



St Mary's Church of England Primary School
Fowler Road, Islington, London N1 2EP

'Believe and Achieve'

Team Around the School Policy

The Team Around the School is a mechanism for schools to meet with the family support localities service and other key partners on a regular basis to have a shared conversation recognising the value of universal and targeted support services, and to have a shared understanding of the profile and needs of the school and local community. To work together to pool resources and professional expertise to develop and provide support to families that is outcome driven, focused on solutions and helps the family to become more resilient and self reliant in order to prevent a child or young person requiring specialist support in the future.

The focus is on early intervention and supporting children and young people who have additional needs but who don't require specialist services; ensuring families receive the correct package of support at the right time in order to prevent difficulties escalating to crisis point.

The aims are to:

- Enable provision of early intervention and preventative services for children, young people and their families and to reduce the number of cases held and referred to children's social care
- Have a good understanding of the profile and needs of the school and local community, identifying local priorities and the families who are most likely to need support services
- Build trust and improve communication so that information and data is shared effectively
- Offer support at key points in children and young people lives (especially at transition points), identifying those with additional needs and agreeing the most effective ways of targeting and responding to particular needs
- Support and engage with families more efficiently in relation to school related issues, identifying and removing barriers to learning and understanding parents perspectives and what will motivate them to engage
- Share models and examples of effective evidenced based practice
- Ensure that all children and young people with additional needs (including complex needs), and particularly those who require integrated support from more than one service, experience a seamless and effective service.
- Track and monitor the child, young person and family's progress

The benefits are:

- Coordinated single assessment and provision of integrated support
- Reduced bureaucracy and easier referral route
- Move towards early intervention and proactive response
- Services tailored more effectively to family needs, with greater focus upon outcomes

- Improved and earlier access to services for families
- Better engagement and communication with families
- Opportunity for staff to collaborate and learn from one another, providing clarity about respective roles and responsibilities

The priority children for TAS meetings are:

- School attendance of below 90%
- Risk of permanent exclusion from education
- Parenting and wellbeing concerns due to domestic violence, mental health, substance misuse, sexual exploitation, anti-social behavior and offending etc
- Risk of need to be accommodated
- Siblings of children or young people who are receiving specialist services
- Young carers
- Private fostering arrangements

Information sharing

Concerning individual pupils will be in accordance with the information sharing protocols; the key principles of which are that we only share information:

- That is relevant and necessary, not simply all the information we hold on the child, young person or family;
- With the relevant people who need the information; and
- When there is a specific need for the information to be shared at that time.

Unless there is a legitimate purpose for sharing information (safeguarding, attendance, criminal behaviour) information concerning individual pupils will be by initials in order to maintain the privacy of the individual.

Key arrangements:

- School identifying named professional and agencies for attendance
- Relevant agencies supporting the school are invited to attend
- Meetings are held a minimum of each term
- Meetings are chaired by the school
- Written record of the discussion provided by the school
- The following actions may be considered at this meeting:
 1. No further action;
 2. School to Initiate a CAF/ Team around the child
 3. School to monitor with specific focus
 4. Referral to a specialist service.

Information sheet for parents, guardians and carers

- Team Around the School is St. Mary's Church of England Primary School's integrated services team. This group of professionals come together once a term and are in contact throughout the term in order to deliver and advice on the needs of our children. The services represented on the team are the Educational Psychology Service, Education Welfare Service and Home School Liaison Officer, Primary Pupil Referral Outreach Team, Speech and Language Service (SALT), Children's Social Care, Health (school nurse), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Families First.

Various Roles in the team and other services

Speech and Language Therapy	Support/ advice/ direct intervention to develop understanding and use of language, social communication skills and the use of augmentative communication.
Educational Psychology	Consultation on child development and educational issues, Assessment and intervention for motor, language, behaviour, social, emotional and cognitive development. Training in the above for our school staff and parents/carers. Assessment for school placements.
Support for the Visually Impaired	Support the school regarding delivery and equipment for children with Visual Impairments
Support for the Hearing Impaired	Support the school regarding delivery and equipment for children with Hearing Impairments
Occupational Therapy	Support and advice on toileting, motor skills and specialist equipment and activities. Support for hand work groups including Jump-Ahead group.
Family First	Support for families within school and with support from social services on behaviour, social deprivation and parenting skills.
School Nurse	Support for all medical needs, feeding, care plans, epilepsy support, liaison with GPs and Community nursing and Paediatric Consultants.

How to access the team

Please complete an in-school referral form available at the school office. In consultation with you we will either make a single-agency referral or refer the case to the Team Around the School Meeting where all agencies can input advice and support. Team Around the School Meetings happen each school term but referrals can be made through at ANY time during the school year.