

The Forge Secondary
School and Pupil Referral
Unit.



Supporting Families First.



Early Help and Family support for our young people, families and carers.

(Worcestershire County Council definition: Early Help means providing help and support to a child, young person or their family.)

At The Forge Secondary Short Stay School and Pupil Referral Unit we recognise the challenges that families face in bringing up children. There may be times when you need extra help and support. If this is the case please come and talk to us. There are many ways in which we can help as outlined in this offer of early help. The diagram below shows the range of support at different levels. We use this graduated approach to make sure we provide the best support for different families' individual situations.



We provide Early help to our students and their families by supporting their journey through our school from beginning to end.

We are proactive in recognizing areas of need and are prompt in our response to this.

Key Personnel:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is : Caroline Northway

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The Headteacher is : Daniel Smith

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The Chair of governors is: Andy McDouall

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Early help and support for young people and families/carers

We use a whole school approach to identify the needs of the student and of the family/carers during these meetings so that strategies and plans and appropriate referrals can be put into place to support them.

These plans and strategies are reviewed regularly and adapted to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students and their families/carers and bridging the gaps in the support they may be missing.

Early Help is a pathway to supporting you and your child as they grow up when you or they may need further support or guidance at any stage of their childhood. Providing early help to our pupils and families at The Forge means we can improve outcomes for children, families, and communities, providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life, from the early years through to teenage years.

Early Help can support children and their families who may be struggling with:

- Routines and family rules
- Families who may be not be eating healthy food
- Keeping to a healthy lifestyle
- Children who are caring for a family member
- Children who may not want to go to school for different reasons
- Disability within the family including children being a young carer
- Children in the family have special educational needs (SEND)
- Children who may becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour
- Children who go missing from home
- Children or parents / carers misusing drugs or alcohol
- Children at risk of being tricked, forced, or made to work in the criminal world
- Children who may need support because they may live in a home and see drug or alcohol abuse or adult mental health problems.
- Children who have parents who argue a lot (and sometimes might hurt each other) whether the parents live together or apart.
- Children at risk of being groomed to join groups which support illegal views
- A privately fostered child (a child from another family living within your family home)

The Forge Early help offer is the services we provide in school, and also relies upon local groups and people in the community. Sometimes we work together to help children, young people, and their families. Everyone needs help at some time in their lives and therefore an ethos of early help is important for any school.

- is in a family circumstance present challenges for the child; such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- at risk of becoming involved in anti-social or criminal behaviour
- has returned home to their family from care;
- is showing early signs of abuse and/or neglect;
- is at risk of being radicalised or exploited;
- is a privately fostered child.

The Forge Early Help offer.

At The Forge we meet the needs of our young people through a variety of ways:

- Attendance
- Safeguarding
- Behaviour for Learning
- Pastoral Support
- SENCO
- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)
- Nurture and relationships
- Regular liaison with parents
- Involvement of outside agencies (ie Speech & Language Therapist)
- Therapy Dogs
- Mentor
- Self-defence Coach

School Family Support worker- On site family support worker offers support and guidance to young people and their families both inside school and in the wider community. School family support worker provides a consistent link for parents, and provides a joined up approach working with agencies to access young people in school, whilst also referring out to local and relevant services to identify and provide early help where needed.



Thrive – We have specially trained Thrive practitioners available in school for our students. Thrive is a therapeutic approach to help support our pupils with their emotional and social development. We screen half termly to enable us to target those who need support and work to promptly identify need as it is presented. Through the Thrive approach, we teach children how to learn about and recognise their feelings and emotions. Thrive then promotes their emotional and social growth by building positive relationships between the child and their peers.



Mental Health First aiders – our staff who have received mental health first aid training support staff to spot the signs and symptoms of common mental health issues and provide support and reassurance, as well as guiding the young person or family to professional support if needed.



PSHE programme – our school delivers Personal, Social, Health and Education and Economics (PHSE) and Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) through specially developed programmes. This empowers young people to understand how to build and maintain their mental health, using mindfulness philosophy and practice to enable them to understand their emotions and choose their responses. Our PSHE programme contributes towards the career's curriculum at The Forge. Students explore further educational and employment opportunities alongside discovering their own strengths and areas for development with regards to employment and assessing future opportunities. At the Forge we seek to further developed our students' goals and aspirations and provide a framework where learners thrive and build confidence.

