

Early Help for Children and Families

Overbury C of E First School

Including COVID-19 signposts to additional resources/agency support

At Overbury First School 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. We can also help to plan specific support for families in the forms of APAR's (Assess, Plan, Action, Review) and My Assessment where we can work together to set and achieve outcomes.

The diagram below shows the range of needs at different levels. We use this graduated approach to make sure we provide the best support for different families' individual situations.



Providing early help to our pupils and families at Overbury First School means we are more effective in promoting support as soon as we can. 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 teenage years.



Key Personnel:

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is: Emma Ross

Contact details:

email: head@overbury.worcs.sch.uk Telephone: 01386 725235

The deputy DSL(s) is: Charlotte Davies

Contact details:

email: office@overbury.worcs.sch.uk Telephone: 01386 725235

The nominated safeguarding governor and Chair of Governors is: Debra Manns

Contact details:

email: deb@djmanns.com Telephone: 07825 749201

The Headteacher is: Emma Ross

Contact details:

email: head@overbury.worcs.sch.uk Telephone: 01386 725235

Child Sexual Exploitation

All staff at Overbury First 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 have received training on FGM. Teachers know how to identify if a child may be at risk. They know the signs to look for and most importantly how to refer, following the schools safeguarding procedures.

At Overbury First School we meet the needs of our children through a variety of ways:

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Pupils are actively encouraged to speak about any concerns they have to a member of staff or to our pastoral team. In lessons children are taught to speak openly about their emotions. Pupils know the staff take all their concerns very seriously.

- Children's questionnaires ascertain if they feel happy and safe
- Parent questionnaires ascertain if they feel that their children are safe
- E-safety assembly delivered to all pupils
- E-safety presentation offered to parents
- Biannually the Police conducts assemblies for E-Safety, SEXTING and other relevant topics
- Biannually the NSPCC come into school to undertake workshops for all ages

ATTENDANCE

Mrs Ross is the lead on attendance. She monitors this weekly and follows our attendance policy to support pupils and families with attendance that drops below 94%. The aim is to offer help and solutions to any problems.

SAFEGUARDING

- All teachers and staff know precisely how to identify and report concerns, via staff training on induction and our regular updates on safeguarding.
- Child protection files are kept by the DSL.
- ATTENDANCE team follow missing from education guidance.
- All new staff complete safeguarding inductions.
- We have a designated teacher for children in care.

We have a record of annual recording that all staff have read Keeping Children Safe in Education (Sep 2020) and our Safeguarding Children Policy (updated annually).

Behaviour for Learning at Overbury First School

Our school behaviour policy is followed by all staff.

Pastoral Support



Miss Gascoyne provides THRIVE, and also pastoral support to pupils and families. With families consent, we can refer families for further family support. After school clubs are also available to support families and children.

SENCO

Mrs Ross works with children and families with additional needs and can signpost parents to many different agencies.

Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

The DSL (Mrs Ross) ensures rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all of our children.

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020 makes it clear that ALL staff should be aware of their local early help process and understand their role in it. In addition, this statutory document makes it clear that any child may benefit from early help, but all school and college staff should be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a child who:

- Is disabled and has specific additional needs;
- Has special educational needs (whether or not they have a statutory education, health care plan);
- Is a young carer;
- Is showing signs of being drawn in to anti-social or criminal behaviour, including gang involvement and association with organised crime groups;
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home;
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves;
- Is at risk of modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation;
- Is in a family circumstance present challenges for the child; such as substance abuse, adult mental health problems or domestic abuse;
- 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.

Everyone needs help at some time in their lives and therefore an ethos of early help is important for any school or PRU.

The coordinated Overbury First offer of Early Help is outlined in the table below. We believe that early interventions for children or families, in many cases, will prevent children from experiencing harm.

All Overbury staff must be aware of the Overbury offer of early help. At all times, staff should consider if there is any offer of early help that we can make in order to help a child thrive.

