

# Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Information for Schools

## What is a CAF Assessment?

The CAF is whole family assessment, which covers all of the key areas within a child and family's life, and helps to identify the strengths and highlight where support might be needed.

**Remember: The assessment should always be completed in partnership with the family; not completed on their behalf.** Following the assessment, a TAF (Team around the Family) meeting will take place where the areas of need can be discussed and an action plan can be drawn up, which will be regularly reviewed.

## When should I complete one?

You should complete a CAF when you believe that a child or family who you work with have additional needs and require support from a range of agencies e.g. A child whose attendance is very low and they have reported that they have self-harmed in the past. The aim is for children to receive **'early help' to prevent any concerns escalating**. However, the level of need or risk should not be such that involvement by statutory children's social care services is required.

## Why Can't I Just Do a MARF?

It's important to complete a MARF when concerned about a child. However, prior to completing a MARF, you need to consider: Is the child at risk of serious harm? E.g. If a child presents to school with bruises and has disclosed that his mother uses a belt to physically assault him, a MARF is necessary. Completing a MARF when it is not warranted can create unnecessary increases in CPAT's workload. This has a direct impact on families receiving the support that they need, at that time. If you have a concern about a child and family that has identified additional needs, it's good practice to speak to the family about the benefits of the CAF Assessment. This assessment will provide a holistic understanding of the needs of the family and will establish a targeted support plan to meet those needs.

## What support could the families I work with receive?

The Families Together Hub (which the CAF Team are a part of), work in partnership with a range of agencies – see table (on next page) for a list of services that families can access.

*Please note: This list is not exhaustive.*



# Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Information for Schools

Service Name	What they offer
Junior Fit Team/Box Up	One-to one support for young people who are at risk of becoming involved in crime/gangs or at risk of being excluded from education. Also provide group work programmes looking at a range of challenges young people in Redbridge might face. Strong links with Boxup : Provides free boxing sessions, but also offer mentoring & coaching support.
FUSION	Free, friendly confidential service to young people in the borough of Redbridge under the age of 18 who are using, or at risk of using drugs and alcohol.
Parenting Team	Offer a range of courses for parents - to assist with attachment, boundary setting and encouraging positive relationships in the home.
Family Support Workers	Provide whole family support which covers a range of areas: Parenting, relationships, support with housing, benefits, accessing work etc.
Evolve and Adapt Mentoring Project	Provide one-to-one mentoring sessions for young people who want to talk to someone outside of their family/ friendship group. Provide a positive role model and often link young people with positive activities.
Other organisations that Families Together Hub has links to...	EWIMHS (Mental health support), VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls), Children With Disabilities (Assessment Worker), Homeless Support Team, many more....ask your lead professional for more information.

## What will I need to do to assist?

- Complete a CAF assessment with the family – find a confidential space so that they are able to speak freely about their circumstances.
- During the assessment process, make sure that you get consent (ideally written) from the family to share their information with a range of services.

- Attend TAF meetings to review the assessment and draw up an action plan with the family. (The plan should be reviewed on a 6-8 week basis up until closure).

## Who do I need to contact?

**Your school has an allocated CAF Coordinator.** Please make contact with your coordinator prior to completing a CAF, as the family may already be open to our services. **(Please ensure you have verbal consent before making any checks with our service).**

To find out who your allocated coordinator is, contact the CAF Team:

**Telephone:** 020 8708 **2612 / 2613 / 2614**

**e-mail:** [cafadmin@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:cafadmin@redbridge.gov.uk)

or visit

**web:** <https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/> and search for 'CAF' to find additional information.