






ST ALBANS PLUS SCHOOLS' PARTNERSHIP FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES 2019-2020

Information for Parents

We are a Partnership of local schools working together to improve outcomes for our children and young people. The lead school is Fleetville Junior School and the Partnership has a contract with Vista St Albans CIC to deliver services. There is a team of School Family Workers, Parent Support Workers, Counsellors, Mentors and Behaviour Support. We are here to help parents in a number of ways.

As a parent you can expect to receive the following service from St Albans Plus Schools' Partnership via your school. Ask your school's headteacher, pastoral staff, SENCO or office staff how to contact us to find out who your School Family Worker is.

The School Family Worker service is part of Hertfordshire's early help strategy—Families First.

-  **Counselling:** We offer a therapeutic counselling service for children/young people and parents. This can take place in the school or at a different venue after school. Some mentoring is supported by the school or you can contact us directly.
-  **Education Health and Care Plan Support:** Our School Family Workers are trained to support parents with the ECH Plan. We also offer specialised support on transfers and initiation of new EHC Plans.
-  **Domestic Violence Outreach Support:** Supporting the Safer Places agenda we have a Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker, **Ruth Newlands**, who is available to support adults.
-  **Families First Assessment for schools and families:** Support for parents whose child/young person may have unmet needs. The FFA is an assessment which is carried out with the family. Support includes identifying actions, reviews and liaison with the professionals involved.
-  **Family Support:** Working with parents and carers in the home and school to deliver a targeted programme of support or signposting to relevant services. This programme is varied and offers information and advice in regards to (but not limited to):
 - Attendance
 - Boundary setting and routines
 - Bullying
 - Employment and work skills
 - Family Breakdown
 - Financial concerns and benefits advice
 - Mental health
 - Parental Relationships

- Signposting to specialist agencies
- Support for children with additional needs
- Support when a diagnosis is required
- Transition
- Under 16s mediation service and mediation for parents
- Young Carer support

✦ **Intervention and Behaviour Support:** Ask your school about this service. We can run specialist programmes within school on emotional wellbeing and behaviour.

✦ **Mentoring:** We offer a mentoring service for parents/carers and schools. Mentoring offers a 'listening ear' to explore a variety of issues such as low self esteem, family breakdown, anxiety, anger and behaviour. This can take place in the school or at a different venue after school. Some mentoring is supported by the school or you can contact us directly.

✦ **Multi-agency work:** Our School Family Workers work closely with CAMHS, DSPL7, Police, Bereavement Matters, Step 2, Carers in Herts, district, county and community agencies and support groups. We also work closely with Harpenden Plus Schools' Partnership.

✦ **Parenting Courses and Workshops:** Our staff are trained to deliver a variety of parenting courses and workshops of the following topics. We work with partners to offer courses detailed below:

- Additional Needs
- Dealing with Anger
- Families Feeling Safe
- Family Toolkit
- My Teen Brain
- Parenting Puzzle
- Raising Boys and Resilient Girls
- Understanding Teenagers

✦ **Parent Support/Additional Needs:** We also offer the following specialised support for parents of children and young people with additional needs as follows:

Support Surgeries with Laura Tarrant, Specialist Teacher for Autism and Magda Glinkowski, Early Years Autism Specialist – Parents of children with ASC can book an individual session with the Communication Disorders Team.

SIBS Group for Young Carers – A lovely fun group which runs on the last Tuesday of each month for siblings of children with special needs.

✦ **Telephone Support:** We have a 50 week a year service in place and can be contacted at any time during normal working hours (Monday to Friday – 8.45am – 5.00pm). We do not work weekends or bank holidays, but can signpost you to emergency helplines.



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