



## Early Help Offer for Sladewood Academy

At Sladewood Academy, we believe that early intervention is key to ensuring that every child and young person receives the support they need to thrive both in and out of school. Our Early Help Offer is designed to provide holistic and coordinated support to children, young people, and their families, particularly those who may be facing challenges. By working in partnership with families and external agencies, we aim to address issues early before they escalate, promoting the best possible outcomes for our students.

### Our Commitment

Sladewood Academy is committed to:

- **Identifying Needs Early:** We work closely with students, parents, and staff to identify concerns or emerging needs at the earliest possible stage.
- **Tailored Support:** Our Early Help Offer is personalised to meet the specific needs of each student, addressing their emotional, social, educational, and physical well-being.
- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with families, external professionals, and agencies, ensuring that the right help is delivered in a timely and coordinated way.
- **Building Resilience:** We focus on strengthening the capacity of families and children to manage challenges, promoting long-term well-being and success.

### What is Early Help?

Early Help refers to the support provided to children, young people, and families when issues first emerge.

This might be related to:

- Learning and educational challenges
- Emotional or mental health difficulties
- Behavioural concerns
- Physical health or disabilities
- Family circumstances, such as housing or financial difficulties
- Social skills and peer relationships

Our aim is to provide this support early to prevent difficulties from escalating, ensuring students feel safe, happy, and supported both at home and school.

## How We Support

Sladewood Academy provides a range of Early Help services, including:

