



Family Help at St John's Stonefold CE Primary School

At St John's Stonefold CE Primary School, we understand that the sooner support is offered to children and families, the more likely they are to thrive and overcome challenges successfully. We believe that every family may need a little extra support at different times, and we are committed to ensuring help is available as early as possible.

Family Help is about identifying and responding to emerging needs before they become more significant concerns. Support can be offered at any stage of a child's life and may involve advice, guidance, practical support within school, or working alongside external agencies.

Rooted in God's love and guided by our Christian EAGLE values and SOAR at Stonefold expectations, we provide a calm, safe and inclusive environment where every child is known, valued, and supported to flourish. Through our ambitious, carefully crafted curriculum, we nurture individuality, build resilience, and inspire children to grow in confidence, character, and curiosity as they thrive within our vibrant rural community.

What is Family Help?

Family Help is support provided when a child, young person, or family needs additional assistance to overcome difficulties and achieve positive outcomes.

The aim is to:

- Promote children's wellbeing and development.
- Support regular attendance and engagement in education.
- Improve emotional health and resilience.
- Strengthen family relationships.
- Reduce barriers to learning and achievement.
- Prevent concerns from escalating to a level requiring statutory intervention.

Research consistently shows that providing help at the earliest opportunity leads to better outcomes for children and families.

At St John's Stonefold, all staff understand that any professional can identify and provide Family Help. Staff seek guidance from the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs), SENDCo, Attendance Lead or Senior Leadership Team when additional support or signposting may be required.

How We Support Children and Families in School

We offer a range of support opportunities within school, including:

Emotional Health and Wellbeing

The mental health and wellbeing of our pupils, families, and staff is extremely important to us.

Support may include:

- One-to-one pastoral support
- Small group wellbeing interventions
- Nurture support
- Friendship and social skills groups
- Emotional literacy activities
- Bereavement support
- Mental health awareness programmes
- Signposting to specialist services

We are committed to helping children develop resilience, confidence, self-esteem, and positive relationships.

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance is a key factor in children's educational success and wellbeing.

We work closely with families to:

- Identify barriers to attendance.
- Improve punctuality and attendance.
- Develop attendance support plans.
- Signpost families to external support where needed.
- Celebrate good attendance and positive improvements.

SEND Support

Our SENDCo works closely with pupils, families, school staff, and external professionals to ensure children receive the support they need.

We follow the graduated approach of:

Assess → Plan → Do → Review

This process helps us identify needs early and put effective support in place to help every child achieve success.

Support may include:

- Classroom adaptations
- Targeted interventions
- Specialist advice
- Referrals to external services
- Individual support plans
- Family meetings and reviews

Breakfast and Practical Support

Where appropriate, we can provide practical support and guidance to families, helping to remove barriers that may impact learning, attendance, wellbeing, and engagement in school life.

Family Help Beyond School

Where additional support is needed, we can signpost families to a range of local and county-wide services including:

- Children and Family Wellbeing Service
- School Nursing Team
- Family Hubs and Family Centres
- Food banks and community support organisations
- Mental health and wellbeing services
- Parenting programmes
- Employment and skills support services
- Housing and welfare advice services
- Domestic abuse support organisations

The school can help families access the most appropriate services for their needs.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-and-families/lancashire-family-hubs-network/>

Parenting Support

We recognise that parenting can sometimes be challenging and that every family may benefit from advice and support.

We can provide information and signposting relating to:

- Parenting programmes
- Behaviour management strategies
- Family relationships
- Emotional wellbeing
- Child development
- Online safety
- Building resilience

Our aim is to work collaboratively with parents and carers to achieve the best possible outcomes for children.

Lancashire Mind

We are proud to signpost families to Lancashire Mind, our local mental health charity.

Lancashire Mind promotes positive mental health through prevention, education, and early intervention. Their services include:

- Wellbeing coaching
- Parent workshops
- Children's emotional wellbeing programmes
- Community wellbeing support
- Low-cost counselling and therapeutic services
- Training and resources for families

Lancashire Mind works to ensure everyone understands the importance of mental wellbeing and has access to support when needed.

<https://www.lancashiremind.org.uk/>

Skills and Employment Support for Adults

Sometimes supporting a family means supporting parents and carers too.

We can signpost families to employment and training opportunities, including:

- Skills for Life
- Adult learning opportunities
- Careers support
- Training and qualifications
- Employment advice

Supporting parents' aspirations can have a positive impact on the wellbeing and opportunities available to the whole family.

<https://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/skills-for-life>

Domestic Abuse Support

We recognise the significant impact domestic abuse can have on children and families.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about someone who may be, support is available through specialist local and national services.

