



Early Help Offer for Children and families

Hello! My name is Natalie Graham, I am the Family Liaison Lead at Riversides. I have been working in schools for the past couple of years and am a mum of a son with special educational needs, so I understand how difficult and challenging life can be at times.

My role in school is to provide support, advice and information to the families within our school community. I can help you with any worries you may have about your child's education and wellbeing. I am also here as someone to talk to if you need support yourself.

I can meet you at home or in school at a time that suits you. Any advice and support that I offer will be confidential, although concerns relating to the safeguarding of children will always be dealt with in accordance with school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. I may not have all the answers, but I will help you to work out how to find them.

Support for families includes:

- Providing information and signposting to other services in your local area
- Liaising with external services such as housing and social care
- Attendance and support at meetings with school and/or other agencies.
- Helping to complete paperwork and forms e.g. housing, school letters and benefits.
- Advice and support to promote good attendance.
- Access to training and parent workshops in school.

I am available Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 4.00 pm.

My email address is Natalie.graham@riversidesschool.co.uk or you can phone school on 01905 21261.

I look forward to working with you.



Early Help for Children and Families

Early Help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges, at any point in a child's life from foundation years through to teenage years.

We have regular meetings that enable us to identify pupils and families that would benefit from early help. This process allows us to put appropriate and timely support in place for students and their families at school, and to signpost them to outside agencies where this would be beneficial.

The designated Safeguarding Lead ensures rigorous and robust systems are in place within the school to ensure the safety of all our children.



Level	Level of support	
1	No support needed	No additional support is required. This family needs are met through school, GP, Health Visitor, Housing.
2	Teachers and Teaching assistants	Build relationships with pupils and families and record any changes or support needed. Offer support within the classroom or 1-1 Keep in regular contact with parents or carers through phone calls, messages or emails
	Inclusion Support	At team of staff who are called upon at any time to support children within class setting or 1-1, small groups
3	Family Liaison	To support families, children and teaching staff to offer support, advice, provide links to websites and support groups. To complete Families and Young People Early Help Assessment and Plan.
4	SENCO Children's social services Support	Refer to Schools SENCO for further support when required. To make referrals to outside agencies and support children and families.

Providing early help to our pupils and their families means we are more effective in promoting the welfare and wellbeing of our students.



Riversides School Visions and Values:

- Our community will provide everyone with opportunities for learning that are engaging, relevant, appropriate and Meaningful to them.
- We ensure young people are listened to, have the opportunity to voice their opinions and can access play, positive self-expression and learning in a welcoming and positive environment.
- It is the work of the team to understand the young person not for the young person to make themselves understood. Young people and their families can expect a supportive relationship with school that helps to create a safe space for learning.
- Our community provides a place for self-discovery, to flourish and build an individual's strengths to foster an attitude of positivity in an environment of unconditional respect and support.
- We recognise the rights of all of our community and enable young people, families and staff to come together to take learning beyond the classroom, becoming a part of all that we do.

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

At Riversides School we believe that all children should leave with a good standard of Education. It can set them on a positive path to their future. We understand each child has a different set of needs and like to support every child with the Social and Emotional and Mental Health challenges that they may face.

To do this our curriculum can be adapted to match a variety of subjects and interests that the students may have. We are always looking for ways to adjust school life to meet the needs of our pupils.

Some of the ways we offer this support can be seen below:

Breakfast to start the day

Many of our children have done a long journey before they arrive at school so, during tutor time we can offer toast or cereals and a drink to start the day with. We recognise the importance of breakfast for our students to enable the brain to;

- **Keep you focused** -Eating a healthy breakfast helps us feel more focused for the coming day
- **Be happy** - The foods we eat are intrinsically linked to our moods, and whilst many of us aren't morning people we guarantee you'll be less grumpy if you get a good breakfast in you!
- **Control your appetite** - Those that are calorie-conscious could be forgiven for thinking that skipping out a meal will help them lose weight, but in fact the opposite may happen instead.
- **Energise yourself** - it's quite a simple equation - if you don't eat, you won't feel so great! Well this especially applies to your first meal of the day.

We have recently secured £1000 funding from Kellogg's to provide breakfast for any student that requires it, to give them the best start to the day.

Outdoor Education



Outdoor Education at Riversides is a program designed to teach our pupils the following skills.

- To provide knowledge, understanding and respect for the outdoor environment.
 - To develop social skills whilst mixing with society.
 - To engage logical solutions to Everyday situations in and out of school.
 - To provide a sense of achievement when being pushed out of their comfort zone.
- Resilience /Team work

Visit Leader Training is attended by all our staff that are involved in the management and supervision of young people engaged in off-site activities and visits.

Within our school our pupils will take part in two types of outdoor education.

1) Outdoor adventure

This is a range of activities focusing on pushing pupils out of there comfort zone and working on resilience. Such activities are listed below;



- Climbing
- Sailing/ Canoeing
- Mountain Biking
- Hiking



2) Forest Schools

Pupils focus on group bonding, team work and social skills. These activities could include...

- Outdoor cooking
- Carving/bush craft





Outdoor topics and activities have always been successful with our SEMH students. Whilst enhancing and developing the points listed above it also provides future opportunities to work in the outdoor industry with the many qualifications a pupil can gain through us. Year 10 are also doing the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Scheme and JASS for year 9s, which is widely recognized in colleges, universities and future employers



Boxing

Boxing is about control, discipline and fitness. It was primarily introduced as an alternative curriculum option for pupils who were struggling to access all day learning. This proved successful in focussing pupil's anxieties. We are currently looking into creating our own school gym so that more children can benefit from this activity.