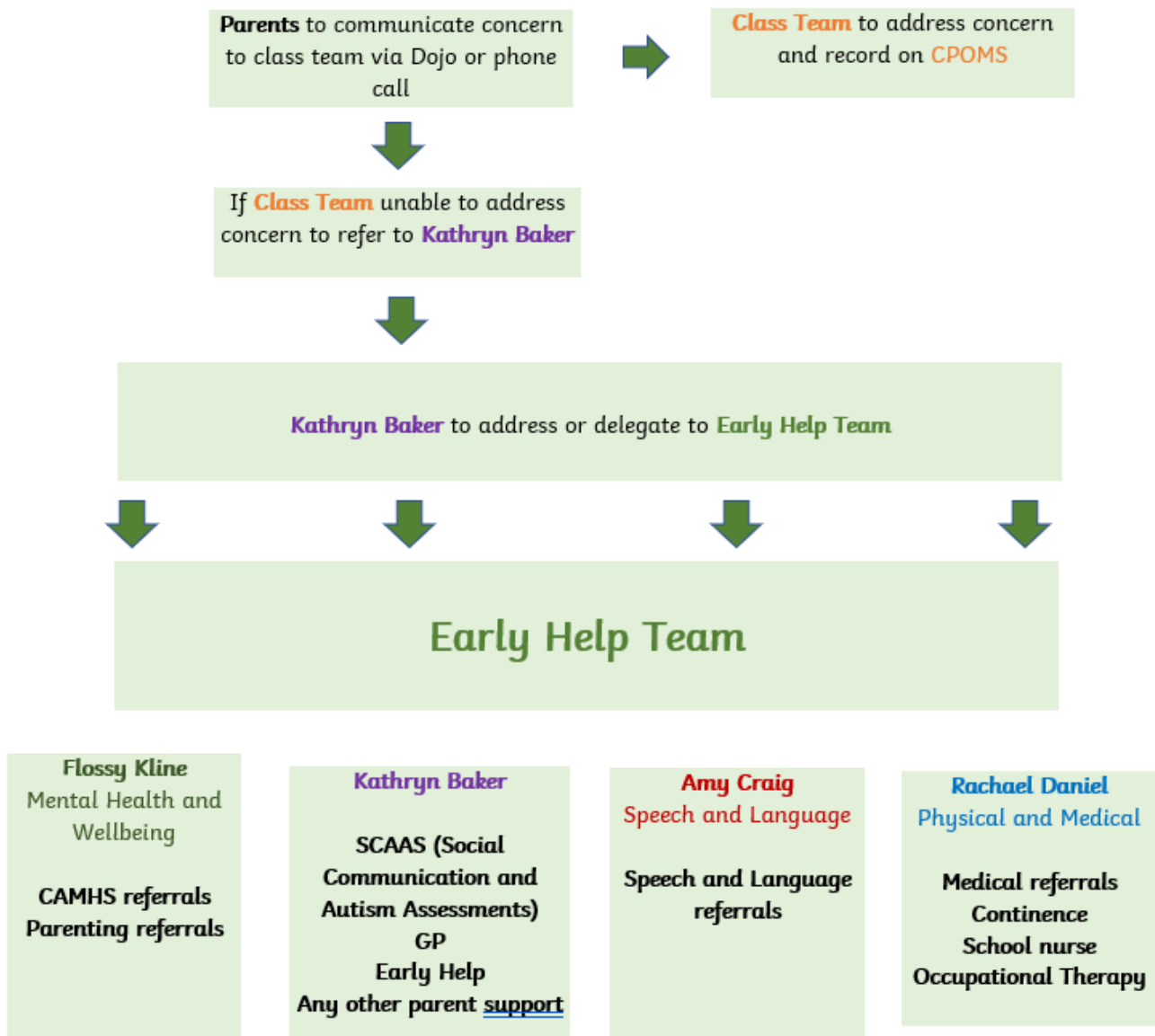
1. **Individual Support Plans:** Each student at Sladewood Academy has an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) that outlines their specific needs. If additional concerns arise, we develop individualised support plans in consultation with families and other professionals.
2. **Pastoral Support:** Our experienced Interventions Team works closely with students to provide emotional support, build self-esteem, and develop coping strategies. We offer one-on-one sessions, group activities, and safe spaces for students to share their concerns.
3. **Family Support:** We recognise that family circumstances can greatly impact a child's well-being. Our Early Help Team is available to signpost families to services that can help them navigate any difficulties they may be experiencing, such as managing behaviour at home or accessing external services.
4. **Multi-Agency Collaboration:** We regularly collaborate with other professionals and services, including social care, health professionals, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, and mental health services (such as CAMHS). This ensures a coordinated approach, with the right people involved in providing targeted support.
5. **Networking Opportunities:** We offer regular coffee mornings for parents and carers which focus on topics such as supporting children with special needs, meeting the communication needs of children with complex speech, language and communication needs, managing challenging behaviour, and understanding mental health issues. These coffee mornings provide opportunities for parents to network with each other, access external professionals and sign post to services within the community.
6. **In-School Interventions:** Sladewood offers a range of in-school interventions such as music therapy, play therapy, sensory integration including support with eating, and well-being . These are designed to meet the individual needs of our students and enhance their educational experience.
7. **Referral to External Services:** Where more specialised or intensive support is required, we help families access external services and professionals. We support families in making referrals to social care, mental health services, and community organisations that can provide additional help.

## How to Access Support

If you feel that your child or family would benefit from our Early Help Offer, please reach out to the class teacher in the first instance or contact Kathryn Baker (Assistant Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead):



## Early Help Support at Sladewood



We encourage open communication with all parents and carers. If at any time you are concerned about your child's development or well-being, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Together, we can provide the right support at the right time, helping your child succeed both in school and in life.

### **Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

At Sladewood Academy, we take confidentiality seriously. Information will only be shared with relevant professionals when it is in the best interests of the child and with parental consent, except where there are safeguarding concerns.

### **Conclusion**

Our Early Help Offer is an integral part of the support we provide at Sladewood Academy. By offering help early, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our students and their families, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to succeed in a supportive, nurturing environment.

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This Early Help Offer reflects Sladewood's proactive and comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of students and families, ensuring they are supported every step of the way.

## What other professionals and agencies are involved?

The following pages outline the types of Early Help which may be required as well as listing agencies and web-based information all designed to offer support quickly and effectively.

### Gloucestershire Family Support

Advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. FIS are a useful source of information for parents and professionals. They support families, children and young people aged 0-19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. They can help link parents up with other organisations that might be able to help or provide the information themselves e.g. parents could ask them about holiday clubs for your children across Gloucestershire.