We also liaise with other agencies and people within the local community. In the table below are some National organisations that can support children, young people and their families



Overbury's Early Help Offer:

<p>Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and deputy DSL of Overbury First School</p>	<p>If you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at our school or in the community, then please contact a member of Overbury's safeguarding team on 01386 725235.</p> <p>If you think a child or young person is at immediate risk of significant harm then you should contact the Family Front Door (FFD) – 01905 822 666 or in an emergency always call 999.</p>
<p>Pastoral support</p>	<p>Generic queries should be directed to the class teacher at the first instance, however if you feel you would like to have a chat with a pastoral member of staff please contact Mrs Ross (01386 725235), who will organise a meeting.</p> <p>We will always listen to you and work with other people who can help</p>
<p>Early Help</p>	<p>Early help guidance for professionals</p> <p>What is early help?</p> <p>Early help means providing 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 early help – you don't need to be an expert or a professional. Early help is not about passing the issue on to an expert, but thinking about what is the best support you can offer.</p> <p>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>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>Download: Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board – Early Help Strategy 2017 to 2020</p> <p>Download: Worcestershire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) strategy</p>
<p>Worcester Family Learning</p>	<p>Family Learning courses are for parents and carers so they can support their child and family at home and enhance their own outcomes by improving their health and wellbeing, improving their social interactions by making friends and engaging in a group, supporting them to find volunteer opportunities or empowering them to progress to further accredited courses or into employment. Family Learning works closely with schools and communities to deliver courses that meet the needs of parents and carers. Our courses are free for anyone earning less than £17,000 per year or anyone unemployed and on benefits. Family Learning courses can be delivered in your school free of charge with no cost to the school.</p> <p>Link to book onto courses:</p> <p>www.Worcestershire.gov.uk/courses</p> <p>Email to contact the Family Learning Manager to request bespoke courses:</p> <p>Jharris5@worcestershire.gov.uk</p> <p>Adult Community Learning Team phone number for any enquiries:</p> <p>01905-728537</p> <p>Website address:</p> <p>https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20437/adult_and_family_learning_courses</p> <p>Twitter Account to follow to see new courses:</p> <p>Follow @AdultLearningWR</p> <p>Facebook Account to follow to see new courses:</p> <p>@adultlearningworcestershire</p>



disability, where the disability has a profound impact on the child or young person's life.

An assessment will be offered where the child has a condition which is substantial, long lasting or permanent, is a physical and/or learning disability or a life limiting, life threatening condition. These may include:

- severe learning disabilities
- severe physical disabilities
- severe developmental delay in motor and or cognitive functioning
- profound multiple disabilities
- severe sensory impairment (registered blind and/or profoundly deaf)
- complex and severe health problems that arise from the disability, that are life threatening, degenerative illness or organic disorder resulting in severe disability
- a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition with an associated learning disability and where the condition severely affects day to day functioning

SEN Services and Support Groups

- [9 Tea Cups](#)
- [autismlinks](#)
Links to events, services and information of use to families of people with Autism
- [Autism Spectrum Condition and Learning Disabilities Group](#), a group for family members and carers, Kidderminster Hospital
- [Autism West Midlands](#) a support group for young people aged 16-24 with Asperger's Syndrome in the Malvern Hills area
- [Autism in Worcestershire](#)
ASPIE is a social self-help and motivation group for adults with Asperger's Syndrome. We provide a center in Worcester where Aspies feel welcome and accepted.
- Children's Centre. Find out what's happening at [your local Children's Centre](#)
- Community Paediatric Service
Community Paediatric Service is concerned with developmental delay and learning disability; Motor difficulties such as cerebral palsy and muscular



	<p>dystrophy; Neuro-developmental conditions including ADHD and ASD; complex behavioural difficulties; sensory impairment; statutory medical & educational assessments</p> <p>(The Community Paediatric Service South Worcestershire, The Community Paediatric Service Wyre Forest and The Community Paediatric Service Redditch and Bromsgrove)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Council for Disabled Children A host of useful leaflets on SEND issues many in Easy Read format to help children understand• Disability Information Advice Line (DIAL) Worcestershire Website of the disability advice line South Worcestershire; local info on: Mobility; Benefits and Finance; Carers Support and Respite; Community and Voluntary Support; Disabled Children's Services; Education and Employment; Health; Housing; Independent Living; Learning Disabilities; Legal Support; Leisure and Holidays; Mental Health; Mobility and Aids to Daily Living and Older People's Services• Dyslexia Parent Support Group. Find out more from the Worcestershire Dyslexic Support Group• Footprints Support for Bereaved Children and their Families in Worcestershire Support for bereaved children and their families in Worcestershire• Learning Disabilities (opens in a new window) We work with people with learning disabilities, their families and the people who support them.
DDNs (Dangerous Drug Networks)	<p>DDN's are drug dealing gangs who target vulnerable people in order to set up drugs distribution networks.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>DDN's exploit vulnerable teenagers to become drug runners for their network. Early intervention and intelligence are key to safeguard and protect the vulnerable.</p>



