



# Early Help Provision at Rushey Mead Academy

Early Help means ***providing support as soon as a problem is identified, at any point in a child or young person's life.*** Early Help can also prevent further problems arising.

## Who will benefit from Early Help?

- Early Help is providing support to children, young people, and their families as soon as problems start.
- The purpose of Early Help is to prevent challenges and problems becoming more serious to the child, young person, the family, and the wider community, through prompt and targeted support.
- Early intervention can help children and young people to develop the skills they need to live happy, healthy, and successful lives. It can improve the quality of children's home lives and family relationships, increase educational attainment, and support good mental health.

## **In-school Early Help**

Rushey Mead Academy has 2 full time Family Support Workers who work with the Inclusion DSLs and all staff to provide support, guidance and make referrals to families and children in need of extra support.

## Examples of Early Help interventions in school:

- Meet and Greet
- Breakfast club
- Time out cards
- Bespoke timetables
- Use of, and support, via Rushey Restoration
- Home visits
- Draw and Talk
- Mentoring
- Support to attend medical appointments
- Support for young carers
- School nurse referrals
- School counsellor referral
- Mental Health Care team referral
- Food hampers for families in need
- Support with housing and funding applications for the cost-of-living crisis.

## **External Early Help**

Sometimes it is necessary to escalate to the Local Authority if problems persist despite school support, if needs are particularly complex.

## Who does an early help assessment?

- An EHA should be started by any practitioner who has identified additional needs for any of the children, young people, or families they are working with, when there are 3 or more agencies involved.

### Can families refuse early help?

- Early Help is voluntary and is about working alongside your family to support you, if you change your mind, you can withdraw consent at any time if you no longer wish to continue with the Early Help assessment process.
- Why might a child benefit from Early Help?

### What are the 4 levels of need?

The levels are depicted as follows:

- Level 1 Universal Services.
- Level 2 Early Help for children with emerging problems.
- Level 3 Child in Need (section 17 Children Act 1989)
- Level 4 Statutory / Child Protection.

### **Early Help referral examples include:**

- School attendance issues
- School avoidance
- Domestic Violence/ trauma
- Missing children
- Young Carers
- Self-harm/suicidal thoughts/attempts
- Sexual harmful behaviours
- Mental health concerns
- Eating disorders
- Family issues impacting on children, bereavement, drug abuse, separation
- Financial hardship
- Families struggling with parenting

### **More information**

Further details on Early Help assessments can be found here: [leaflet-early-help-services-for-families-version-1.pdf \(rushey-tmet.uk\)](#)

Our Early Help Policy can be found here: [Early-Help-Policy.pdf \(rushey-tmet.uk\)](#)