



# Partners in Supporting Dundee's Children and Young People in School

School Community Support Service

## **Being a parent...**

...is the most rewarding job you will ever have. It is also the longest-lasting and, at times, the most difficult there is. Many parents look for help to support their children nowadays when it is sometimes difficult to know what good behaviour and learning are supposed to be.

Our School Community Support Service is there to support when people need it.

## **A Parent is...?**

Being a mum or dad is about what you do more than what you are. Making the right decisions and doing the right things can feel difficult. When you are challenged by your child, it can seem impossible to do the right thing as a mum or a dad. Sometimes you will make a mistake - we all do.

## **Partnership**

A child at school spends most of his/her day with teachers and other school staff. We know your child quite well. We know that how well your child does at school will depend on us working well together with you, his/her parent, and that includes supporting you when you feel you might need help.

## Our Offer

We don't have the answers to every problem that parents or their children can have but we can help. We see this as a big part of helping your child do well.

If we can't give direct help, we should be able to find help through our partner agencies such as Health, Leisure and Communities, Housing, Social Work, Police and others.

All schools now work with others to support children. This includes working in what we call Joint Action Teams where we get together with workers from other agencies to talk about ways of helping young people who have problems.

The Joint Action Teams try to work out the best way to get you and your child the help you need. You will always be asked about what kind of support you think you or your child might need.

## Joint Action Teams

Joint Action Teams are often called JATs for short. The way JATs work means we may be able to arrange support which is different or more than what you can already get.

The JAT does not replace other things that are already working for you and your child. Working with you and your child, the JAT can help by linking up services and supports if that can provide the help which you need.

## Getting the help you need

Recognising you need help is not always easy.

When you have any worries, it is good to talk with someone about what is worrying you rather than wait and risk something becoming more serious.

Finding the right kind of help can be difficult.

The wide range of services for children in a city like Dundee makes it hard for you as a parent to know the best kind of help for your child or for you.

In school, we often work with lots of different agencies and organisations that help children and families. So we can connect you to someone who might help things get better.

Teachers, education psychologists and other specialist staff are available to you and will make time to talk if you feel you have a worry about your child.

You can ask at your school's office for details of someone you can contact there to ask for support from the School Community Support Service.

Ask for...

School contact's name  
Contact's telephone number  
Contact's e-mail address

## Cluster Support Teams

All schools now work with others to support children young people and families. This includes working in what we call Cluster Support Teams (CST) where we get together with workers from partner agencies such as Health, Leisure and Communities, Housing, Social Work, Police and others to develop projects and activities within each school cluster.

The purpose of the CST is to develop school community based projects and initiatives that will enhance the learning and teaching experience of children and raise attainment, promote personal development, and promote the closer involvement of families and the wider community.

Some typical activities that the Cluster Support Teams develop are:

- Child and Family Learning
- Parenting Activities
- Holiday Activity Programmes
- Child and Family Health Programmes
- Community Involvement and Participation

CSTs are committed to working with other departments and agencies, as well as with colleagues in the voluntary, community and private sectors who share common goals and aspirations. In this way, we can contribute to the vision of “successful learning for all children, multi-agency service delivery and supported and involved parents.”

The School Community Support Service and its partners can work with parents on...

- attainment & learning
- encouraging positive behaviour
- keeping children safe
- non-attendance
- health
- bullying
- developing positive relationships
- misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances
- anti-social behaviour and offending
- domestic violence
- internet dangers
- inappropriate sexual behaviour
- hyperactivity
- diet
- housing/accommodation

For further information contact:

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