Fishing

Fishing is funded by parents and happens twice a month where we visit a local fishing pool. It has proven highly successful at engaging the children and giving them the opportunities to socialise and excel in an environment outside of the classroom. It is part of their Outdoor Ed sessions. It is a very calm world without the influences that have a negative impact on the children's lives.



Longlands Care Farm

Longlands provides alternative education for 11 to 18 year-olds within the picturesque setting of a 400 acre organic livestock farm located in Whitbourne.



They have pedigree Beef Shorthorn and Salers cattle, a flock of Lleyen sheep, ponies, pigs, poultry and working dogs. Working with animals in a natural environment can be very therapeutic for our students.

The primary aim at Longlands is to re-engage young people in learning, helping them to build confidence and self-esteem through vocational

training and meaningful work.

Through real hands-on work, young people achieve qualifications in areas such as: animal husbandry, equine skills, tractor driving, building maintenance and wildlife and conservation. Simultaneously, through supporting each other and teamwork our young people gain valuable social skills



By offering space and freedom and the expectation to engage in real work, learners are empowered to take responsibility for their behaviour and to appreciate what is acceptable.

The work at Longlands is rich and varied and offers a wide range of skills to be developed.



We encourage hard work and independent thinking. Young people take pride in their achievements and invariably go on to develop wider skills and interests.

Tutor to learner ratio is high and one to one support is available; this ensures that every learner is able to access an educational programme that is individually tailored to suit them. They aim to give their students a firm footing with qualifications and skills that will support them in their development into responsible adults.

The programmes can be tailored to accommodate attendance from 1-5 days per week and admission is possible at any point during the academic year. For students not currently attending school or needing extra support, we can provide onsite tutoring in order to give students maths and English qualifications.



Our team also have skills and training to provide mental health support for young people who may need it.

WYRE
COMMUNITY
LAND TRUST

The Wyre Forest is no wilderness. For centuries, people worked the land. By carefully managing the farms and forests, they created a special environment, rich in wildlife and plant species. At the Wyre Community Land Trust, we want to put this landscape back to work.

It's not about turning back the clock. It's about building a sustainable future – by nurturing the environment, offering great value local products, and making it more viable for more people to earn a living from the land.

EDUCATION

Wyre Forest Community Land Trust offer free education and care farming visits to local school and community groups. Their education team are able to offer a wide range of activities, from nature art to den building.

Woodland walk and activities – woodland themed activities to learn about trees, what trees need to grow, the wildlife they support and why we manage the woodland.

Orchard – discover the importance of orchards for wildlife, search for minibeasts, learn about pollination and the importance of pollinators and pick and juice apples in the autumn.

Wildflower Meadow – help us survey the wildflowers, learn about the parts of a plant and what they do, talk about photosynthesis and seed dispersal.



History of the Wyre Forest – learn how people used to make their livelihoods from the forest, explore and try traditional crafts such as bark peeling and charcoal making.



Learn about our animals – learn about our Dexter cows and the job they do to benefit wildlife, learn about what they eat and how they are looked after.



Arts and crafts – use natural materials from the forest to create pictures on the forest floor storytelling, bring trees to life with clay faces and use the forest for inspirational storytelling.

Woodwork – Join us in our workshop and learn to safely use a variety of tools to make a bird box, leaf carving, create your own woodland creature and other green woodworking crafts.



Music

Each week we have a music teacher attend school to offer our students the opportunity to engage in varied, hands on music lessons, this is something the children really enjoy. We have just won a Music marks award that will enable us to offer more music to our children.

10 reasons why music is important in schools:

- Hearing music helps self-esteem and self-discipline
- It can improve learning
- It can support development in literacy, numeracy and listening skills.



Music fosters teamwork—it is important to work together towards a common goal

- Music builds life skills— they build life skills such as empathy, problem solving and communication and a sense of responsibility and commitment.
- Better behaviour—you need discipline to practice regularly and dedication. When they enjoy it they stick to it.
- Encourages creativity—express themselves, exercise their imagination and problem solving.
- Music for life– an early start in music turns into a lifelong passion
- Music is fun completing a task, performing can give an adrenaline rush.
- Music is for everyone– it inclusive irrespective of abilities, especially beneficial for special needs children.



Recently we have been going out into the community and sharing our musical talent. At a visit to St Stephens, a local nursing home pupils were able to perform skills learnt in school and support residents with trying out some of the instruments and joining in with a sing along.



Lego Therapy



Lego-based therapy aims to develop social communication skills in children, such as sharing, turn-taking, following rules, using names and problem-solving.

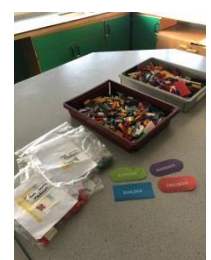


In practice, children work in groups of three with each participant having a distinct role to



build a Lego model collaboratively:

- Engineers use the Lego instructions and ask the Supplier for the specific pieces of Lego needed
- Suppliers give the Builders the pieces
- Builders follow the building instructions from the engineer in order to construct the model.





Crush is a conversation based therapeutic programme of interventions. The main focus is to work with young people who are at risk of or are affected by domestic abuse. The resource is used to aid in the development of an understanding of healthy relationships and coaches' young people on how to better manage

their exposure to domestic abuse in their lives. We currently have 2 members of staff who are able to support our children.

Play Specialist



At Riversides, a Play Specialist comes into school 3 afternoons a week to work with some of our Primary

Students. Learning through play is a wonderful way to develop, socially, emotionally, cognitively, and physically. The students have the opportunity to improve essential



skills such as turn taking,

communication, self-direction, verbal and non-verbal expression and understanding and following direction amongst many others.



