

Archway School Early Help

Early Help provides integrated support to children, young people and their families. The key objective of Early Help is to offer practical advice, support and direct case work to prevent issues escalating and requiring statutory intervention.

We aim to intervene 'early' in terms of an issue arising in the life of a child. We work closely with a range of statutory services (including Health and Children's Social Care, Families First and Local Authority) and voluntary organisations (e.g. The Door Youth Project).

The Early Help provision at Archway is provided by the Student Support Team (SST). It is made up of Senior Leaders, Heads of Key Stage, Heads of Year, Learning Mentors, SENCO, Behaviour Manager and Education Welfare Officer. This group of professionals works with students and families who are experiencing difficulties. The team provide a service for children who need extra help with their learning, social, emotional, behavioural, developmental and attendance needs.

In its work the SST and all colleagues at Archway pay close attention to contemporary safeguarding issues as highlighted by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Board. These issues include faith abuse, gangs and youth violence, gender based violence (including FGM), mental health, private fostering, radicalisation, sexting, teenage relationship abuse, sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, child trafficking, E Safety and Children Missing Education.

The work of the Early Help at Archway is based around a Team Around the Child approach, with designated lead professionals responsible for the co-ordination of case work. The lead professional can be designated from any of the agencies who form part of the TAC but is most often the person who has most contact with a child and their family and has developed the type of relationship which is most likely to secure a positive outcome.

Archway is committed to supporting the provision of Early Help across the Stroud area and is working closely with the County Council, Social Services, and other agencies to create a coordinated approach.