Therapy dogs – We have weekly visits from Gene and Reef, two therapy dogs and their Trainor Victoria Rash, who delivers one to one intervention sessions which help our young people to process their experiences and help support them with positive engagement in the school environment.



Worcestershire Autism Mentor (WAM) WAM programme A collaborative approach The WAM programme supports students and aims to provide a platform for opening the conversation around autism. It will focus on positive aspects of personal qualities and characteristics, whilst at the same time touching lightly on some issues that might cause difficulties, as the programme progresses. This culminates with some simple tips and strategies for moving forward.



More Talk More Action- Every individual has patterns and behaviours that hold them back from reaching their highest potential. MTMA provides expert advice and impactful motivation to start a new journey towards not only achieving your goals, but exceeding them
As an experienced and esteemed public service, MTMA aims to deliver education and inspiration to a variety of audiences.
We strive to make every event a memorable experience, placing a large emphasis on delivering actionable content.



Get Safe is the Worcestershire name for our multi-agency support and protection for children and young people at risk of Criminal Exploitation. This is about us as multi agency professionals working

together in a coordinated and focused way to tackle this challenging and ever-changing form of harm and abuse to our children here in Worcestershire.

Targeted Early Help

<p>Bereavement- Support for bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire</p>	<p>Primrose Hospice: North East Worcestershire Hospice Home - Touchstones Support (touchstones-support.org.uk)</p>
<p>Children Missing in Education- (CME) Children Missing Education (CME) refers to 'any child of compulsory school age who is not registered at any formally approved education activity eg school, alternative provision, elective home education, and has been out of education provision for at least 4 weeks'.</p>	<p>Contact Worcestershire County Council</p>
<p>Child Sexual Exploitation –Key facts about CSE • It affects both girls and boys and can happen in all communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any young person can be targeted but there are some particularly vulnerable groups: Looked After Children, 	<p>Exploitation tools and pathways (procedures.org.uk) Useful Websites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child sexual abuse and exploitation Barnardo's (barnardos.org.uk) spot the signs: Advice for parents, professionals and young people on the signs of sexual exploitation and how to keep safe • Child abuse concerns: guide for practitioners - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) National Action Plan for Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation • Parents Against Child Sexual Exploitation pace is the leading national charity working with parents and carers whose children are sexually exploited • Ivison Trust NSPCC definitions, statistics, facts and resources about CSE. • What is CE? - STOP CE - (stop-ce.org) NWG Network: Fighting against CSE and working to inform, educate and prevent child sexual abuse within the UK. • The Branch Project - WMRSASC Spotting The Signs of Child Sexual Exploitation: a 15 minute YouTube clip from Health Education England The Branch Project - support service for children and young people who are

	victims and/or at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
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Conflict between parents-	Harmony at Home Worcestershire County Council
Courts Children and the court system- Children are sometimes required to give evidence in courts, either for crimes committed against them or for crimes they have witnessed. There are two guides to support these children which can be found at Welcome to GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) (young witness booklet for 5 to 11 year olds) which is a pdf.	There is also a document called “going to court and being a witness age 12 to 17” which is also found at Welcome to GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Making family arrangements via court can be stressful and entrench conflict in families. The ministry of Justice has just launched an online dispute resolution service. This can be useful to parents and carers. Got to www.gov.uk and search for “get help with arrangements.
DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks) - DDN’s are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks. These criminals are using extreme violence to establish a presence, displacing an existing drug supply chain and intimidating rivals, witnesses and victims, this has resulted in local murders	DDN’s exploit vulnerable teenagers to become drug runners for their network. Speak to your local police by dialing 101, or in an emergency 999 Criminal exploitation Worcestershire County Council
Financial support links Redditch Job Centre Redditch and Bromsgrove Citizens advice	Benefits, debt and money advice Worcestershire County Council Cost of living support Worcestershire County Council Household Support Fund Worcestershire County Council 4TH Floor Library, 15 Market Place Redditch 0800 169 0190 Citizens Advice Bromsgrove and Redditch (cabr.org.uk)
Food Banks- The Trussell Trust website has a search bar to look for your local food bank. This is the government website to help parents and professionals understand the risks of children and young people being	Find a Food Bank - The Trussell Trust Redditch Foodbank Helping Local People in Crisis Home Friends of Isaac's Food Bank Redditch Food Bank (isaacsfoodbank.wixsite.com) 01527 69161

radicalised by extremists online and how to keep children safe from this.

