



Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School

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Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School

Early Help Statement

Aligned with Wiltshire Council Safeguarding Protocols

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Due for Review: September 2027

School Vision

"Foundations for Life"

Our Early Help approach reflects this vision by ensuring every child and family is supported so that children establish strong starts and are supported to flourish throughout their primary school journey.

1. Purpose of Early Help

Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School is committed to identifying emerging needs as early as possible and providing effective support to children and families. Early Help is central to our safeguarding culture and ensures that children receive the right support at the right time. By intervening early, we aim to prevent difficulties from escalating and to promote children's safety, well-being, and educational success.

2. Definition of Early Help

Early Help refers to providing support as soon as a need emerges, at any point in a child's life from the early years through to adolescence (KCSiE 2026). Early intervention can address concerns relating to a child's learning, health, emotional well-being or family circumstances before they become more serious.

3. Criteria for Early Help

In line with Wiltshire Council Safeguarding Protocols, children may benefit from Early Help if they meet one or more of the following indicators:

3.1 Family Circumstances

- Exposure to domestic abuse

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- Parental mental health difficulties or substance misuse
- Housing instability or financial hardship
- Family stressors affecting parenting capacity

3.2 Educational Indicators

- Persistent absence or lateness
- Falling behind age-related expectations
- Emerging or identified learning needs

3.3 Health and Development

- Physical or mental health concerns
- Developmental delays or disabilities
- Limited access to appropriate healthcare

3.4 Emotional and Social Well-Being

- Signs of anxiety, low mood or withdrawal
- Difficulties with friendships or social interactions
- Involvement in risky or anti-social behaviour

3.5 Safeguarding Concerns

- Indicators of neglect or abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, or exploitation)
- Previous involvement with social care or Child in Need plans

4. Early Help Provision at Alderbury & West Grimstead CE School

All staff are expected to remain alert to children who may benefit from Early Help. We offer a range of support tailored to the needs of our pupils and families:

4.1 Pastoral Care

- A nurturing, family-centred ethos where every child is known and valued
- Regular check-ins with a trusted adult
- Strong relationships with families to encourage open communication
- ELSA/Chaplaincy support

4.2 Educational Support

- Targeted interventions led by teachers and support staff
- SENCO involvement to coordinate individual learning plans
- Small-group or 1:1 support for educational interventions and social skills

4.3 Health and Well-Being

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- Access to ELSA support within school
- Promotion of resilience, emotional literacy and positive mental health
- Support for children with medical needs in partnership with parents and health professionals

4.4 Family Engagement

- Regular dialogue with parents to understand family circumstances
- Signposting to external services such as parenting programmes, counselling or financial advice
- Collaborative problem-solving to ensure families feel supported

4.5 Safeguarding Response

- Early referrals to Wiltshire's Integrated Front Door (IFD) / MASH where additional support is required
- Multi-agency working with CAMHS, educational psychologists, health visitors and social care
- Use of the Early Help Assessment (EHA) to coordinate support where appropriate

5. Staff Training and Awareness

5.1 Annual Safeguarding Training

- All staff receive annual safeguarding training aligned with Wiltshire's Thresholds for Safeguarding Children Guidance
- Regular updates throughout the year to maintain awareness of emerging issues

5.2 Guidance and Resources

- Staff have access to Wiltshire Early Help documentation, including flowcharts and threshold guidance
- Clear internal procedures for raising concerns

5.3 Reporting Protocols

- Concerns must be shared promptly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL
- The DSL will determine whether Early Help is appropriate and liaise with parents and external agencies

5.4 Ongoing Professional Development

- Case discussions, reflective practice sessions and safeguarding briefings to strengthen staff confidence

6. Implementation and Monitoring

- The DSL oversees all Early Help cases, ensuring accurate record-keeping and timely referrals although DDSs may manage individual Early Help cases

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- Early Help cases are reviewed regularly during safeguarding meetings
- The effectiveness of Early Help provision is evaluated annually and shaped by feedback from children, families, and staff

7. Conclusion

Alderbury & West Grimstead CE Primary School is committed to providing compassionate, proactive Early Help to support the well-being, safety and development of every child. Any child may benefit from Early Help and all staff are expected to remain vigilant to signs of emerging need in line with Wiltshire Council Safeguarding Protocols. Our Early Help approach reflects our Christian vision and our dedication to nurturing a safe, inclusive and supportive school community where every child can flourish.

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