

Addington Valley Academy Family Strategy

To ensure excellent attendance for all our students (+95%)

To achieve excellent outcomes for our students.

To provide effective, holistic support to our families.

At Addington Valley Academy, we feel it is just as important to support our families as it is to support and nurture our students. We offer a universal service to all of our families as well as targeted and specific support for those who need it. The aim of this is to work cohesively alongside the families of our pupils to ensure pupils are holistically supported to reach their full potential and to achieve excellent attendance.

Universal support for students and families:

- Providing a personalised educational curriculum for every student, based upon their Education, Health and Care Plan
- Providing a personalised Student Profile and support plan, for every student.
- Providing consistent, regular communication through weekly phone calls to families from their class teacher, to update on academic progress and student welfare. Home-school book communication books also support this high level of communication.
- Annual review of students' EHCP
- Parent's evenings every term
- End of year written report to parents
- Frequent uploads to Evidence for Learning to share progress on academic targets and 'wow' moments with families, and for families to share with school.
- Regular updates to parents via the school X (Twitter) account and newsletters.
- Transition support when joining and leaving AVA, including New Parent coffee mornings for parents to meet each other.
- Providing information and signposting to other universal services in the local area, including extracurricular activities or support groups.
- Welfare phone call from Family Support Worker or Office staff when student is absent from school.
- Access to regular parent training and workshops in school from school staff and external professionals. *
- Family coffee mornings every half term**
- Support and resources from school staff to generalise communication approaches being taught in school.
- Sharing pupil-specific behaviour support resources and approaches with families, for use at home
- Support and resources from school staff on supporting students to understand their own diagnosis.
- Daily, free breakfast provided in school, by the National Breakfast Scheme
- Daily free snack and lunch time meal for all students, funded by Addington Valley.
- Regular surveys to parents and families, to inform and develop Universal support.

Targeted support for students and families includes but is not limited to:

- Welfare visits following unexplained or prolonged absence from school. Support from school staff prior to morning transition, to support students in attending school when they are reluctant to.
- Advice and support in promoting positive behaviour at home.
- Bespoke one-to-one support in the family home, from school staff, to support with needs such as sleep routines, toileting, behaviour etc.
- Flexible support from our Family Support Worker, in school or at home.
- Home visit from a Speech and Language Therapist, to support with Communication approaches at home.
- Food parcel delivery at Christmas
- Referral to Food Bank services
- School staff to support at medical appointments, or to host in school. Including de-sensitisation and preparation support prior to appointment.
- Fun with Food support – overcoming sensory aversions to food with trained staff.
- Support with housing difficulties and applications.
- Canine Assisted Learning
- Music Therapy
- Drama Therapy
- Referrals to Early Help Services and the Children With Disabilities Team, to access respite, family support etc.
- Hosting and attending multi-disciplinary meetings including Child in Need meetings.
- Pupil specific desensitisation program(s)
- Support with developing sibling relationships.
- Liaising with a range of external services such as housing and Social Care and CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- Assistance in completing paperwork and forms e.g. housing, transport application forms and benefit applications.

Specific support for students and families examples:

- Help with sourcing furniture for the home when families are in crisis.
- Responding out of hours to crisis or crisis aversion.
- Attending housing meetings
- Food bank applications
- Support with accessing adult learning classes
- End of term food parcels

Some forms of specific support may be limited to 2 occurrences in 18 months. This will be reviewed as appropriate for specific pupils and their families.

(Please refer to Addington Valley Academy Safeguarding offer for further information.)

*Learning opportunities for families are provided by Addington Valley Academy, Love to Communicate (SALT) and other external professionals. Examples include sleep training, PECS, Makaton workshops and 'Small change, Big difference' specialist Autism, parent course. Training is targeted to areas where parents have identified need through surveys and discussions.

**As a school we organise social gatherings; these are arranged by school staff. Events include Coffee mornings and Christmas shows as well as other annual events, for all families to enjoy. Families are encouraged to meet one another with the aim to build social relationships and support networks.