The students get a great deal of enjoyment from the sessions and it can also provide the chance to explore difficult social

emotional issues through play.

and



College visits

A member of the Riversides team can accompany pupils on college visits and support them if they have an interest that we are unable to fulfil that within school. This includes subjects like construction which is based at the Malvern campus for HOW College. A number of students started with a level 1 brick laying course where they learnt to construct walls. They then moved onto Carpentry where they learnt about joinery. The next step would be to move onto painting and decorating. Pupils have attended HOW college to learn about being a Mechanic, which involved basic vehicle care. Students had the opportunity to use the garage facilities and work in groups to replace brake pads, change headlights and remove tyres.

Careers Advice

Careers Advisor - Paula Collins

Paula.collins@riversidesschool.co.uk



As the Careers Advisor working with Riversides I am in contact with all Year 11 leavers to discuss their plans for September. Helping with any advice and guidance regarding college/training provider courses for those that haven't already applied and for those that have, keeping up to date with colleges/training providers regarding plans for transition. I can support students with completion of any application forms too. I am also happy to speak with any parents of students in Year 9 or 10 if and when required and towards the end of this term will start planning Careers meetings with Year 10's in the Autumn term ready to help support them with their post school options and choices.



Work experience

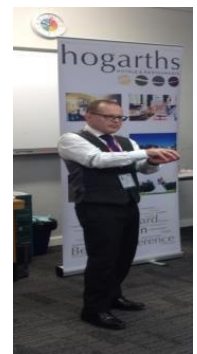


At Riversides in KS4, if a child has a particular interest in a career wherever possible we will source and arrange for them to do work experience in that field and gain a better understanding of the role/career they wish to follow. To date, we have forged links to hotels, construction, retail, Farming, carpentry, catering, office work, design, landscaping and animal rescue.

Each year we hold a 'World of Work' week, this is an opportunity for children in year 10 to visit businesses. Each day they get to have a tour of a different setting, experience some hands-on work and talk to staff about what it is like and ask questions.



In addition, there is an annual event at which, people from successful local businesses, colleges and apprenticeship advisers, gather to show pupils the opportunities that are available to them.



HOLLINS
LANDSCAPES AND BUILDING LTD



Pupils Voice

Pupil Parliament

We believe our students should be given the opportunity to practise and develop leadership skills and for their voice to be heard. Our School Parliament consists of a student representative from each class who is the class MP. The class MP's can choose to elect a Prime Minister and deputy Prime Minister, who they will support, as with our own Government. They meet once a half term to discuss different aspects of school life and help make positive changes in the running of the school. Through this process, we are supporting democracy; freedom of speech and tolerance in order to promote British Values.

How meetings are conducted:

A date is set for each meeting and an agenda is given to each of the elected Ministers. Each representative is given equal amounts of time to speak and share their views. A member of the Inclusions team takes notes which are passed to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Once SLT have provided responses to the matters raised feedback is given to the Parliament.

Our previous achievements:



- Access to Fidget toys for all students in class
- Recycling Bins in every class with allocated monitors
- New road signs/Banner outside school
- Supporting Fundraising around school



From September 2014 we have run the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme with our students in Years 10 and 11. The Award is designed for young people aged 14-24, giving them the chance to develop skills for life and work, fulfil their potential and have a brighter future.

Following a Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) program is a real adventure from beginning to end. It doesn't matter who you are or where you're from. You just need to be aged between 14 and 24 and realise there's more to life than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by!

Students can do programs at 3 levels which, when completed, lead to a Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

The award is achieved by completing a personal program of activities in 4 sections (5 if you're going for Gold) - Volunteering, Physical, Skills, Expedition (and for Gold, a Residential).



It is a great opportunity to help people or the community, get fitter, develop skills and go on an overnight expedition.

The best bit is - you get to choose what you do!



The program can be full of activities and projects that get you buzzing, and along the way you'll pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with you for the rest of your life.



Bikeability

Pupils from Year 5 to Year 7 have had the amazing opportunity of taking part in the Bike Ability program. This is an initiative set up by the Department of Transport in conjunction with Worcestershire County Council to make sure children use the roads safely when riding a bike. The students started the training in the school playground, then when they were



confident enough and had demonstrated their cycling skills to the instructors they were taken onto the local roads. With all the students head to foot in safety gear they were given the chance to put their new skills to the test in the local area. Successfully riding on the main roads near the school, with support from two instructors and staff.

Pupils started at all levels; from never having been on a bike before to confident riders who were looking to improve skills for riding on public roads safely. This has been a great life skill we have been able to support our pupils with. The program is embedded into the school curriculum as an annual event and children will have the opportunity to engage as they move through the school.



We are fortunate that Liz Jones, who runs the PTA, was able to fund the purchase of the bikes from a local charity.

Feedback from the children and parents was very positive and proved how successful the whole venture was.

Parents comments – “My son came home and wanted to go for a walk, when we were out, he spent the whole time telling me about looking both ways, what the coloured lines mean on the road and where his bike needs to be if cars are coming. I was so impressed with how much he had managed to remember.”

Pupils Voice – “Good Didn't like the roads but enjoyed going around the playground”, “I can ride a bike but now I know how to signal”, “I enjoyed riding on the roads and now I can do all the checks”, “Now I can do junctions but could already ride a bike”, “I learned how to balance on a bike without peddles” and finally “Everything was good”

A big thank you must go out to the staff and instructors of Bike Ability #bikeability.

