

Early Help for Children and Families at Bellenden Primary School

The primary aim of the school's Early Help systems is to try to intervene early with families before it gets to the stage when a child may be at risk of harm.

At Bellenden Primary School staff are trained in recognising the signs of Child Abuse and Extremism and are committed to, and know the benefit of, Early Help as a way of supporting families and young people before their needs become acute and Social Care or other specialist intervention may be necessary

Providing early help to our children and families means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can when a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the foundation years through to the end of Key Stage 2 and even into the teenage years if necessary.

At Bellenden Primary School **ALL** staff have responsibility for Early Help and Safeguarding and are involved in providing Early Help to our pupils. All staff must discuss **ANY** concerns about **ANY** issues that may affect a child's welfare, attainment or happiness.

The staff below are designated leads for safeguarding in Bellenden:

Ms Kelly – Deputy Head Teacher - Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mr Doey – Executive Head teacher - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Ireland – Head of School - Deputy Designate Safeguarding Lead
Ms Gittens-Obika – SEND coordinator - Deputy Designate Safeguarding Lead
Ms Savina Abbott – Learning Mentor - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

The Designated Safeguarding Team meets once a month to discuss all Early Help and Safeguarding matters. These include:

How the child presents	Behaviour	Attitudes to learning
Friendships	Family issues	Additional needs
Any support they receive	General progress	Other agencies involved

These meetings allow us to identify any children and families that would benefit from early help; it allows us to enable them to access services in the school and beyond the school. Information for these meetings is gathered at weekly slots in our Monday briefings, where all staff can voice any concerns they have. From these Designated Safeguarding Team meetings, we form a list of our vulnerable pupils and plan support for them which we review regularly to ensure that the support in place is effective.

Involvement of Families

We welcome parents/carers who wish to discuss, and share, any difficulties that may be impacting on their child's education, welfare or happiness.

The school will always involve the family in all Early Help strategies and most will only be put in place with their permission. The school will aim to work with families in a supportive, non-judgemental way so that trust is built up and the best possible outcomes achieved.

Where further support is needed, we refer or link families to local council services, voluntary services, or national agencies when needed.

At Bellenden Primary School we meet the needs of our children through a variety of ways:

Listen to the child's voice – our children are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff. In lessons, children are taught to speak openly about their emotions. Our children know our staff take all their concerns very seriously.

Attendance and Punctuality

Bellenden has high expectations of Attendance and Punctuality to ensure that our children have every opportunity to learn. Attendance and Punctuality below 95% is addressed by meeting with the parents to look at reasons behind this. We work very closely with the Education Welfare Officer from the Local Authority. The school operates a first day response system.

Behaviour at Bellenden Primary School

Our Behaviour Policy is built around positive responses and values.

Children know how to identify bullying and unkindness, both of which are unacceptable. We have anti-bullying week and discuss any issues through PSHE, helping children understand further the consequences of bullying.

If children need further support for behaviour, we form a plan with them, their parents and their teacher.

How we support our children and families at Bellenden:

We actively encourage open dialogue between home and school.

In school we have the following provision:

Learning mentors– 1:1 work with children.

Art Therapist - 1:1 work with children.

SENDCO – Ms Gittens-Obika- 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, health workers, occupational health services and our link Family Support Officer.

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Ms Kelly and Gill Roberts (Child Protection link Governor) ensure rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our children. **We always act in the interest of the child.**

We also liaise with other outside agencies to support our Early Help offer:

Southwark Early Help Service: Family Support Officer, Education Welfare Officer, Community Social Workers
Summerhouse Behaviour support Unit

School Nurse.

Autism support

The Southwark Information Advice and Support team (SIAS) - an arms-length service which offers impartial advice to parents.

Southwark Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

Local Community Police Officer

Children and Adolescent Health (CAMHs)

Safeguarding

- All teachers and staff know precisely how to identify and report concerns.
- Staff record their concerns about any safeguarding issues on school proformas and these are handed in to the designated lead.
- Child protection files are kept by the designated lead, they build up a chronology.
- The school follows “missing from education” guidance.
- All new staff complete safeguarding inductions.

At Bellenden Primary School, we are committed to helping our children and families receive support when, and as early as, needed. This early assessment helps identify the specific needs of our children and families, so that they can be assigned to the correct interventions for their educational, social and emotional needs.