- [Gloucestershire healthy living and learning](#) Support for families
- [Glos family support](#)

### Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Procedures

Important information for parents and professionals across Gloucestershire in relation to keeping children safe and avenues of support, including Early Help options.

- [Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Procedures](#)

### E-Safety

Technology is constantly changing. How can we keep our children safe whilst still enjoying the benefits of the internet?

The links below give parents helpful advice on this subject.

[www.paceuk.info/](http://www.paceuk.info/) <http://www.childnet.com/>

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

## Children or young people with multiple needs (vulnerable) or multiple needs (complex) requiring multi-agency input or assessment

Within Gloucestershire, **Early Help Partnership** (co-ordinated by Families First Plus) provides multiagency support for children and families. A phone call to discuss a possible referral is helpful before making written referral. Parents must consent to a referral. Sladewood Academy actively seeks support when appropriate.

- **Early Help Partnership/Families First Plus:**

[cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:cheltenhamearlyhelp@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

01452 328161

These teams are made up of Early Help Co-ordinators, Community Social Workers and Family Support Workers. They work together from one base so they can recognise and respond to local needs and act as a focal point for co-ordinating support for vulnerable children, young people and their families.

Support provided includes:

- Support for school and community-based lead professionals working with children and families, and collaboration with social care referrals that do not meet their thresholds, to co-ordinate support within the community
- partnership working to support children with special educational needs in school
- advice and guidance from a social work perspective on a 'discussion in principle' basis
- signposting children with disabilities and their families to access activities and meet specific needs;

advice and guidance to lead professionals and the provision of high-quality parenting and family support services to families.

## Emotional Health and Wellbeing

If you are concerned about your child's emotional health and wellbeing, please speak to your child's class teacher so they can help support your child in school.

For more information about emotional health and wellbeing, you can also visit the following websites:

### Childline

[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)

### Beat Bullying

[www.beatbullying.org](http://www.beatbullying.org)

### Young Minds

[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)

[School Nursing Service](#)

## Caring for Communities and People (CCP)

CCP is based in Cheltenham and aims to support individuals and families in a variety of ways. The details below have been taken from their website. Their contact details are:

**01242 228 999** or visit Cheltenham 1st Stop, 301-305 High Street, Cheltenham,  
GL50 3HW

For [Cheltenham Advice & Inclusion Service](#), call 01242 694530

### Their Purpose:

CCP exists to improve the lives of children, young people, families and vulnerable adults who have multiple and complex needs. Our priority is to those who have been excluded or have excluded themselves from mainstream services.

We work in partnership with the person and other agencies to create a sustainable and portable package of care and support networks, which enable them to realise their aspirations and reach their full potential in life.

### Their Mission:

- Promote and support healthy living
- Help maintain a safe and stable home environment
- Encourage and support learning and achievement
- Promote respect and positive social behaviour
- Encourage personal economic sustainability
- Provide both crisis and preventative services

## Drug Concerns

Drugs education is covered in the school PSHE curriculum.

[www.infobuzz.co.uk/](http://www.infobuzz.co.uk/): Info Buzz provides individual targeted support around drugs & emotional health issues, development of personal & social skills, and information & support around substance misuse.

[www.onyourmind.nhs.uk](http://www.onyourmind.nhs.uk) – provides advice on drug/alcohol misuse.

## Domestic Violence

If you, or someone you know, is affected by domestic violence there are a number of things you can do.

You can:

**Call the police** (999 in an emergency or 101 for a non-emergency situation).

**Contact GDASS** on 0845 602 9035 for practical local support.

- GDASS can help you and your children stay safe in your own home.
- GDASS can help you access specialist legal advice.
- GDASS can help you with other agencies (e.g. Benefits and Housing).
- If you cannot stay at home, GDASS can help you find a Place of Safety.
- GDASS can help you and your children move on.

**Contact a help line:**

- National Domestic Violence Helpline (0808 2000 247).
- National Centre for Domestic Abuse (0844 8044 999).
- Men's Advice Line (0808 801 0327).
- CARP: 0845 602 9035 (providing advice for victims of domestic violence)