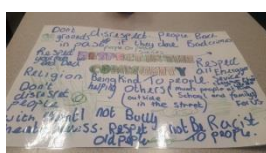
If you would like more information, please visit <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/>

RHSE/PHSE



The following areas are among those addressed in Relationship Education (RSHE) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) as well as being taught throughout the wider curriculum.

- Bullying/Cyber Bullying - We support anti-bullying week every year
- Drugs, Alcohol and Substance Abuse
- Online Safety / Mobile technologies, this is taught explicitly in ICT lessons but is part of the RSHE tutor time curriculum.
- Stranger Danger
- Fire and Water Safety
- Peer to Peer Abuse



- Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment

- Road Safety - pupil's are taken off-site on Outdoor Education trips and this is part of the learning in those sessions.

- Domestic Abuse

- Healthy Relationships / Consent

- Honour Based Violence issues (HBV) e.g. Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

- Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSE)

- Extremism and Radicalisation (in line with the DfE advice Promoting Fundamental British Values as part of SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural education) in Schools (2014)1.



All of our activities are designed to promote positive relationships and tolerance and we also use resources from the Stop Speak Support website.

Purple Leaf



The Purple Leaf Programme is an educational resource, created to increase young people's awareness of sexual abuse. It helps to equip them with the skills, knowledge and tools to be able to identify uncomfortable feelings, and to know where to go for help and support.

The resource is designed for children and young people aged from 10 to 18. Each session is tailored for the relevant group, using age-appropriate materials. The Purple Leaf Programme covers the following outcomes:

- Young people will have an increased understanding of consent, both in the context of seeking consent and giving consent
- Young people will be able to identify factors that might make a relationship healthy or unhealthy
- Young people will be able to identify uncomfortable feelings
- Young people will have a better understanding of how to access support and information

These outcomes will support in promoting and understand of 'Respectful Relationships' and 'Being Safe' for primary and secondary schools, plus 'Intimate and Sexual Relationships' for secondary schools.

Fearless campaign

Andrea, is a Fearless Outreach worker who can attend school to talk to children across all year groups in KS3/4 to talk about the campaign and answer any questions that the children might have and improve the relationship with the police.

Topics they can cover:

- Weapons
- CSE (sexual abuse)
- Theft & Robbery
- Criminal Damage
- Violence



- Gangs (County Lines)
- Drugs
- Abuse
- Cyber Crime

They are happy to talk about any of these topics and many more to support children and families.

Outdoor Classrooms/Forest school



At Riversides we understand the benefits of spending time away from the classroom so, as part of the timetable each class has allotted time to spend either in the outdoor classroom or in our refurbished forest area. Maths can still be achieved while working in the world around them.



Inclusion Support

All staff at Riversides are trained in inclusion and able to support pupils who may be struggling. However, we have a team of staff to support any pupils that are struggling with Social, Emotional or Behaviour issues. They assist pupils or class teachers where needed.

Mrs Lloyd-Critcher



and

Miss



Northcott

They can work to support our students within class, 1-1 and in small groups.

Our IST's are trained in:

- Lego therapy
- Psychology
- CRUSH
- Protective Behaviour
- Attachment Behaviours
- Safeguarding

How we support our families

At Riversides school we are here to help the whole family and not just the children. We have a Full time Family Liaison Officer, Attendance Officer and Safeguarding Team who work closely with every staff member. It is our aim to always make time to support the whole family.

All children and families can struggle from time to time and being a parent isn't always easy. We learn as we go and sometimes we need help – someone to listen and support us to find the best way forward. Even though there's no shame in it, sometimes it can be the hardest thing in the world to ask for help, or to know how to get the right help, when you need it.

Do you find children's behaviour challenging?

Are you unsure where to go for help and advice?

Would you like help talking to your child about personal care and life skills?

Are you trying to cope with bereavement?

Is the mountain of paper work tricky to understand and complete?

Are you struggling with the cost of uniforms?

Do you avoid groups or meetings and don't want to attend alone?

Do you worry about money?

Parent

Drop in

Is it a struggle to get them off games and know how to keep them safe online?

Do you struggle to get children to eat healthily?

Would you like training and to attend workshops but don't know how?

Would you like help with your housing or benefit systems?

The

Is transport becoming an issue to get to school?

Do you need advice and support for your child's diagnoses?

sessions

sessions are parents topic and then open parents.

Would you just like a coffee and to chat about things that are worrying you?

who we feel would benefit

aims of these to invite from the

Is it a struggle to get your children to school?

to all

Are bedtimes a nightmare?

Date	Event	Attending
September 29 2023	Macmillan Coffee Morning Children to create bunting/colouring /posters/invitations	New Parents Class Teacher /SLT Family Liaison
November TBC	Healthy Relationships	SLT Family Liaison
December 8 th 2023	New year new start Healthier Families	SLT Family Liaison
January 19 th 2023	Chat Health, advice for parents	SLT Family Liaison TBC School Nurse
February 23 rd 2023	Local Policing Support in the community	SLT Family Liaison TBC PCSO Sweatman
March TBC		
April 19 th 2023	Healthy Relationships	Family Liaison Purple Leaf TBC

May 17 th 2023	Family Learning advice	SLT Family Liaison TBC Family Learning
June 14 th 2023	TBC	



If you have any topic that you think you would like to meet and discuss, just drop me a message and we will see what we can do.



Family Learning Rainbows and Recipes



We had a lovely group of mums who attended our first Rainbows and Recipes group who meet every Thursday at RSS. Not everyone could make every week with family illness, appointments etc however along with the lovely tutor Jane we managed to make rainbow pizza's,



Bolognese sauce which ½ went home and ½ frozen ready for the next

week to make lasagne. Everyone has a scrap book to stick in recipes in and put comments on how they enjoyed or made again at home.



