right to remain)
- Victim Support
- Foodbank
- Level Trust
- Families United Network (Support for parents and children with SEND)
- Luton Total Well-being
- Women's Aid
- Debt advice organization's
- Luton Directory
- National Organizations such as NSPCC, Action for children etc...

Further support

Where the needs of the child are more complex and involve more than one agency but do not meet the threshold for Family Partnership or Social Care and sit at Level 2, we may consider a Team Around the Child (TAC) or Team Around the Family (TAF) meeting. This will be discussed with a parent to explain the need for a coordinated approach in support and actions to be identified with specific timelines and outcomes. There will be 4-6 weekly meetings where both parent/s and professionals will be invited to give updates on any actions. There will be clearly set expectations of how long a family or child would remain on a TAC or TAF. This will be set at the initial meeting and would be expected to around 3 months. However, during this time period, should the needs increase, actions are not completed, or referral be declined then an escalation to a MASH/Family Partnership Level 3 referral will be considered. In the event of a Safeguarding concern or where the child is at risk of significant harm, this takes precedent, and a MASH referral will be completed.

Where progress is limited or if the needs of the child or family increase then it will be discussed whether a Family partnership or referral to Social Care is required. These are both currently completed via an online referral form that goes directly to MASH (Multi Agency safeguarding Hub) and from there it is assessed. This requires parental consent. Where there are safeguarding concerns, parental consent to refer is not necessary, however it is good practice to ensure parents are aware of the need for a referral. There may be occasions where there is a risk of significant harm and a referral may need to be submitted to MASH without prior knowledge of parents, these occasions are very infrequent.

Contact

Should a parent wish to discuss their concerns about a child or their own needs they can contact either Family Worker via the school office on 617500, via email (as below) or via the Class Teacher.

- Miss Legg-clegg@bramingham.net
(Designated Safeguarding Lead/Family worker and Designated Senior Mental Health Lead)
- Mrs Altaf-galtaf@bramingham.net
(Family Worker)