

Early Help



Approved by Senior Leadership Team: Spring 2018

Next Review date: April 2019

Early Help and the Inclusion Team at The Belham Primary School

What is Early Help?

Intervention and prevention

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 the teenage years.

Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later.

Early help can also prevent further problems arising.

Working together to Safeguard Children HM Government March 2015

There are times in a child's school life, when families and children need additional support to resolve a problem. The Belham provides a range of 'Early Help' services focussed on understanding need and providing relevant, (usually school based) services to support the family and child together.

The school has developed an experienced in-house team to be able to meet needs when they arise.

The services to be accessed via Early Help are, in the main, school "owned" and we aim to provide a personalised, school based approach, involving a team of staff, who offer a range of skills and experience This provides a responsive, tailored approach and one in which information can be quickly, and appropriately, shared amongst staff working with the family.

We have links with a range of outside agencies with whom we liaise, and can make referrals, and with whom we share information. We may signpost and support families into accessing these services.

The School Community

If children and families are to receive the right help at the right time, everyone who comes into contact with them has a role to play in identifying concerns, sharing information and taking prompt action.

School staff are particularly important as they are in a position to identify concerns early, providing help for children, and be available for families to talk, preventing concerns from escalating. All school staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn. All school staff play a role in identifying children who may benefit from early help and in liaising with staff from other agencies who support the child and family.

At the Belham we aim to be accessible and outward looking, and encourage open and honest two way communications with our parents.

Parents can contact staff at any time through the school email address, putting 'Early Help Query' in the subject line.

In School Support and Intervention

We have staff, in school, trained to provide;

- Talking and Drawing therapy,
- Lego therapy,
- Creative Communication
- Dyslexia support
- Delivery of Motor Skills programmes.

We provide;

- Parenting workshops
- Facilitated “coffee mornings”
- Parent coaching and mentoring
- Places at Breakfast and After School Clubs

The School Community

- Teachers
- The BASC Team
- Teaching Assistants
- Office staff
- School Governors

All staff are available to talk with and to support families and children.

School Attendance Officer

Janiece Fiona-Calendar

School admin officer
Attendance and punctuality link
Trained in family link working

Parenting Coach Learning Coach Mentor

Lorraine Thomas

<http://www.theparentcoachingacademy.com>

Early Help at The Belham Primary School

Speech and Language Therapy

Sarah Buckley Therapy

<http://www.sarahbuckleytherapies.co.uk/>

Outside Agencies – Signposting, referral and liaison

- School Nursing Team
- Southwark Educational Welfare Officers
- The team at Sunshine House (Social Communication, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Paediatrics)
- Solace
- Southwark’s Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Southwark Early Help Team
- Children’s Social Care

Educational Psychology

Pascale Mather

Pascale can support staff and parents in understanding children’s behaviour and offer strategies to help improve engagement in learning.