Further Courses we have taken part in is 'Cooking on a budget' and marvellous me where we look at ways to support your own Mental Health by doing simple crafts while having a chat with other parents.



Look out for your emails to see dates of next or follow the link to find similar course in your [Family learning](#)



course area.

Food banks



If we have families that are struggling we can offer support by providing Vouchers to the Food Banks situated all over Worcestershire. During the Covid-19 lockdown we were able to support many of our families with Free School Meal Vouchers to ensure that none of our families were without during the tough times they faced.

Newsletters

We send out a newsletter every month to parents/carers informing them of school events and other important information about school. We try to include useful information and websites for parents/carers to access like finance, mental health, E-Safety, NSPCC School Nurse Service and Worcester Children's First. To access these please visit our website [Newsletters](#)

Harmony at Home



Harmony at Home is Worcestershire's approach to the Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) initiative in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and organisations from our multiagency Reference group.

Parental conflict, which can range from a lack of warmth and emotional distance, right through to swearing and shouting, is known to be a risk factor for poor child outcomes, particularly when conflict is frequent, intense and poorly resolved. There is growing understanding and awareness of the need to address and reduce parental conflict that sits below a domestic abuse or violence threshold.

At Riversides we have a trained member of staff to support families to work through issues you may find yourselves in. You can work together or separately and at your own pace. It's not about assigning, it's about finding ways to get your concerns heard and supporting each other with family life.

You can follow the link for more information [Harmony at Home](#) or contact: The Riversides Family Liaison Officer on 01905 21262.



Adult Learning in Worcestershire

Worcestershire County Council provide a number of Adult Learning courses, a large number of which are free. The courses are wide ranging, and can be found [here](#) some examples include:

- Mood Master resilience course
- Nail Technology
- Smartphone and Tablet Skills
- Festive Craft Workshops
- Microsoft Office Skills
- And many more

Worcestershire Starting Well Partnership

The Starting Well Partnership supports parents, families, children young people across Worcestershire. We have 6 teams working of our [Family Hubs](#) located in districts across the county.

Families in each of the districts are supported by Health Visitors, Parenting Support Workers,



and
out

Community Nursery Nurses, School Health Nurses, Health Care Assistants, Volunteer Coordinators, Community Health Connectors, Business Support Officers and Administrators. They provide support, advice and clinics from our Family Hubs, community spaces, schools and GP surgeries.

Our teams include staff from [Herefordshire Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust](#), Barnardos, Redditch and Bromsgrove District Councils and Action for Children.

[Starting Well Partnership | Worcestershire | Starting Well \(startingwellworcs.nhs.uk\)](#)

Other support services available to our parents and carers are:

[Worcestershire Wellbeing Hub](#) is an information and signposting services for anyone over 16 experiencing low mood, anxiety or stress looking for local support and service.

[Worcester children's First](#) Our vision is for Worcestershire to be a wonderful place for all children and young people to grow up Worcestershire Children First is responsible for the delivery of services to children and young people across Worcestershire. We are a not for profit company and 100% owned by Worcestershire County Council.

[Family Front Door](#) – Worcestershire family front door is for help and information. See also their information and Guidance Directory to see what services and available.

[Women's Aid](#) - runs a 24hour domestic abuse help line (0800 980 331) and delivers the Freedom Programme and Recovery and Empowerment programmes locally.

[Swanswell](#) – are a national alcohol and drug charity who believe in creating a society free from problem alcohol and drug use. They support people to 'change and be happy' and have an office in Kidderminster providing adult and young person drugs and alcohol services.

[Rethink](#) – Mental illness affects 1 in 4 people. The Rethink website has lots of useful information includes links to further support, a section for family members as well as clear information around diagnosis and treatment.

[Samaritans](#) – you can talk about anything – you don't have to be feeling suicidal to call the Samaritans. They offer a 24hr confidential helpline (116 123 – from any phone) where you can talk about whatever is getting to you.

[Family Lives](#) – is a national family support charity who provide help and support around all aspects of family life, including a helpline (0808 800 2222)

[School Nurse](#) – The School Health Nursing Service is run by Worcestershire Health and Care Trust and provides a range of services to help meet the needs of children, young people and their families. Starting well Worcestershire.

[Autism West Midlands](#) – work across all age groups and abilities and provide activities, events and outreach support for families, an information helpline and lots more.

[Worcestershire Young Carers](#) – aims to support children and young people age 7 to 25 years who help to look after a parent, guardian or sibling within their home, who is ill or has a disability. This includes caring for people who have issues with drugs or alcohol or have a mental health difficulty.

[The Point](#) – offers a one-stop shop providing free advice and guidance to people seeking jobs and careers advice, so they can access the right route for them. Job vacancies, apprenticeships and traineeship are also advertised at the Point and support is available on applying for jobs,

writing CVs and developing interview skills. They also run workshops on Basic IT skills, Maths and English etc.

[Citizens Advice](#) – offer advice and practical information around benefits, housing, employment, debt management, the legal system, immigration, consumer rights and lots more.

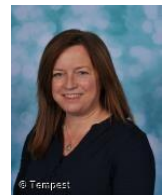
[NSPCC](#) – Everything they do is to protect children today and prevent abuse tomorrow, to transform society for every childhood. They have lots of advice and information for parents and helplines to support (Help for adults concerned about a child Call us on 0808 800 5000 Help for children and young people Call Childline on 0800 1111)

[Think u Know](#) – provides great practical information and help for parents around children and young people to stay safe

[Barnardo's](#) - See, Hear, Respond Support Hub. Help for hundreds of thousands of children, young people, parents and carers across the UK. They don't abandon children because of who they are or what they've done. They listen to them, fight for their rights and do whatever it takes to protect and support them – because they believe that *all* children have the right to a happy and healthy life.