School staff can provide confidential signposting and help families access appropriate support safely.

<https://nestlancashire.org/further-help-and-support/domestic-abuse/>

Safeguarding and Family Help

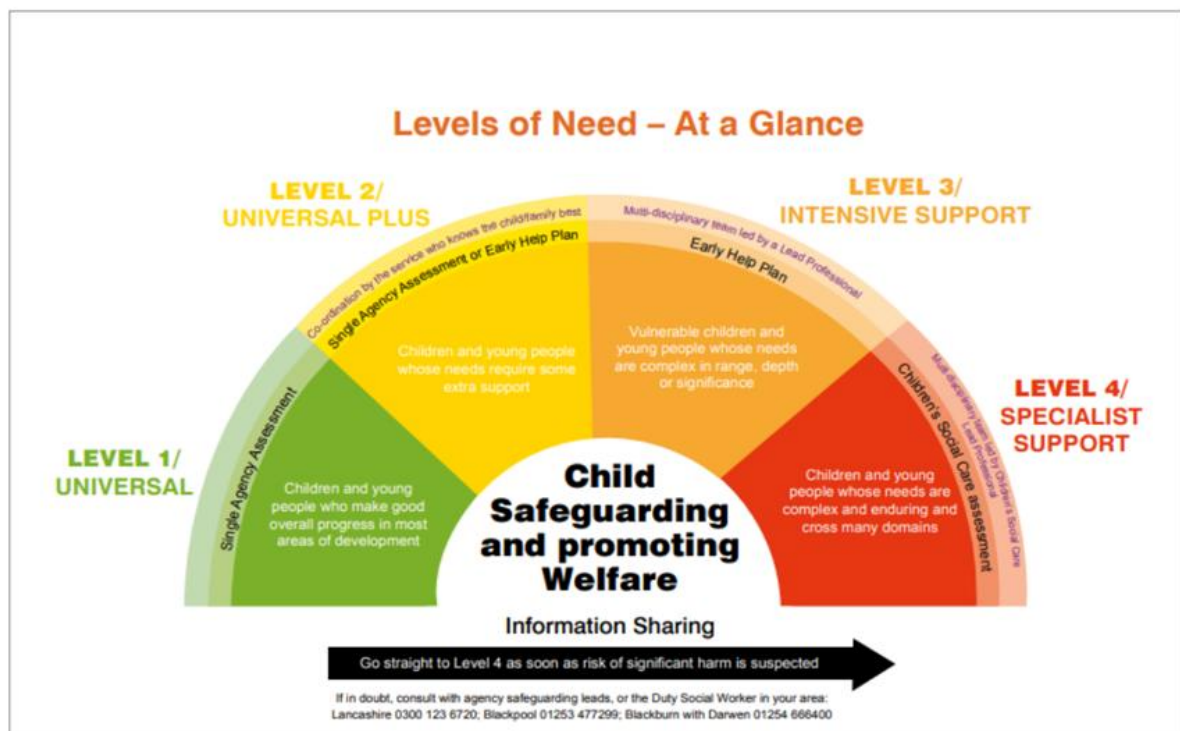
Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

All staff and governors have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Our approach is always to put the child first.

Where there are concerns about a child's welfare, staff will seek advice and take appropriate action in line with safeguarding procedures.

We work closely with Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) and follow Lancashire's Working Well with Children and Families guidance.

We also use Lancashire's Continuum of Need to help identify the most appropriate level of support for children and families.



Early Help Assessments

In some circumstances, a Family Help Assessment (Early Help Assessment) may be appropriate.

This is a voluntary process that enables families, schools, and partner agencies to work together to:

- Identify strengths and needs.
- Agree shared outcomes.
- Develop a coordinated support plan.
- Access additional services when required.

The assessment helps ensure families receive the right support at the right time and prevents concerns from escalating.

Useful Information for Parents and Carers

We recommend the following websites for information and support:

- Thinkuknow (online safety)

- NSPCC Keeping Children Safe
- Young Minds Parent Hub
- BBC Own It
- BBC Newsround Online Safety
- Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership

These resources provide practical advice to help parents keep children safe both online and offline.

Accessing Family Help

If you feel your child or family would benefit from support, please contact:

- Your child's class teacher
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- SENDCo
- Attendance Lead
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team

Together we will listen, discuss concerns, identify strengths, and work with you to ensure the most appropriate support is available.

Our Aim

At St John's Stonefold CE Primary School, we want every child and family to feel supported, valued, and empowered. Through our Christian ethos, EAGLE values, SOAR expectations, strong safeguarding culture, and Family Help provision, we work in partnership with families to ensure every child is safe, happy, resilient, and able to flourish both now and in the future.