



## **Parkside Middle School**

### **Offer of Early Help for Children and Families**

The Early Help Offer at Parkside Middle School is an approach not a service.

Our aim at Parkside Middle School is to promote the safety, well-being and resilience of all children and their families, so that they can be safe, healthy and meet their true potential.

Our aim is to offer Early Help as soon as possible to children and families who require support. Every family has a right to access information to help them manage their lives successfully and guide them to appropriate sources of support. Help can then be agreed as soon as concerns start to emerge.

The 'Offer' is for all children, as issues may arise at any point in a child or young person's life. It includes both universal and targeted /specialist services, to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched.

#### **Our Inclusion Team:**

We have a team of individuals who work together to ensure all children at our school are kept safe and that their needs are effectively met. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs R Jenkin, Deputy Headteacher.

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are:

Mr S Swaffield (Pastoral Manager)

Mrs M Moffatt (SENDCo)

Miss N O'Hara (Lead Thrive Practitioner)

Mrs K Varley (Welfare Manager)

Mrs K Gunn (Inclusion and Assessment Administrator)

The school values Safeguarding training at all levels. At Parkside Middle School our staff receive training on the following:

- **PREVENT TRAINING – Radicalisation.**

Every member of staff has PREVENT training and yearly refresher training ensures vigour. We follow the mantra;

NOTICE

CHECK

SHARE

- **Child Sexual Exploitation**

All staff at Parkside Middle School 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 and know how to identify if a child may be at risk. They are aware of the countries and places within this country 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.

All staff receive Safeguarding Training as part of their induction and this training is updated regularly throughout the academic year. The DSL is also a Safeguarding Champion for Worcestershire, supporting schools with strengthening their safeguarding procedures.

The school is signed up for Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Boards' alerts keeping their knowledge and awareness of Safeguarding up to date and at the heart of their practice.

The Parkside team work closely together and meet regularly to discuss the needs and provision in place for children and families. Through these meetings the team can discuss early signs of intervention needed for families and children, using concerns brought forward by teachers or parents as well as communications with other professionals. It is then that the assessment of Early Help can be carried out.

At Parkside Middle School our Inclusion Team and Curriculum Team meet once every half term to discuss each child's performance.

At these meetings we discuss:

How the child presents	Behaviour	Attitudes to learning
Friendships	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 early help, it allows us to help them access to services in the school and beyond the school. From these meetings we form our school's vulnerable pupils list.

## **Attendance**

Outstanding attendance is promoted by the school. Where there are any concerns regarding attendance, the school will contact parents/carers to arrange a meeting.

## **Behaviour at Parkside Middle School**

The school has some simple rules to remember:

### **These rules are non-negotiable**

- We always wear the correct uniform with pride.
- We are polite, kind and look after each other.
- We walk around the school quietly and never push or shove.
- We keep our corridors and classrooms tidy.
- We only ever use appropriate language.
- Physical aggression will not be tolerated.
- We do not tolerate bullying or discrimination.
- We do not use our mobile phones on the school premises.
- No chewing gum.
- We only drink (can be flavoured) water in a clear, plastic bottle – no coloured drinks are allowed.
- We always bring our planner to class.

### **What Is on Offer?**

At Parkside Middle School early assessments help 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.

**At Parkside Middle School we meet the needs of our children through a variety of ways:**

- Providing a safe, calm place for any student who is upset and needs time to compose themselves before returning to lessons.
- Offering support, counselling and advice to students with problems such as friendship issues, lack of confidence, eating disorders, sexuality, bereavement, self-harm or family difficulties.
- Referring to other more specialist agencies such as the School Nurse, Touchstones, Children's Services, and Early Help.
- Finding solutions to minor problems affecting the student's ability to learn.
- Assisting the Head of Year with pastoral issues.
- Meeting with students and parents when necessary to discuss any matters influencing the student in school.
- Supporting the students to develop the necessary skills to resolve problems themselves.
- Dealing with issues arising from uniform or other school rules.

Our pupils are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff or to our Welfare Manager. In lessons children are taught to speak openly about their emotions (SEAL/PHSE/Thrive). Our pupils know our staff take all their concerns very seriously. Every child has a safe and trusted person; however, they know they can speak to anyone or add comments to our worry boxes which are situated in every classroom.

