



The Cambridge Primary School

Early Help 2026

What is Early Help?

The purpose of early help is to prevent issues and problems becoming serious and harmful to a child or young person, their family and community. When children and families need this extra support, they often need it quickly.

Early help is part of our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children. By providing support early, we can help prevent concerns from escalating and ensure every child has the best chance to thrive.

Understanding Our Early Help Approach

The Cambridge Primary School is committed to striving to ensure concerns, no matter how small, are listened to and supported effectively, maximising the chances of effectively safeguarding all of our children.

We provide two levels of early help support:

Universal Early Help - support available to all families through our everyday school provision. This includes pastoral support, parent workshops, attendance support, and our nurture and wellbeing programmes. All families can access this support as part of our commitment to every child.

Targeted Family Help - more intensive, coordinated support when families need additional help from multiple services working together. This includes Early Help Hub coordination, multi-agency meetings, and family support workers. This level of support is provided when families need more than universal services can offer.

Our Early Help Offer

Support for pupils

- **Nurture Groups** - small group interventions to support social, emotional and behavioural development
- **ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) programme** - one-to-one and small group support for emotional wellbeing
- **Primary Behaviour Service (PBS) consultations and visits** - specialist advice and strategies for managing behaviour
- **Targeted academic interventions** - additional support for literacy, numeracy and other curriculum areas
- **Pastoral support** - including mentoring, check-ins with trusted adults, and lunchtime/breaktime support
- Promoting good attendance and punctuality through our attendance procedures
- Promoting self-esteem and confidence through our curriculum and wider school activities
- Promoting positive behaviour and positive attitudes to learning
- Providing individualised support tailored to each child's needs

Support for families

- **Family Support Service referrals** - access to specialist family support workers
- **Information and signposting** to other services in the local area (e.g., housing, benefits advice, foodbanks, mental health services, parenting courses)
- **Practical assistance** - completing paperwork and forms (e.g., housing applications, DLA forms, school admissions)
- **Attendance and support at meetings** - school meetings, multi-agency meetings, appointments with other services
- **Advice and support** in promoting positive behaviour at home
- **Parent workshops** - available throughout the year covering topics such as supporting learning at home, managing behaviour, online safety, and wellbeing

- **Guidance with career and personal development** - access to training and development opportunities
- **Foodbank vouchers/referrals** for families experiencing financial hardship

Working with external agencies

We work with a range of external agencies to provide specialist support:

- **School Nurse** - health advice, consultations and health assessments
- **Educational Psychologist** - assessment, advice and consultation on learning and behaviour
- **NHS Speech and Language Therapy** - assessment and intervention for communication difficulties
- **Occupational Therapy** - assessment and support for sensory and motor difficulties
- **Physiotherapy** - physical health support
- **Paediatrician** - medical assessment and diagnosis
- **CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)** - specialist mental health support
- **CAMHS Mental Health School Team** - early intervention mental health support in school
- **Hampshire Family Support Service** - intensive family support
- **Family Help Services** - coordination of multi-agency early help

This list is not exhaustive, and we will work with any appropriate service to meet the needs of our children and families.

How Does Early Help Work?

- 1. Identifying needs** - We may identify that your child or family would benefit from early help, or you can approach us directly if you feel you need support.
- 2. Discussion with you** - We'll talk with you about the support available and what might help. Your views and those of your child are important to us.
- 3. Early Help Assessment** - For targeted Family Help, we may complete an assessment with you to understand your family's strengths and needs. This helps us work out the best way to support you.
- 4. Support plan** - We'll agree together what support will be provided, who will be involved, and who will coordinate it. You'll have a clear understanding of what will happen and when.
- 5. Regular review** - We'll check regularly whether the support is working and make changes if needed. If things improve, we can reduce support. If concerns continue or increase, we may need to provide additional help.
- 6. Your consent** - We'll always explain who we're sharing information with and why, and we need your consent to involve other agencies (unless there are safeguarding concerns that mean we need to share information to keep your child safe).

Information Sharing

When we provide early help support, we may need to share information about your family with other agencies to ensure you receive the right support. We will:

- Explain who we're sharing information with and why
- Only share information that is necessary and relevant to providing support
- Seek your consent before sharing information (unless there are safeguarding concerns that mean we need to share information to keep your child safe)
- Record our decisions about information sharing
- Be transparent with you about our safeguarding responsibilities

When We Might Need to Do More

We always aim to work with you to improve things for your child and family. However, if early help support isn't improving the situation, or if we become more worried about your child's safety or wellbeing, we may need to:

- Increase the level of support through our Early Help Hub and involve additional services
- Refer to children's social care for additional assessment if we believe your child may be at risk of significant harm

We will discuss this with you and explain our concerns, unless doing so would put your child at increased risk of harm. Sometimes, despite early help support, concerns may escalate and we have a duty to take further action to keep children safe.

Early Help and Safeguarding

Early help sits on a continuum with safeguarding. Our aim is always to provide the right level of support at the right time to prevent problems from becoming more serious.

For more information about our safeguarding procedures, please see our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy on our website.

Contact Us

If you would like any more information regarding our Early Help Offer or would like support, please contact either:

Mrs Vaiva (Family Support) - fsa@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk

Mrs Abbot-Cole (SENCo) - senco@cambridgeschool.hants.sch.uk

We are here to help and support you and your family.