	<p>For professionals that work with young people (PDF, 1.3 MB)</p> <p>For professionals working in housing (PDF, 1.3 MB)</p> <p>Drug Gangs and Exploitation (PDF, 556.6 KB)</p>
<p>Child Criminal Exploitation (County Lines)</p>	<p>Here is some guidance for frontline professionals on dealing with county lines, part of the government’s approach to ending gang violence and exploitation:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/criminal-exploitation-of-children-and-vulnerable-adults-county-lines</p> <p>Children who are trafficked, exploited or coerced into committing crimes are victims in need of safeguarding and support. Though perceptions are altering these young people are still often criminalised and perceived as having ‘made a choice’ to take part in illegal activity.</p> <p>https://www.catch-22.org.uk/child-criminal-exploitation/</p>
<p>Channel/ Prevent</p> 	<p>What are we doing to prevent extremism and radicalisation?</p> <p>We shall be working to embed the "Prevent" agenda into Worcestershire County Council activity by supporting families, individuals, schools, colleges, fostering services and safeguarding services.</p> <p>We all need to together promote strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds in the workplace, in schools and within neighborhoods.</p> <p>For the next steps please download our Prevention of extremism and radicalisation – Referral Process (PDF) document.</p> <p>To make a referral please download the Prevention of Extremism and Radicalisation - Referral form (Word) document.</p> <p>https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/getsafe</p> <p>Useful Websites</p>



Teenage relationships	<p>CRUSH - is an awareness raising and support programme to help young people make safe and healthy relationships. The sessions are run in small groups and are specifically designed for 13-19 year olds.</p> <p>http://www.westmerciawomensaid.org/crush/</p>
Fabricated and induced illness (FII)	<p>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.</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Fabricated-or-induced-illness/</p>
Faith abuse	<p>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 under-reported.</p> <p>Further contacts for advice can be found from the local representatives for some faiths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An Exploration of Knowledge About Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2016)• National Action Plan to Tackle Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (2012)• Safeguarding Children from Abuse Linked to a Belief in Spirit Possession (2007) this good practice guidance is archived but still available.• Eleanor Stobart report 2006: Child Abuse Linked To Accusations of Possession And Witchcraft (2006)• Unicef study report: Children Accused of Witchcraft• AFRUCA: Africans Unite Against Child Abuse
Honour based violence (HBV)	<p>Honour based violence (HBV) can affect men and women across a number of cultures and communities and is defined as a crime or incident committed to protect or defend the honour of the family. Issues including choice of dress, friends, relationships and careers can all be perceived as</p>



	<p>impacting on a family's honour. HBV has the potential to be both a domestic abuse and child abuse concern.</p> <p>Honour based violence can be distinguished from other forms of violence as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members.</p> <p>Karma Nirvana</p> <p>UK helpline: 08005 999247 Monday to Friday Email: Info@karmanirvana.org.uk</p> <p>Honour network survivors helpline</p> <p>Honour network survivors helpline telephone: 0800 5999247 Online help for mixed couples whose relationship are opposed by family or community.</p> <p>Refuge Halo Project</p> <p>Website: Refuge (opens in a new window)</p> <p>Safe lives</p> <p>Email: rea@safelives.org.uk</p>
<p>Female genital mutilation (FGM)</p>	<p>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal or the external female genitalia. 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>Read http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/female-genitalmutilation for NHS information and signs of FGM. Any suspicion of FGM should be referred to the Police and social care.</p> <p>- Annalise Price-Thomas (Head of Service) has completed the online home office training, 'Female</p>



	<p><i>Genital Mutilation: Recognising and Preventing FGM'</i></p> <p>- E-learning package- http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/</p> <p>for interested staff or professionals (free home office elearning)</p>
Forced marriage	<p>UK Forced Marriage Unit fmufco.gov.uk</p> <p>Telephone: 020 7008 0151</p> <p>Call 999 (police) in an emergency.</p> <p>www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage for information on Forced Marriage. Visit Home Office website to undertake Forced Marriage e-learning package</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/forced-marriage. GSCB one day Awareness training delivered by Infobuzz</p> <p>www.gscb.org.uk Please see 'Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines- Handling cases of Forced Marriage' for more information and detail:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/forcedmarriage.</p> <p>Prevention Freedom Charity- Aneeta Prem 'But it's not fair' book. A book for teenagers looking at forced marriage from the point of view of school friends of the girl who went to India and didn't come back. This book promotes discussion. www.freedomcharity.org.uk The Freedom Charity (UK charity) have a helpline, text facility and app which can be downloaded to help to provide support and protection for victims of abuse, FGM or forced marriage. They can be contacted on tel: 0845 607 0133 or text 4freedom to 88802 or go to the website to download the app from the app page.</p>
Gangs and youth violence	<p>Here is a PDF assisting with Gangs and Youth</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf</p>