- Children's questionnaires are used to ascertain if our pupils feel happy and safe at school. Children who comment negatively on this are offered support.
- All pupils participate in a unit of work on E-Safety. Pupils are given further advice through assemblies, through intervention workshops and our Social Awareness Day.
- Our local PCSO conducts assemblies for E-Safety and stranger danger. The Police support us and our pupils in addressing contextual safeguarding issues, for example, concerns that may arise in the local area.
- Thrive is an excellent vehicle for discussing emotion and wellbeing, pupil voice is most prevalent here.
- Our Prefects; Well-Being Champions and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors receive training to help them support all pupils.
- When we conduct pupil voice for any subject or learning walk, we always ask children: Are you happy? Do you feel safe?
- We have a School Council who regularly discuss issues raised by pupils. They liaise with the Senior Leadership Team to ensure that any concerns are shared.

To ensure we support children's needs effectively, we offer a range of in school interventions that support children's needs in different ways ranging from developing self-esteem to simply just making time to talk. We have designated appropriately trained members of staff who deliver these interventions.

- Our Pastoral Manager, Mr Swaffield, and Welfare Manager, Mrs Varley, work 1:1 with children and can signpost parents/carers to receive the correct help.
- Our SENCO, Mrs Moffatt, works with children and families with additional needs and can signpost parents to many different agencies including for example, speech and language therapists, Educational Psychiatrists, health workers and occupational health services.
- Our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Jenkin and Mrs C Simmons (Safeguarding Governor) ensure rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all our children. At Parkside Middle School, we always act in the interest of the child. The school works with Children's Services to support families. If the school are concerned, we will contact the Family Front Door at the Children's Services.
- Our Head of Computing, Miss Nuttall, offers personalised e-safety intervention to pupils and support sessions for our families.
- The school uses the Thrive approach to supporting pupils' emotional well-being. Thrive is a therapeutic approach to help support children with their emotional and social development. The Thrive approach offers practical strategies and techniques and is built around online assessments which identify children's emotional development and provides action plans for their individual needs. If a pupil is highlighted through the class online screening tool, then they may receive either a 1:1 Thrive intervention or a small group Thrive session. This could be short-term or long-term. During whole-class Thrive sessions form tutors will work on a detailed action plan which will help to address the needs of the class. The areas of need will be highlighted after the class have been screened using the online tool.
- At Parkside Middle School we take children's well-being very seriously. We have a full time Welfare Manager who supports all our pupils. The school has 12 named pupils who are 'Well-Being Champions' who promote positive mental health across the school. We educate our pupils in national awareness days such as World Mental Health day and hold various Inspiration days where we promote positive well-being and teach pupils how best to take care of their mental health.

As a school we recognise that early intervention is essential if we are to secure the best outcomes for our Children and their families.

- We have a level 2 Family Support Worker who is based onsite and have access to level 3 Targeted Family Support. Both support workers can work with pupils and their families in school and within their home, offering practical help and emotional support for those families experiencing various problems and difficulties at home.

We will work together with:

- Social Care
- Community Social Workers
- Health care professionals, for example, the school nurse, paediatricians and GPs
- Educational Psychology Service
- Police
- Local Authority Services
- Virtual School
- Bereavement Services
- Young Carers
- Redditch Borough Council e.g. RESPECT programme and Youth Support Services

We will always ensure that the child is at the centre of all decisions made. We will follow the guidance set out in “Working Together to Safeguard Children” so that we fulfil our roles and responsibilities.

When Early Help is successful, needs are identified early, and proactive support and interventions are put into place before issues become more complex and reach a crisis point.

### **Communication**

Our school operate an open-door policy, where we provide opportunities for you to discuss children with their class teacher at the beginning and end of the day. If you need more time to discuss any worries or concerns with a member of staff, you may be asked to make an appointment. This can be done through the school office, by calling the school or emailing our administration team. We are always happy to help.

### **Early help family support provided by Worcestershire County Council:**

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/earlyhelpfamilysupport>

If you are experiencing difficulties in your family or are worried about your children, there are people, outside of Parkside Middle School, who can offer help and support.

Difficulties could be for example:

- mental health problems
- domestic abuse at home
- drug or alcohol dependency
- your child starting school
- struggling as a lone parent
- debt problems
- housing problems

Here you can find advice and guidance to help support your family. If you need more help than your usual support network, for example your health visitor, child’s school, doctor or Children’s Centre the family support process can help.