[01527 502624](tel:01527502624)

Youth and community Centre -Your Ideas

Domestic Abuse

This link is a very helpful website for what do to in many different difficult situations.

[Getting help for domestic violence and abuse - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[West Mercia Women's Aid | WMWA is a full member of the Women's Aid Federation of England. \(westmerciawomensaid.org\)](#)

West Mercia Women's Aid: 0800 980 3331 /0800 783 1359

www.westmerciawomensaid.org.uk e-mail helpline@westmerciawomensaid.org

E-safety (Online Safety) -Online Activity (phones, computers) can be a serious risk to children: The use of technology has become a significant component of many safeguarding issues. Child sexual exploitation; radicalisation; sexual predation – technology often provides the platform that facilitates harm. With the right support, education and safety measures in place the internet and new technologies can also bring great benefits but we must all be vigilant.

PACE (parents against child exploitation) UK is a useful website to engage parents with safety issues. [Ivison Trust](#)

[Parents and carers | CEOP Education](#) This is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. It's a one stop shop for most information about online safety.

[Educate Against Hate - Prevent Radicalisation & Extremism](#)

[Keep Children Safe Online: Information, Advice, Support - Internet Matters](#)

– A great site for helping parents keep their children safe online.

[Anti-Bullying \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](http://Anti-Bullying.worcestershire.gov.uk)

Anti-Bullying-

Fabricated and induced illness (FII)- Fabricated or induced illness (FII) is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer , exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.

Overview - Fabricated or induced illness - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

Faith abuse- Faith and belief-based child abuse, including practices around 'spirit possession' and 'witchcraft', is a hidden crime, which makes it difficult to quantify in terms of magnitude. However, from our own experience and in consultation with communities, we know this kind of abuse is underreported

[Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief – National FGM Centre](#)

Karma Nirvana national support and helpline Karma Nirvana

<p>Female genital mutilation (FGM) - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal or the external female genitalia.</p>	<p>Female genital mutilation (FGM) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</p> <p>NHS information and signs of FGM. Any suspicion of FGM should be referred to the Police and social care.</p> <p>FGM is illegal in the UK and as of October 2015 mandatory reporting commenced. If education staff or other professionals discovers that an act FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18 years old there is a statutory (legal) duty on teachers for them PERSONALLY to report it to the police.</p>
<p>Gangs and youth violence-</p> <p>Respect Programme- Therapeutic mentoring scheme for young people at risk of becoming victims of crime or perpetrators.</p>	<p>Speak To Our Team Support For Mental Health & Other Issues The Mix Why early action holds the key to breaking the prison/reoffending cycle Catch22 (catch-22.org.uk)</p> <p>Respect Programme (nwcsp.org)</p>
<p>Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls. For information about West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse visit:</p> <p>FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) is violence against women and girls. Forced marriage and so called ‘Honour’ based violence are a violation against human rights and is a high priority area of the national and local Violence Against Women and Girls Agenda. It is, primarily an issue for young women and girls aged between 13 and 30 years.</p>	<p>https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk</p> <p>Hope House SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre): 01452 75439</p>
<p>Gender Identity Issues-</p>	<p>The Gender Trust is a listening ear, a caring support and an information centre for anyone with any question concerning their gender identity, or whose loved one is struggling with gender identity issues. People who might be Transgender, Transsexual or people who do not identify with the gender they were assigned at birth or those who are simply unsure.</p> <p>www.gendertrust.org.uk 76 The Ridgeway, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX tel: 0845 231 0505 See also www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/sexrelationships/gender-identity</p>