	<p>This is a website for the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative: http://www.worcesterma.gov/youth-opportunities/youth-violence-prevention</p>
<p>Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls</p>	<p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/violence-against-women-and-girls-evidence-digest-january-2018</p> <p>For information about West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse visit: https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/</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>Hope House SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre): 01452 754390</p> <p>www.onyourmindglos.nhs.uk for 'I've been raped or sexually assaulted' information.</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. Address: 76 The Ridgeway, Astwood Bank, B96 6LX tel: 0845 231 0505 www.gendertrust.org.uk</p>
<p>Private fostering</p>	<p>National Fostering Agency (NFA)</p> <p>Call on: 0808 284 9226</p> <p>Kinship Care</p> <p>Kinship care means that relatives or friends look after children who cannot live with their parents. Visit this website for more information: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/privatefostering</p>
<p>Preventing Radicalisation and Extremism/HATE (PREVENT duty)</p>	<p>www.educateagainsthate.com is the government website providing information and practical advice for parents, teachers</p>



	<p>and schools leaders on protecting children from radicalisation and extremism.</p> <p>Anti-Terrorist Hotline: tel 0800 789 321</p> <p>also be raised by email to the Home office: counter.extremism@education.gsi.gov.uk.</p> <p>Let's talk about it is an excellent website for parents: www.ltai.info/ as is www.preventtragedies.co.uk</p> <p>While it remains very 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>Channel guidance: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf</p>
Sexting/Sextortion/youth produced imagery	<p>http://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keepingchildren-safe/sexting (NSPCC website).</p> <p>https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/8206/Sexting (West Mercia Police website)</p>
Children Missing in Education (CME)	<p>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'. CME also includes those children who are missing (family whereabouts unknown), and are usually children who are registered on a school roll / alternative provision. This might be a child who</p> <p>is not at their last known address and either has not taken up an allocated school place as expected, or has 10 or more days of continuous absence from school without</p>



	<p>explanation, or left school suddenly and the destination is unknown.</p> <p>This is the link for Children Missing Education on the Worcestershire website http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20595/behaviour_and_attendance/293/children_missing_education</p> <p>Babcock Prime – Educational Welfare Team: Primeedinvservice@babcockinternational.com 01905 678138</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. In some cases, missing adults may have made a choice to leave and ‘start their lives over again’, but the vast majority of missing people, children and adults, are vulnerable and need protection and support. The strategy has three key objectives which provide the right foundations for any effective local strategy to tackle this issue:</p> <p>Prevention - reducing the number of people who go missing, including through prevention strategies, education work and early intervention in cases where children and adults repeatedly go missing Protection - reducing the harm to those who go missing, including through a tailored, risk-based response and ensuring agencies work together to find and close cases as quickly as possible at a local and national level Provision - providing support and advice to missing persons and families by referring them to agencies promptly and ensuring they understand how and where to access help. The police should be informed if any child or adult goes missing. The Missing Children and Adults strategy can then be referred to for further information and help. It is a home office publication (2011).</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/missing-children-and-adults-strategy</p> <p>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf</p>



<p>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. 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/child-protection/issues/children-family-prison/</p>
<p>Children and the court system</p>	<p>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 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 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.”</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</p> <p>For advice and support. The helpline will operate a triage service for local support and make referrals -Phone: 0808 802 0300</p> <p>Website: www.stalkinghelpline.org</p> <p>Email: advice@stalkinghelpline.org</p> <p>Paladin: National Stalking Advocacy Service</p> <p>For advice and referral.</p>

