



Meadowside Primary School

Family Help **at Meadowside Primary School**

Reviewed: April 2026
Next Review: April 2027

Family Help at Meadowside Primary School

Providing Early Help to our children and families at Meadowside means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can. Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to teenage years.

At Meadowside, all staff are involved in providing offers of Family Help to our pupils, but there are four key members of staff who referrals are made to:

Mr Dan Port: Head Teacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Whitlock: Head of Inclusion, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, SENDCo

Mrs Stevens: Pastoral support ('Thrive' trained) along with two additional ELSA's (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants)

Staff meet as a whole group and SLT (Senior Leadership Team) to discuss issues such as:

- How the child presents
- Behaviour and attitudes to learning (including frequency of suspensions and risk of permanent exclusion)
- Unexplainable/persistent absence from education
- Family member in custody
- Friendship or family issues
- Additional needs
- Any support they receive
- General progress
- Other agencies involved

This allows us to identify any children and families that would benefit from Family Help. It allows us to help them access services in the school and beyond the setting. From these meetings we form our schools' vulnerable list.

At school all staff have completed Child Protection training most recent being February 2024 with new training booked for February 2027

Prevent training – Radicalisation.

The head teacher has received PREVENT training and has trained staff and governors on how to identify the early stages of radicalisation and what to do. (most recent update Feb 24) We follow the mantra:

NOTICE
CHECK
SHARE

Child Sexual Exploitation

All staff at Meadowside have been trained to identify early cases of child sexual exploitation. At school we use the CSE Screening tool if we have concerns.

Female Genital Mutilation

All staff received training on FGM Feb 24 (as part of safeguarding training). Teachers know how to identify if a child may be at risk. They are aware of the countries and places where children may be taken to for this to happen. They know the signs to look for and most importantly how to refer, following the schools safeguarding procedures.

At Meadowside we meet the needs of our children through a variety of ways:

- Pupil Voice. Our children are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff or to our school counsellor. In lessons, children are taught to speak openly about their emotions through our life skills curriculum and other class and small group discussions. Our children know our staff take all their concerns very seriously. All concerns are passed onto the safeguarding leads.
- The GHLL online survey is completed by year 4, 5 and 6 pupils and the results are analysed. The results inform how we tackle matters such as bullying, diet and education. Results are shared with governors.
- Children sign up to an online safety agreement every year and are reminded of online safety at the beginning of every term.
- Our online safety policy is followed by staff and available for parents to view.
- Parents are invited to take part in online safety briefings, led by local police.
- We work with the NSPCC to provide information on how to keep the pupils safe.
- The Life Education Dome (Coram education) visits us annually to provide further information on age-related health risks pupils may face e.g. drugs and alcohol.
- The 'Facts for Life team' work with the school to promote healthy lifestyles.
- Dr Tom Robson has delivered staff inset and evening parental engagement workshops
- Our Head of Inclusion attends regular Early Help forums to network with other professionals and meet key note speakers to enhance our provision further.
- Parental workshops and discussion groups are signposted and hosted at our school.
- Our local PCSO attends our local peer groups support network and will visit and offer in house sessions with classes
- We have a visiting learning mentor to assist signposted children as well as a visiting qualified counsellor and play therapist.
- Parental workshops with our assigned Educational Psychologist
- As a trail blazer school we have access to Young Minds Matter and can refer for CBT or counselling for children.
- New local Family Hubs are promoted and celebrated with a westh of courses and workshops
- A new school offer of Family Help is available on our website for more detail of what we are able to offer or signpost parents to.

Attendance

Our school has high expectations of attendance. Attendance below 90% is addressed by meeting with the parents to look at reasons behind this. We have studies of positive improvements and also of cases where there has been a struggle to improve attendance, from which we have learnt a great deal. The school operates a first day response system. On the first day of absence we will call and find out the reason for a child's absence.

Safeguarding

- All teachers and staff know precisely how to identify and report concerns.
- Staff record their concerns about any safeguarding issues on the school CPOMS system
- All staff complete Meadowside Trauma grids
- ACES awareness
- Child protection files are monitored by the head teacher and assist us to build up a chronology.
- The school follows 'Missing from education' guidance.
- All new staff complete safeguarding inductions.
- The head teacher and other key staff are signed up for GSCE alerts.
- All staff have access to updates via regular briefings and a folder is kept in the staff room which is added to with updates. Staff are alerted to any additions to this folder via the weekly KIT.
- All staff complete regular safeguarding quizzes each month on a different topic to enhance understanding and practice.

We have evidence that staff have read:

- Keeping children safe in education
- Completed Channel training for PREVENT
- Completion of self-declaration.

Staff are kept up to date with changes to

- Safer working practice
- SEND Policy
- Online Safety Policy
- Behaviour policy

And any other relevant policies.

Behaviour at Meadowside Primary School

At Meadowside Primary School we believe that good behaviour and discipline are essential to successful teaching and learning.

We believe that **every member** of the school community has a responsibility for behaviour and everyone has the right to feel valued and respected. All staff and students have an entitlement to achieve their maximum potential in a safe and secure environment where effective teaching and learning can take place. It is our belief that good behaviour needs to be consistently and positively encouraged and valued.

How we support our pupils and families:

School pastoral support

Mrs Whitlock provides 1:1 work with children, whole families and/ or with parents and is highly effective in signposting parents to receive the correct help. Other staff will fulfil this role as appropriate.

Support by staff in school

Vulnerable children mentioned at staff meetings

Home visits with work given to children who are recuperating from illness/operation

Reception Play area used for key stage 1 lunchtime group to support play

Social skills group and small group work

Confidence and self-esteem building

Fine motor skills and speech and language games

Smart moves (gross motor skills)

Thrive sessions

Staff run Playmakers scheme.

Access to an external play therapist or learning mentor

Pastoral support at playtimes as and when needed.

Art Smart-therapeutic art activities and mindfulness

Let's Build-therapeutic Lego sessions

SENDCO

Mrs Whitlock, Head of Inclusion, works with children and families with additional needs and can signpost parents to many different agencies including for example, Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, School Nurses, Occupational Therapists and other health workers or services.

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Port and Miss Rebecca Kerslake (Child Protection Governor) ensure rigorous and robust systems in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our children. We always act in the interest of the child. Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (V Whitlock and C Mellersh) also fulfil this role.

We also liaise with other agencies and people within the local community:

Our Early Help coordinator (EHCO, Community Social Worker and School nurses all work collaboratively to ensure we are meeting children's needs, as well as with these listed below and important links we use:

- Gloucestershire Safeguarding Hub
- Gloucestershire Early Help Hub: www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/Early-Help-Hub
- Community Social worker
- Local Community Police Officer
- Mental Health: Healthy Living and Learning: GHLL
- Family Information Service www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fis
- <https://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/>
- Families First
- Navigation Hub
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre: www.thinkyouknow.co.uk
- Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

- Talk Well
- Young Minds Matter