



# Samuel Ward Academy

## Early Help Offer

At Samuel Ward Academy, we recognise the importance of early help to offer support to meet the needs of students.

Early Help is everybody's responsibility: together we will make sure that children, young people and their families are safe, happy and ready for school, work and life's challenges.

Early Help means better outcomes for children and families.

Effective Early Help will resolve problems before they become overwhelming and require high cost, reactive services. Early Help enables children to be ready for school and more likely to achieve their full potential. We offer comprehensive student support and guidance, to ensure that the personal wellbeing of our students is catered for and that barriers to learning can be removed.

Below is a summary of our Early help interventions. If you feel your son/daughter may benefit from one of these interventions, please contact their Head of Year in the first instance.

Early Help Intervention	Year Group/ Target Group	Summary of intervention
Inclusion Officer Support	All	Inclusion Officer to work on a one to one basis with students who have an identified need, whether that be social, emotional, behavioural or academic
Tutor	All	All students have an allocated for tutor who they see on a daily basis. This is their first point of contact for any issues, and parents also have email access to their child's tutor. Tutors are responsible for overseeing the academic and pastoral wellbeing of their group, and liaising with other staff within the school as required to ensure that the appropriate support is in place as soon as a need is identified.
The Study	All	The Study provides a quiet, safe space for those students struggling to access education in general, to those needing extra individual study time, for those needing 1:1 support with specific areas such as anxiety, self-esteem, self-regulation and group work such as social skills. It gives those struggling to access school at all a place to come and study, providing a stepping stone back into the classroom and therefore avoiding non-attendance. We also run a lunch club from The Study every day for students who struggle with the noise and busyness of lunchtime.
ELSA Support	All	The ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) intervention is used to support the emotional needs of our students. This is achieved by trained staff who develop and deliver individualised support programmes to meet the emotional needs of the students in our care. It recognises that children learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are also addressed. Most ELSA programmes will last for 6 to 12 weeks, helping the pupil to learn some specific new skills or coping strategies.
Social Skills Group	All	For students who may appear isolated or being struggling with social interaction or peers. Sessions are run in The Study.
School Nursing Team	All	School nurses are available on a monthly basis at a lunchtime (in the Wellbeing Centre; dates vary each month but are displayed on posters around the school) They can see students with medical or wellbeing needs, including sexual health and contraception. A student can attend the drop-in at lunchtime without a referral, or an appointment can be offered if a referral is made by a member of the Inclusion or Safeguarding team.
CISS (County Inclusion Support Service)	Yr 7-11	This is an outreach service for Suffolk mainstream schools seeking additional support for pupils with: a diagnosis of ASD, traits of ASD but no diagnosis, social and communication difficulties, social, emotional and mental health difficulties and all associated behaviours. For a referral to be made, the issues are usually having a significant impact on the daily school life of a pupil.
Personalised Timetable	All	Students who have particular medical needs, whether this is linked to physical or mental health, may be offered a bespoke timetable in conjunction with advice from their hospital consultant, the Educational Welfare Officer or by discussion with their Head of Year and the Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral). Each case will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Referral to 4YP	All	4YP is a charity for children and young people who offer short-term time-limited counselling. The company are based in Ipswich but counselling sessions take place in Haverhill, usually for around 6-8 weeks. Referrals can be made by the Inclusion or safeguarding team if there is an identified need.

Self-Esteem Group: "In search of me."	All	Run by an Inclusion Officer or in the Study, students can be referred for 1-to-1 or small group support which aims to build and develop their self-esteem.
An Introduction to CBT	All	Miss Coe is trained in CBT (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy). Students suffering with anxiety issues or low mood in particular can have 1-to-1 or small group sessions with Miss Coe to work on making positive changes in their thinking patterns.
Junior Signpost (Well-being)	Year 8-11	10 week course run by ONE Haverhill which aims to focus on building self-esteem and confidence. Students can be referred via the school to this after-school off-site intervention which includes activities such as arts and crafts and sports.
Anger Management	All	1-to-1 or small group intervention lead by an Inclusion Officer or in The Study for students who are struggling with anger management and emotional regulation.
Exam Stress Management	Years 11-13	A 6 week programme of either group or 1 to 1 support on coping with exam stress and healthy coping mechanisms.
Family Issues Group	All	1 to 1 or small group support for young people who may be suffering from difficult times at home for a variety of reasons. Lead by an Inclusion Officer.
Breakfast Club	All	Breakfast is available each day from 8am in C block breakout area. Pupils and staff can eat breakfast together and chat. Pupils who are entitled to free school meals are entitled to a 60p per day breakfast allowance. Other students can purchase breakfast for as little as 10p for a slice of toast.  There is also a literacy breakfast club 8:00-8:30 three mornings a week for extra interventions for reading/comprehension work, spellings or revision in B10
Lunch Club	Years 7-11	A daily safe space in the Study where students can come to have their lunch away from main areas. Some of the students that attend benefit from social interaction, reduced sensory stimulation and adult support with eating and communicating.
Young Carer support	All years	Working in partnership with Suffolk Young carers we offer regular drop-in sessions with our young carers support worker and can make referrals for support for young people who are supporting a family member with a physical or mental illness. The school has achieved the Young Carers Silver Award in recognition for its support for young carers.
Homework club	Years 7-11	Homework support Tuesday and Thursday in various locations dependent on year group. Students may opt-in or be required to attend as directed by their Tutor, Inclusion Office or Head of Year.  Homework Club also runs on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtimes for all year groups in C2
Mental Health First Aider Support	All years	The school has 3 qualified Mental Health First Aiders who can work with students who may be struggling with mental health issues to identify whether there is a need for a referral for further support or whether support can be offered in school.
Kooth	All years	<a href="http://www.kooth.com">www.kooth.com</a> . Students can be signposted to the Kooth website, which offers free online counselling support for young people aged 12-25, available every day until 10pm.