<p>Hollie Guard- A personal safety app</p>	<p>http://www.hollieguard.com/</p> <p>Children & Teens - Hollie Guard keeps your entire family safe. • Keep an eye on your children while they're traveling to and from school with Journey. • Teens can get help quickly while out with friends. • Parents, guardians, and caregivers are automatically contacted by both SMS and email.</p>
<p>Honour based violence (HBV)</p> <p>Honour' based violence (HBV) occurs when perpetrators believe a relative or other individual has shamed or damaged a family's or community's 'honour' or reputation (known in some communities as izzat), and that the only way to redeem the damaged 'honour' is to punish and/or kill the individual.</p>	<p>Honour' based violence is a term that is widely used to describe this sort of abuse however it is often referred to as so called 'honour' based violence because the concept of 'honour' is used by perpetrators to make excuses for their abuse. There is a very strong link between 'honour' based violence, forced marriage and domestic abuse. The term 'Honour Based Violence' is the internationally recognised term describing cultural justifications for violence and abuse. Honour Based Violence cuts across all cultures and communities: Turkish, Kurdish, Afghani, South Asian, African, Middle Eastern, South and Eastern European for example. This is not an exhaustive list. Where a culture is heavily male dominated, HBV may exist. The police have made it a high priority to help communities fight back to tackle both honour based violence and hate crime. The 'Honour Network Help line': 0800 5 999 247</p>
<p>Mental Health</p> <p>There is a range of local and national mental health support – websites, leaflets and apps</p> <p>Apps Headspace #StayAlive BEAT CALM HARM Bestie-app (wellbeing) Bluelce</p>	<p>Reach4wellbeing Worcestershire Reach4Wellbeing team supports and promotes the emotional wellbeing of young people and parents of primary school age children through interactive online group programmes, using cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) principles. www.camhs.hacw.nhs.uk/reach4wellbeing</p> <p>Worcestershire Healthy Minds (self referral and self help leaflets) www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk NHS mental health services – to find local services www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/mental-health-services</p>

<p>YourSpace Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs for Children and Young People aged 11-25 available in community locations across Worcestershire. Tel: 01905 27525</p>	<p>Young Minds Young Minds are a mental health charity for children, young people and their parents, making sure all young people can get the mental health support they need www.youngminds.org.uk Mind www.mind.org.uk BEAT eating disorders www.beateatingdisorders.org.uk YourSpace Children and Young People's Hubs (onside-advocacy.org.uk)</p>
<p>Missing Children and Adults Strategy (vulnerable children and adults who go missing)</p>	<p>Every year an estimated 200,000 people go missing in the UK. The vast majority of missing people, children and adults, are vulnerable and need protection and support. If a child or young person goes missing from home, care or school it can be a worrying time for everyone involved. Missing children may also be vulnerable to other forms of exploitation, to violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse. The police should be informed if any child or adult goes missing</p>
<p>Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/Hate (Prevent duty) While it remains rare for school age children to become involved in extremist activity to the point of committing criminal acts, young people can be exposed to extremist influences or prejudiced views, including via the internet, from an early age. As with other forms of criminality or risk of harm, early intervention is always preferable. Schools, working with other local partners, families and communities, can help support pupils who may be vulnerable as part of wider safeguarding responsibilities</p>	<p>http://www.educateagainsthate.com/ is the government website providing information and practical advice for parents, teachers and schools leaders on protecting children from radicalisation and extremism. Anti-Terrorist Hotline: tel 0800 789 321 also concerns can be raised by email to the Home office: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk Websites: 'Let's Talk About It' www.ltai.info www.preventtragedies.co.uk http://www.preventtragedies.co.uk/</p>

<p>Starting well Partnership Advice and support links for parents</p>	<p>Support for parents and families Starting Well (startingwellworcs.nhs.uk)</p>
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<p>SEND Local offer</p>	<p>SEND Local Offer Worcestershire County Council localoffer@worcestershirechildrenfirst.org.uk</p>
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<p>Prison Children with family members in prison</p> <p>Approximately 200,000 children have a parent sent to prison each year. These children are at risk of poor outcomes including poverty, stigma, isolation and poor mental health.</p>	<p>NICCO (www.nicco.org.uk) provides information to support professionals working with offenders and their children to help mitigate the negative consequences for these children.</p> <p>https://www.solgrid.org.uk/education/safeguarding/childprotection/issues/children-family-prison/</p>
<p>Private fostering</p>	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA) Call on: 0808 284 9226 Kinship Care Kinship care means that relatives or friends look after children who cannot live with their parents. Visit this website for more information: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering</p>
<p>Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges Here is advice from the WCC webpage</p> <p>Sexual assault</p> <p>Sexual Health services</p>	<p>West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/ 01905 724 514 Helpline opening times: Monday 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Tuesday 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm Thursday 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm Friday 10:00 a.m – 2:00 pm</p> <p>Sexual assault support – http://www.barnardosbeacon.org.uk/SexualHealth - Outreach (under 25s) Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (hacw.nhs.uk)</p>
<p>Stalking</p> <p>General Advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If it doesn't feel right it probably isn't! ▪ Seek support from trusted family/friends ▪ Report to the police and do this early ▪ Keep a diary in a secure location ▪ Screenshot emails etc and save them ▪ Photograph/video your stalker if safely possible. ▪ Get advice: Hollie Gazzard Trust, Paladin etc ▪ Tighten security; home, work and on-line 	<p>National Stalking Helpline For advice and support. The helpline will operate a triage service for local support and make referrals - Phone: 0808 802 0300 Website: www.stalkinghelpline.org Email: advice@stalkinghelpline.org Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service For advice and referral. Phone line: 020 3866 4107 Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk Website: www.paladinservice.co.uk/ Hollie Gazzard Trust https://holliegazzard.org</p>
<p>Youth produced imagery Often known as Sexting or Sextortion</p>	<p>www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildrensafe/sexting (NSPCC website). https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/8206/Sexting (West Mercia Police website)</p>