	<p>Phone line: 020 3866 4107</p> <p>Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk</p> <p>Website: www.paladinservice.co.uk/</p> <p>Hollie Gazzard Trust https://holliegazzard.org/</p>								
<p>Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges</p>	<p>Here is advice from the WCC webpage: http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20379/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence/886/sexual_violence_and_abuse</p> <p>West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre: https://www.wmrsasc.org.uk/</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="627 752 1339 1104"> <tr> <td>Monday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday</td> <td>1.00pm to 5.00pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thursday</td> <td>7.30pm to 9.30pm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Friday</td> <td>10.00am to 2.00pm</td> </tr> </table> <p>01905 724 514 <u>Helpline opening times:</u></p>	Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm	Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm	Friday	10.00am to 2.00pm
Monday	7.30pm to 9.30pm								
Tuesday	1.00pm to 5.00pm								
Thursday	7.30pm to 9.30pm								
Friday	10.00am to 2.00pm								
<p>Universal source 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. http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20507/childcare/1579/family_information_service</p>								
<p>Home-school support</p>	<p>Home education is becoming an increasingly popular option for families in Worcestershire and we have a growing community that are able to offer each other support. Between us we have years of experience in educating</p>								

<p>Worcestershire Home Education Network</p>	<p>children of all ages and are able to organise and put on a range of activities.</p> <p>We hold meetings usually at least weekly, throughout term time at various locations round the county-for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>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+.</i> - <i>Monthly meeting in Worcester with games, music and crafts for all ages.</i> - <i>Monthly social meeting in south Worcestershire, including indoor and outdoor games, group music session and a drama group.</i> - <i>Bowling or Ice skating most months.</i> - <i>"Education group" workshops organised regularly. Recent workshops have include: Marvellous Mosaics' 'Gunpowder plot' 'Medieval life', 'Making Music' and 'Creative Writing.</i> <p>We also meet up with people from neighbouring counties and many of us go along to the national camps and gatherings that are organised by home educators throughout the year.</p> <p>We have 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>Contact us on: info@worcestershire-home-educators.co.uk</p>
<p>E-safety (Online Safety)</p>	<p>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</p> <p>☞☞PACE (parents against child exploitation) UK is</p>



	<p>a useful website to engage parents with safety issues. www.paceuk.info/ https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/ - This is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) Centre. It's a one stop shop for most information about online safety. https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/teachers (excellent resources) http://educateagainsthate.com/ - This is the government website to help parents and professionals understand the risks of children and young people being radicalised by extremists online and how to keep children safe from this. www.internetmatters.org – A great site for helping parents keep their children safe online.</p>
Mental Health	<p>We have some useful self-help guides/leaflets available for you to access online. The guides are available for you to read online. The self-help guides can be accessed by typing the below link into your URL and selecting 'Self Help Guides': www.hacw.nhs.uk/a-to-z/letter-s/</p> <p>Staying Safe http://staying-safe.net/</p> <p>SANE 0845 767 800 Email: sanemail@org.uk www.sane.org.uk</p> <p>Samaritans 116 123 (24 hour helpline) www.samaritans.org.uk</p> <p>Rethink Mental Illness 0300 5000 927 www.rethink.org</p> <p>Mental Health Foundation www.mentalhealth.org.uk</p> <p>MIND 0300 123 3393 or</p>



	<p>text 86463 www.mind.org.uk</p> <p>Anxiety UK 08444 775 774 www.anxietyuk.org.uk</p>
<p>Bullying (including cyberbullying)/ Child death/suicide/prevention</p>	<p>Cyberbullying is using the internet, email, online games or any digital technology to threaten, tease, upset or humiliate someone else.</p> <p>If the police consider a message or post to be potentially criminal, they will take appropriate action. This could involve arresting the person responsible or interviewing them under caution. Cases involving sustained abuse or where someone's life is threatened will be treated seriously. The police will consider all of the circumstances when considering the best response to a report of cyber bullying. They will assess how vulnerable the victim is and what resources are required to trace the offender via social networking sites that often operate abroad and to different legislation. In certain cases it may be difficult to take action if the offender isn't in the UK. They will work with the victim to bring about the most suitable and proportionate conclusion, this will include alternative options that include the officer in the case using their discretion and working with the offender to record an apology to the victim.</p> <p>Useful links</p> <p>Bullying UK</p> <p>Childline</p> <p>KidScape: Our resources provide information on issues surrounding bullying, online and personal safety. They can be used directly by young people and parents, as well as in the classroom within schools and youth organisations.</p> <p>https://www.kidscape.org.uk/resources-and-publications/</p>