Referral to Careers Advisor	All years	Particularly for students in KS4 and 5 but open to all years, any student needing advice on future careers or further education can see our careers advisor, Mrs Singleton, who is based in the library. She is available at break and lunchtimes or students can be referred via any member of staff.
Referral to Turning Point	All years	Turning Point are an external agency who offer 1-to-1 support for young people who may be struggling with drug or alcohol issues. After completion of a DUST assessment (Drug Use Screening Tool) with a member of the safeguarding team, a referral can be made.
Referral to School Counsellor	All years	Students with ongoing issues who may have tried other forms of support with limited success may be referred to the school counselling service for longer-term support. Referrals can be made by a member of the Inclusion or Safeguarding Team for a variety of issues.
Online Safety Intervention Group	Years 7/8	For young people who may need support in the safe use of the internet, particularly social media. Students can be referred after a member of staff has raised concerns or if a student is considered to be vulnerable.
Self-Help	All years	Students may be guided towards self-help strategies. The school has a variety of support leaflets and a "Shelf Help" area in the library with books and resources to support a wide range of issues linked to wellbeing. Students may also be guided towards useful apps such as "Calm Harm" (for self-harm) or Headspace.
Alumina Self-Harm Support Group	All years	If a student is struggling with self-harm, they may be referred to the school nurse and/or the Alumina programme. This is a 6 week course run by a member of the safeguarding team for up to 6 students at a time. The course aims to look at safe alternatives to self-harm and coping strategies.
SEND Assessments	All years	Standardised assessments for any student where it is felt by staff or parents that an SEND need may be a barrier to achievement. Used to identify strengths and distinguish SEN needs from general underachievement and to identify eligibility for exam access arrangements.
Key Worker Programme	All years	Pupils with more complex special educational needs are given a key worker (a member of the SEND team). The job of the key worker is to liaise with staff, parents and the pupil to ensure that needs are being met and information is passed quickly and easily to relevant parties. Key workers complete a one page profile with the student each term and ensure this is kept up to date.
ASC Support	All years	Pupils with ASC or ASC traits are supported by the school's ASC coordinator. The ASC coordinator is a qualified and experienced teacher of pupils with ASC and can provide support for the pupil, parents and other staff. Advice can be given where needed and strategies provided to best support the pupil within the school.
SPSF	Years 7-11	Pupils in years 7-11 to may be struggling with school life may be offered a Suffolk Pupil Support Framework. This is a 16 week support programme, largely focused on behavioural, social and emotional support, and involves fortnightly meetings with school, parents and the child to set and review targets.
Literacy and Numeracy Interventions	All years	Catch-up literacy/numeracy, LEXIA, Sound Discovery Synthetic Phonics, word reading, reading comprehension, spelling, in-class support and extraction groups are available for identified students who may be struggling with aspects of literacy or numeracy.

Speech and language intervention	All years	<p>For students identified by the county Speech and Language Service as requiring speech and language intervention. The Deputy SENDCo is an ELKLAN-trained HLTA and can offer time-limited targeted intervention in consultation with the Speech and Language therapists.</p> <p>ELKLAN is a specific programme to support identified areas of difficulty in speech and language.</p>
Sensory Support	All years	<p>Students with issues with sensory areas such as hearing or visual impairments will be allocated a keyworker to work with them on ensuring they can access the curriculum, making adaptations to their environments where necessary, meeting with the student and sharing strategies and advice with staff.</p>
Motor skills support	All years	<p>For students who have difficulty with fine motor skills. Includes specialist pens, writing slopes, laptop use and touch typing.</p>
Prince's Trust	Years 10-11	<p>Prince's Trust is a national organisation, set up by The Prince of Wales, offering 'life skills' courses to vulnerable young people to improve outcomes. It is aimed at students who fall into the typical 'social exclusion' risk groups, and at school we offer it to selected KS4 students with SEN and/or social, emotional or behavioural difficulties. It is offered instead of one GCSE subject. Group sizes are necessarily very small. It covers things like skills for work experience, applying for a job, writing a CV, staying healthy, managing money etc</p>
Attendance Support	All years	<p>Pupils with low or declining attendance will be offered early support by their Year team. This may be in the form of home visits, mentoring, early intervention meetings, Inclusion Officer support or other interventions detailed above depending on need.</p> <p>Where there are significant or persistent attendance concerns, the school may also involve the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) for further support and advice.</p>
External Agency Support	All years	<p>The school work closely with external agencies to access additional support where appropriate, for example, CAMHS (Children and Young People's Mental Health Services) , EWO (Educational Welfare Officer), PMHW (Primary Mental Health Worker), CAF and family support workers, social workers, Parenting programmes, learning mentors from the Raedwald Trust for children in care, Inclusion Facilitator support from Suffolk psychology and therapeutic services, local police and PCSO, and the Diversion Programme.</p>