Attendance

Mrs Dawn Barron is our Attendance Officer. Her responsibility is for the monitoring of attendance of all pupils enrolled at Riversides School within guidelines of the Attendance policy. Riversides School seeks to ensure that all pupils receive a full-time education, allowing them to maximise their opportunities and realise their true potential.



The people responsible for the attendance in this school are:

- The Head Teacher
- Attendance officer
- Family Liaison
- Inclusion support
- Class teacher for promoting good attendance

Procedures

- We aim for all pupils to achieve at least 90% attendance.
- Attendance to be tracked on a daily basis.
- The Head Teacher is the only member of SLT to authorise absences
- Parents to inform school before 9am and inform how many days they suspect to be absent.
- Pupils who are absent without parents knowledge is classed as a cause for concern.
- For pupils with an unauthorised absent, firstly a phone call /text message is sent and then if no contact made a member of staff will make a home visit.
- Support offered to families and pupils to improve attendance.
- If pupils are absent for a number of days the Local authority will be contacted who will visit the home address and carry out the Worcestershire County Council Missing Students Procedure.

Support in school

The school believes firmly in working in partnership with parents to resolve issues. Parents, carers and students should contact the school if they are experiencing problems with attendance. Contact can be made with either the Attendance officer, Family Liaison officer or the form tutor in the first instance.

[Riversides School Attendance Policy](#)

Supporting Mental Health

We have a trained mental health team to support our whole school approach to mental health. Our Mental Health Lead is Natalie Graham. You can contact Natalie to discuss any concerns on 01905 21261



Mental Health and wellbeing is very important to our school for Children, Parents and staff alike. We all have tough times in life at different stages and what is an issue for someone may be easier for someone else.

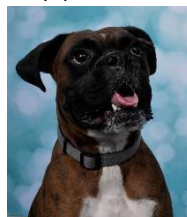
We have a trained mental health team to support our whole school approach to mental health.

School Dogs

We have a number of school dogs that regularly attend. The children get so many benefits from spending time with them, looking after them, taking them for walks and playing games with them. They are even known to go on outdoor education. The presence of the dogs in the classroom and around the school has had a noticeably positive impact for all.



Donald



Bertie



Bean

We have found the following benefits:

- Members of the school have a 'shared' interest. This encourages everyone to communicate, which have a positive impact on relationships around the school. Thus, creating a nicer school environment, which therefore promotes better attendance and a greater willingness to learn.
- Improved behaviour, social interaction and sense of responsibility in the classroom and around school.
- Increased knowledge of dogs and how to behave safely around them.
- Greater access the community – for some the presence of a dog can provide enough confidence to go on trips outside school.
- The chance to gain a better understanding of caring and being responsibly for another living being. Therefore, providing the opportunity to gain more recognition of their own responsibilities.

- Improvements in the way students interact with each other and members of staff. The exciting part of this, is that all of these positive effects extend into the home environment for many students.



CAMHS

CAMHS stands for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. CAMHS is the name for the NHS service that assesses and treats young people with mental health difficulties. CAMHS can support with depression, eating disorders, self-harm, abuse and past trauma, violence or anger, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and anxiety, among other difficulties. There are local NHS CAMHS services around the UK, with teams made up of nurses, therapists, psychologists, child and adolescent psychiatrists (medical doctors specialising in mental health), support workers and social workers, as well as other professionals.

[Mental health help to children, young people and their families | School Mental Health \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/mental-health-help-to-children-young-people-and-their-families)

CAMHS Reach4wellbeing

The Reach4Wellbeing team supports and promotes the emotional wellbeing of young people and parent/carers through evidence based interactive online group programmes. They use a Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) informed approach for the Anxiety and Low Mood Skills Groups and a Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) informed approach for the Brief Emotional Resilience Skills Groups.

Their programmes rely on practising skills outside the weekly group sessions. Research has shown that the more children and young people practise skills learnt in the groups, the more they saw improvements in their Anxiety/ Low Mood or Emotional Resilience and experienced greater positive well-being by the end of and following the group. Like any change, this entails hard work, persistence and making the time to attend and participate, if you feel you are not currently in the right place to make this commitment our programmes will not be as effective for you.

[Reach4Wellbeing | School Mental Health \(hacw.nhs.uk\)](https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/reach4wellbeing)

Kooth



Kooth is an emotional wellbeing community available for 11 -25-year olds. It can be accessed from any wi-fi device. No-one is prevented from accessing our service, the "open-door" policy ensures everyone can contact them if they are experiencing emotional or wellbeing issues. Kooth can support

people with all 'levels' of presentations, from preventative work, through the mild/moderate, to severe end of difficulties. They acknowledge their limitations and sometimes, especially for those with more severe difficulties, they will work alongside other services, e.g. CAMHS or social services. They can also adjust their support as someone's presentation changes, e.g. if things worsen or improve. Kooth is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Our experienced and accredited counsellors are available via drop-in or pre-arranged online chat sessions every day of the year. Sessions are available from noon until 10pm on weekdays and from 6:00pm until 10:00pm on weekends. Access is free of the typical barriers to support - no waiting times, no referrals, no thresholds to meet and complete anonymity.



