



## **Thorpe Hesley Primary School Early Help Offer**

Early Help is the support we give to children and their families where they have additional needs that are not being met by universal services (services that are available to everyone, like health and education). When a family has additional needs, we make sure they have access to the support they need at the earliest possible stage, to prevent their needs becoming so great that they require a higher level of more specialist support further down the line.

Rotherham Early Help is available for children and young people up to the age of 19 (25 if they have learning development needs or disabilities) and their families.

If your family needs additional support, you could receive Early Help from one or a number of services, which could include family support workers, targeted youth support, school nurses, speech and language therapists, housing workers, NHS staff and services in the voluntary and community sector. Thorpe Hesley Primary School works closely with our multi-agencies partners to provide the most appropriate support for our children and families.

### **Levels of support**

We offer early help, either through universal or targeted services, based on individual need, which we identify through an early help assessment of the whole family.

### **Universal services**

Most children will enjoy a happy, safe and healthy childhood with support from their families and from universal services like health and education. These are provided as a right to all children and their families, including those whose needs are also met within targeted and/or specialist and statutory services.

### **Targeted support**

For children and families who face more challenges and may have multiple needs, targeted services provide additional capacity and expertise to address their needs. A programme of targeted group provision and one to one support is available through a referral.

Targeted one to one support through a family support worker is available to children and families where an early help assessment is necessary because of the level of the child or family's needs and the number of agencies that may need to be involved in providing support.

The best way to get support is to talk to members of the Wellbeing team, Mrs Hewitt or Mrs Oakley and Mrs Brooks, who will be more than happy to talk to you about what additional help is available and how to access it, including the possibility of a Early Help Family Assessment of Need (FAN). This is a holistic assessment focusing on the child, the family needs and wider influences that may be impacting on family life, such as housing or financial difficulties. The assessment is used across all services who work with children, young people and their families, which involves the professionals meeting with you and your child/ren so that you can tell them what's working, what's not, what support you need and how they can help you.

The process involves recording the information provided during the assessment so that the type and level of support can be determined. An action plan is then created, which sets out this support, so, you know what you can expect from the services who will offer support. If lots of agencies are

involved, there may be a number of professionals working with you from different agencies, so they'll come together to make decisions. They're known as the Team Around the Family (TAF). A lead practitioner, who will be responsible for liaising with you on behalf of the group will be appointed – this is usually the person who completed the assessment.

**A list of support/programmes that school offers is as follows:**

A designated Wellbeing Team  
Breakfast club  
Afterschool Club  
Pastoral support from the wellbeing Team  
Support from a Trauma Informed Practitioner  
Foundation stage classes, including home visits  
Additional secondary transition  
Induction sessions for children starting school  
Special needs support as detailed on our SEND pages  
1:1 emotional support  
Support from With Me In Mind Team  
Parental support from With Me In Mind

**External agencies that school work alongside include:**

Bereavement support  
Educational Psychologist  
Occupational Therapist  
Physiotherapist  
Paediatrician  
School Nursing/Health Visiting/Community Nursing team  
Autism Communication Team  
Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)  
Visual/Hearing impaired team

Should you have any questions or feel you would like any support please contact Mrs Sarah Hewitt, Mrs Oakley or Mrs Brooks, who can be contacted via either school office.

To see the full local Early Help offer please visit:  
<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/family-support/early-help>