



Finlay Community School

ASPIRE BELONG ACHIEVE

Offer of Early Help

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting at a later stage. Early help involves offering support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the early years through to adolescence. Timely intervention can prevent concerns from escalating and improve outcomes for children and their families.

Effective early help relies on local agencies working together to:

- identify children and families who may benefit from early help
- undertake a timely and proportionate assessment of need
- provide targeted services to address those needs and improve outcomes for the child

As outlined in [*Working Together to Safeguard Children*](#), all professionals, including school staff, have a collective responsibility to identify emerging concerns and take appropriate action to support children and families at the earliest opportunity.

Early help support is usually provided with the consent of parents or carers. However, information may be shared without consent where there are safeguarding concerns, in line with statutory guidance and the school's safeguarding procedures.

When assessing need, school staff will seek, wherever possible, to understand the child's lived experience by obtaining their views, wishes and feelings. Information will take into account the child's individual needs, family context, risks, and strengths. This information will be used to inform a clear analysis and appropriate support plan.

The Family Services Team plays a central role in coordinating early help and supporting pupils and their families. The team works proactively to identify emerging needs and to prevent escalation of concerns. This includes:

- signposting families to appropriate external services and agencies, including those available through the Gloucestershire Early Help Directory
- providing pastoral support within school
- organising workshops and support sessions for parents and carers
- sharing information about out-of-school and holiday activities

School attendance is monitored by the Attendance Officer, who works with families to address barriers to attendance and promote regular school engagement.

Pupils requiring additional or targeted support are regularly reviewed by the Family Services Team. This team includes the Family Services Manager, senior leaders, pastoral staff, and class teachers. Together, they ensure that support is coordinated, proportionate, and responsive to changing needs.

Where a higher level of support or multi-agency coordination is required, the school will work with local Early Help Partnerships and Families First Plus teams. Practitioners and families can also access information about available services through the [Gloucestershire Early Help Directory](#), which provides up-to-date guidance on support available across the county.

Where concerns indicate that a child may be at risk of significant harm, the school will follow its safeguarding procedures and make a referral to children's social care as appropriate.