**Contact information:**

**Who can contact the Home School Link Worker?**

Parents, carers and children can ask to become involved. With your consent we will explore the difficulties your child or family is experiencing and together find the best way forward.

If you would like to get in touch with Sarah or find out more about her role, please contact the school office, or Sarah directly, via phone or email.

01869 340522

office.2151@middle-barton.oxon.sch.uk

sgilford@middle-barton.oxon.sch.uk

***Please note the HSLW may not pick up messages every day due to work patterns, but will contact you as soon as possible.***



**Home School Link Worker at**

**Middle Barton School**



**Mrs Sarah Gilford**

Headteacher: Mrs Jane Tailby

SENDCo: Miss Hannah Smith

27 Church Lane, **Middle Barton**, Oxfordshire, OX7 7BX | 01869 340522

**Home School Link Worker at Middle Barton**

As part of our provision at Middle Barton we have a Home School Link Worker (HSL) for two afternoons a week.

Home School Link Workers can provide advice and information to parents and carers as well as supporting children and young people in dealing with temporary or longer term problems - such as children who are anxious or withdrawn, behaviour, bereavement, parental separation, illness and domestic abuse. They work closely with both schools and families and are able to link with a wide range of other agencies and sources of support and advice.

In other areas where HSLWs have been working with individual schools, evidence shows that there has been improved attendance, behaviour and resolution of issues at an early stage - all proving to be of great benefit to the children and their families.

**Types of support available:**

Sarah is a link between home and school and will be able to offer support such as:

* helping with links between you and school and guide you through the education system.
* supporting you at school meetings.
* guiding you to local parenting courses and family learning.
* supporting families going through change such as parental separation or bereavement.
* helping to involve and support you with your child’s learning.
* helping families where children are reluctant to come to school or have been excluded.
* giving you practical support with form filling and the Early Help Assessment (EHA) process.
* accompanying parents and carers to meetings e.g. health and social care.
* providing a link with the SENCo and support families with SEN issues.
* providing links to agencies which offer support in areas including chronic illness, domestic abuse, alcohol and drug addiction, housing, social care and debt.

**Who can the Home School Link Worker help?**

* Children who are withdrawn, anxious or have friendship issues
* Parents/carers who are finding managing the child’s behaviour difficult
* Parents/carers whose children are not attending school or who have been excluded.
* Children/parents/carers who are experiencing difficult changes such as bereavement or parental separation or where issues are impacting on family and school life, such as illness or domestic violence.

Sarah is able to offer a confidential service. If necessary she will seek your permission to share the information with school staff or other agencies.

**Should a child protection issue be identified the HSLW and school staff are legally bound to follow government guidelines.**