Worcestershire Talking Therapies

[Talking Therapies](https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/talking-therapies), formally known as 'Healthy Minds', provides a long-term, confidential support to people across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. This includes:



- [Online therapy](#)
- [Groups and courses](#)
- [1:1 support](#)

They can also help you find and access a variety of groups, courses and activities delivered by voluntary, charity and social enterprise providers that can support your physical and mental wellbeing.

School Nurse

Lydia Watling is our school nurse, you can contact her for help and support at any time. She is happy to meet you at school or at home to discuss your concerns.

The school nurse team provide a wide range of services to meet the needs of children, young People and their families. These include (but are not limited to):

- National Child Measurement Program (NCMP)
- Hearing Screening
- Home Visits
- Time4U drop in service
- Health needs assessments
- Poor sleep advice and support
- Bedwetting advice and support

School Health Nurses can also signpost to other services that may be of use to you:

- Health Visitors
- GP's
- Parenting Support and Targeted Family Support
- Sexual Health and Education
- CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Asthma nurses

They are available within schools at varying times and the School will always have a contact number. Parents can see them at school via prior arrangement within the school term or within their home.

We have a separate team of trained [Special School Nurses](#) who support children and young people attending one of Worcestershire's 7 Special Schools. The Special School Nursing service provides support to Special Schools to enable the school to meet the holistic care needs of children and young people when attending school. Although this is primarily through training and supporting school staff, all children can access direct support and advice from the Special School Nurse if they choose.

Designated Safeguarding Team



Mr Mark Green

Designated safeguarding lead

Prevent Lead



Mrs M Hill
Miss N Graham

Head Teacher



Mr I Enwright

Teacher (RAP)



Mrs R Kemp

Attendance & Exams



Mr M Bourne

Executive Head
Family Liaison
Officer



Mrs D Barron

Officer

The safeguarding team meet every week to discuss all cases and then together decide on best course of action. At these meeting they discuss:

How a child presents	Behaviour	Attitudes to learning/progress
Concerns in relation to families	Additional needs	What is working well for families?
Support in place	Early help support	What support can school offer?

SENCO (Special Education Needs & Disability Co-Ordinator)

Mrs Rebecca Kemp is our SENCO and works closely with our children, families, outside agencies and school staff to support children with additional needs.

Mrs Kemp can make referrals for a number of NHS services like speech therapy and occupational therapy and attends meetings with those professionals.

The SENCO plays a vital role in supporting your child's teacher to ensure that their educational needs are met. Many people are involved in the education and support of a child with special educational needs; the class teacher, the SENCO, parents and other professionals. The school SENCO will be involved in any meetings with professionals to ensure that everyone is coordinated in how they support your child.

Remember, the SENCO is there to support you and your child, and to be an advocate for you both. If something is niggling, it's always best to talk to the SENCO sooner rather than later.

Keep Children Safe in Education

In keeping children safe in Education 2023 it 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. It is expected that 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 behaviours, including gang's involvement or association with organised crime groups
- Is frequently missing/goes missing from care or from home
- Is misusing drugs or alcohol themselves
- Is at risk if modern slavery, trafficking or exploitation
- Is in families circumstances 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/or neglect
- Is at risk if being radicalised or exploited
- Is a privately fostered child

[Keeping children safe in education 2023 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Operation Encompass



Operation Encompass is a charitable organisation that ensures there is a notification made to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at school if a child or young person has experienced any domestic incident. This will be done prior to the start of the next school day. Information sharing between professional agencies allows school staff to provide emotional and practical support to their pupils experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse can broadly be defined as 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour; violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who have been intimate partners or family members. This can include but is not limited to the following types of abuse – psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.

Operation Encompass ensures that a member of the school staff, usually the Designated Safeguarding Lead, is given special training, to enable them to liaise with the police and Local Authority in receiving and using the information that has been shared, in confidence.

Domestic Abuse Champion

We have a Domestic Abuse Champion trained within our staff. They are able to listen, offer advice and support to families across Worcestershire. We can offer you emergency support or just to have a chat if you feel things aren't ok.

Domestic violence and abuse is defined as:

"any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- *Psychological*

- Emotional
- Financial
- Physical
- Sexual

Domestic abuse is any form of unacceptable personal abuse and happens to women, men and children. At some point in their lives, it will affect 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men.

- it can be committed by a partner or ex-partner, or a family member
- it can involve a wide range of abusive and controlling behaviour
- domestic abuse can also include issues such as forced marriage and honour crimes

Controlling behaviour can be described as; a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is; a continuing act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

There are three important steps to take if you are being abused or threatened by your partner, ex-partner or someone else close to you:

- recognise it is happening
- accept you are not to blame

The West Mercia Women's Aid Helpline can offer support, call them on 0800 980 333. They are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The helpline is staffed by trained workers who can offer you support, safety planning, information and advice.

Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5pm)

In an emergency always dial 999 and ask for police. If you are not safe to speak - call 999 and then press 55.



White Ribbon

White Ribbon UK is part of the global White Ribbon movement to end male violence against women.



White Ribbon are the leading charity that is ending male violence against women by engaging with men and boys to make a stand against violence. Their mission is for all men to fulfil the White Ribbon Promise to never commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. White Ribbon act as a catalyst, encouraging people, and especially men and boys, to individually and collectively take action and change behaviour.

Police Community Support Officers



The Safer Schools Team consist of three Police Community Support Officers; Iain Sweatman, Libby Horton and Kerry Plant. They attend school to help build positive relationships between students and police, by interacting with the students within class, through playing games, helping with work or joining in with the activity. They also deliver key messages to students via assemblies, informal chats or presentations to the whole class on a variety of subjects.

