

Our dedicated team

Here at Kingsthorpe Grove we have a dedicated Inclusion Team who are available to help and support you through all aspects of Safeguarding and your child's wellbeing.

- **Angela Woods** – Inclusion Manager/DSL
- **Martha Munro** – Senco
- **Lorraine Brown** – Family Support Worker/DSL
- **Gayle Damrell** – Family Support Worker/DSL
- **Teresa Ives** – Behaviour Specialist
- **Hannah Paterson** – Learning Mentor



Martha Munro



Angela Woods



Gayle Damrell



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Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School

MASH Referral information for Parents



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Here at Kingsthorpe Grove Primary School we aim to support all of our families through our team of Family Support Workers.

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What is Mash?

MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) is a team which consists of Children's Social Care, Police, Health, Education, Probation, Ambulance Service, Fire & Rescue etc., who all work in unison to ensure that every child is cared for and protected.

Why would you make a referral?

Sometimes families may need extra support and help to ensure that their children are thriving to the best of their ability.

There are many reasons why school would make a referral to the MASH Team – below are some examples but the reasons are not limited to these:

- drugs and/or alcohol misuse;
- domestic violence;
- mental health difficulties;
- living with poverty,
- child/ren having to look after themselves due to their parents/carers being unable to do so for whatever reason.
- Irregular attendance at school

What will happen?

Within school we have a Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) and 3 Deputy Safeguard Leads (DDSL). Who work on ensuring all of our children are kept safe at home, in school and whilst out of school. If the DSL or DDSL feel that a child is not safe then they will make a referral to MASH.

If it is deemed safe to do so the DSL/DDSL will initially speak with the parent/carer to explain why they feel a referral needs to be made. However, if it is felt that it is unsafe or not in the best interest for the child/ren to be returned to the parent/carer then a referral will be made without speaking to the family first.

Once a referral has been made a Social Work Practitioner within MASH will decide if the child/ren circumstances require either a referral into MASH or whether solutions could be found within the Early Help Team via an EHA (Early Help Assessment).

At this stage if the child/ren are referred into the MASH team, information gathering will be carried out. This could result in one of the following:

- Case raises serious concerns or identifies complex needs and is passed onto Children's Social Care.
- Case does not raise serious concerns but it is assessed and the family would benefit from some support from the Strengthening Families Team.
- Case has been identified that the family have additional needs and these could be addressed through an Early Help Assessment.
- Case raises no concerns and the family can be supported through universal services.

CASE STUDIES:

A parent expressed concerns to school about her own and younger child's safety due to the eldest child "kicking off" in the home. School made a referral to MASH with the parents consent. MASH police revealed that there had been numerous calls out to the home recently. School were also able to say that all the children within the household were presenting with behavioural difficulties and on occasions had turned up to school with injuries.

OUTCOME: The multi-agency approach enabled Children's Social Care to immediately address the safeguarding issue.

School were worried about a pupil's attendance. This had not been a problem in the past. During information gathering in the MASH it came to light that the parents had recently separated. It also showed that the child had been seeking medical attention for high levels of anxiety.

OUTCOME: MASH were able to ascertain quickly that there were no immediate safeguarding concerns and the family were passed onto the Early Help Team and an EHA was commenced in school to support the family.

It came to school's attention that a pupil was being left unattended in the home for periods of time.

During the information gathering stage MASH ascertained that the parents had spoken to their Health Visitor and confirmed that they were struggling financially so needed to work longer hours and there was no one at home to look after the child.