Worcestershire Help & Support (Early Help Offer)

General support

<p>What is our Help & Support Offer?</p> <p>We aim to provide support as soon as a problem appears, to stop it from getting worse. This could be at any point in a child's life, from birth to the teenage years</p>	<p>Anyone can provide help & support for families – you don't need to be an expert professional. It is not about passing the issue on to an expert, but thinking about what is the best support you can offer. You can provide effective support by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• listening• working with other people who could help• finding out about specialist agencies who could help• filling out an Early Help Assessment with the person you are helping• contacting Children's Social Care if you think the problem is more serious <p>http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/eha</p> <p>There is a lot of information and advice on the Advice, Care, Health and Support pages as well as detail of local services that can provide support for children, young people and families.</p>
<p>The Front Door to Children's Services</p>	<p>If a member of staff, parent/carer or member of the public thinks a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm they should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) Tel: 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999.</p>
<p>WSCB (Worcestershire Safeguarding Children's Board) website.</p>	<p>http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/safeguardingchildren</p> <p>Important information for parents and professionals across Worcestershire in relation to keeping children safe and avenues of support including early help options. This website has all of the agreed Worcestershire safeguarding and child protection processes on it.</p>
<p>Sources of help for all families in Worcestershire: Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS)</p>	<p>Worcestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. FIS are a useful source of information for parents and professionals. They support families, children and young people aged 0 – 19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. They can help link parents up with other organisations that might be able to help or provide the information themselves.</p>
<p>Support for families, children and young people</p>	<p>Worcestershire Virtual Hub - A 'one stop shop' for a range of different resources that are available online, on the phone or face to face that you can access</p>

	<p>directly yourself.</p> <p>www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20643/the_family_hub</p> <p>Starting Well Partnership – tailored information & advice for families, young people and children</p> <p>www.startingwellworcs.nhs.uk</p>
Holiday activities	<p>The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme offers free holiday provision to children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) and vulnerable families during Easter, summer and Christmas school holidays.</p> <p>www.worcestershire.gov.uk/readysteadyworcs</p>
<p>Home-school support</p> <p>Worcestershire Home Educators Network</p> <p>Home education is becoming an increasingly popular option for families in Worcestershire and the Home Educator’s Network has a growing community that are able to offer each other support. They have years of experience in educating children of all ages and are able to organise and put on a range of activities. Contact them on:</p> <p>info@worcestershire-homeeducators.co.uk</p>	<p>Worcestershire Home Educators Network</p> <p>Weekly meetings usually throughout term time at various locations round the county-for example: - Social gatherings occur monthly in North Worcestershire for all ages, with both indoor and outdoor games plus organised activities such as climbing/zip-wires/grass sledging for 8+. - Monthly meeting in Worcester with games, music and crafts for all ages. - Monthly social meeting in south Worcestershire, including indoor and outdoor games, group music session and a drama group. - "Education group" workshops organised Social events with people from neighbouring counties and national camps and gatherings that are organised by home educators throughout the year.A Worcestershire Home Educators Newsletter (WHEN) that lists all of the activities for the coming month and run a Worcestershire Home Educators Internet support list.</p>

<p>PEGS- Parental Education Growth Support</p> <p>We are a social enterprise committed to supporting parents, carers and guardians impacted by Child to Parent Abuse - here to listen to you, believe you, and empower you.</p>	<p>Self Referral Form (pegsupport.co.uk)</p> <p>About Us Pegs Support (pegsupport.co.uk)</p> <p>hello@pegsupport.com</p>
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