They are here to listen and give advice to the students, staff and parent and can attend multi agency meetings if they are asked to. If you would like to contact the team, you can through school or via email: saferschoolssw@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

Recently they have supported the Pupil Parliament with getting a mini police officer to encourage vehicles to slow down and drive safe around school.

Local School links

At Riversides we like to work with and support the local community. We have very good links with St Georges RC Primary school. They very kindly let us use their facilities and the nearby sports field. It can get very busy in the mornings with both schools trying to get children in, however, we do our best to move vehicles on and keep path ways clear to enable families to pass safely.

Hygiene Bank

We are currently working with the local schools to set up a Hygiene Bank for families that struggle to add toiletries onto their weekly shop. We are working with local shops, schools and churches to support the whole community.



St Georges Church



Jo Musson is the Priest in charge St Johns Baptist, Claines and of St Georges Church in Barbourne Worcester. Jo offers great support to our school and regularly attends to do assemblies and generally offer support to children, Families and Staff within our Community



Over Christmas we helped support our local Food Bank by making up food boxes and with the help of the local Church who supported distributing to families in need.

We have also supported Operation Christmas Child, a charity that ensures children in need get presents at Christmas.



Care Homes



We have supported our local Nursing home with donations of our left-over PPE equipment which was gratefully received.

We have also visited with pupils who put on a musical performance for the residence which was enjoyed by all.

This year our pupils are busy making Christmas cards for residents that do not have family or friends that send to them.



United Charities

Mrs Hill had the most wonderful visit from Reverend Jo Musson who some of you might know as she performs the most special and interesting assemblies for our children. She is part of St Georges parish in Barbourne and always is a great supporter of our school. Through her links with Claines United Charities which she is a Trustee of, she was able to give us a cheque for **£1300.**

Claines united Charities are a Worcestershire based charity that provides support to the local communities including:

- Children/young people
- Elderly/old people
- General charitable purposes
- Makes grants to individuals
- Makes grants to organisations
- Other charitable or voluntary bodies
- People with disabilities



The only advice given was to spend it on the children at Riversides to improve enjoyment at school. Mrs Hill has set upon a plan that will benefit every child in the school. That is to improve the outside area for them to share.



Wooden Spoon Charity



Wooden spoon is the children's charity of rugby. They fund life-changing projects that support children and young people with disabilities or living in disadvantage. Their focus is to help through projects such as sensory rooms, playground equipment, outdoor activities and other specialist equipment to help with health and wellbeing.

Riversides were fortunate enough to receive a donation towards our outdoor project, which has allowed our pupils to have a new experience of getting away from the classroom and learning in the outdoors. This gives them the opportunity to explore the world around them, accessing their learning in the fresh air within a safe and dry environment.



Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Worcester both raises funds and provides service.





Service includes a variety of activities including literacy support in school; careers advice for young people; projects; organising events for others; providing skills and time to others.

We have a range of fund-raising activities including quizzes, our board march, social events, recycling and bucket collections. In a typical year we make charitable donations in the region of £14,000.

Over the years we have been involved with a wide variety of organisations – either raising funds for them or working with them.



They have supported Riversides recently by helping us improve our outside area and install climbing equipment for the children to make playtimes more interesting.



High Sheriff of Worcester



Staff and pupils at **The Riversides School** in Worcester welcomed the county's High Sheriff for a visit.

Mark Jackson, the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, met Ian Enwright, executive head teacher of Riversides and Newbridge Schools.

We had a fantastic visit from the High Sheriff of Worcestershire, who was very supportive of all the changes in our school and the impact we are having upon the pupils attending both Riversides and Newbridge School.

Oaklands Foundation



The primary objective of the Foundation is to support the needs of children in England and Wales through a range of educational and youth projects based on education, health and nutrition, and sport. Annually the Foundation can only fund so many worthy causes and so currently is only considering projects based in 'Worcestershire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire' and based around the areas Oakland International is an integral part of the local community (Redditch, Bardon, Corby).



We have received a donation to go towards training all our pupils in Primary with First aid skills and 10 pupils from Secondary with Mental Health training. We are now able to add this onto the weekly curriculum for the next few years. By training the pupils in secondary they can then act as advocates and support their peers.



Parents Views

We always like to get feedback from our parents/carers and pupils. This enables us to make improvements or the knowledge that things are working well. Positive or negative we welcome your feedback.

Some of the feedback we have received:

"We are missing school and the staff"

Child

"I'm bored and want to come back"

Child

"Since Joining your school his out bursts at home have got better, thank you"

Parent

"Can I have some more work please"

Child

"The school looks so much better since it's been painted"

Child

About the work set "yes he loved it, thank you so much!!!!"

Parent

"Thank you to Mr Price for all the support you have given myself and my son though a tricky time in our lives".

Parent

"It doesn't feel like his teacher phoning it's more like a friend ringing me for a chat"

Parent

Thank you for all the support shown from all the staff"

" Mrs Sutton, you have done so much for our family, so much more than from my other child's school"

Parent

As some of you know I have been phoning families whilst working at home. Just wanted to share with you that many of the families have commented on the excellent support received from school. In particular, this morning I spoke to a mother of a Yr10 and she was so complimentary about all the support staff have given over shut down. Far better and more compressive that what she had received from his sibling's mainstream school. She also mentioned all the hard work done in decorating the school and how student s will be keen to get back to such a lovely welcoming school and team.

Careers adviser.

"I am very grateful for all the support from school and Mrs Chapman that has been given during lockdown. The amount of work set and calls to the family compared to other child's school. It has defiantly helped with building stronger relationships with thi s family"

Parent