



EDUCATIONAL
PSYCHOLOGY
SERVICE



Wakefield Educational Psychology Service

Information for Parents and Carers

Who are we?

The Educational Psychology Service (EPS) is part of the Education and Inclusion Service for children and young people within Wakefield Council. We are a team of Educational Psychologists (EPs), Trainee Educational Psychologists and Assistant Educational Psychologists who work to support the educational outcomes for children and young people from 0-25 years.

All of our EPs are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council.

What is an Educational Psychologist?

EPs have training and postgraduate qualifications in applied psychology as it relates to education and child development. We visit schools on a regular basis and work closely with parents / carers, school staff and other professionals to help children and young people achieve their full potential through overcoming barriers to learning and inclusion. We use our knowledge of psychology, child development and learning to improve emotional wellbeing, support life-

long learning and empower children and young people in achieving their aspirations.

Why may an EP become involved with my child?

The Class teacher and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) will be working with you to develop and put in place a support plan to address concerns relating to your child in school, for example a 'One Page Profile'.

A school might ask for an EP to be involved when further clarification of your child's needs is required to enable them to make progress and be successful in school.

The school will work with you to obtain your views and consent in order to request the involvement of an EP.

How we help

EPs have many ways of working to help children and young people in school. They may meet directly with a child or young person, or they may meet with the adults who know the young person best and who see them on regular basis. EP assessment can mean a number of things, all of which are intended to develop an understanding of the young person - their needs, experiences and importantly, their strengths and aspirations. Children and young people are at the centre of our thinking and so it is essential to try to understand their views and what matters to them.

Our work might involve:

- Talking with those who know your child well including you, school staff and, if appropriate, other professionals
- Observing your child in an educational setting or at home.
- Working with your child to find out their views and experiences
- Working individually with your child and undertaking activities to explore strengths and needs
- Working with staff in schools, where necessary providing training

- Contributing to collaborative discussion regarding recommendations (for example, strategies and interventions) and agreed next steps to meet the needs of your child or their access to education.

After EP Involvement

The agreed actions will be put in place by school staff and regularly reviewed to ensure that they meet the needs of your child and that they make progress. Additional EP involvement may be agreed if there is agreement that this is needed.

If no further involvement is required, we will close our involvement with your child.

The SEND Code of Practice

EPs work within the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2015). It sets out the different ways schools seek to address a child's special educational needs. The Code informs the working practices for all Local Authority services working with schools to support children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

You can download a copy of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice from: www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25



Your Local Offer

Wakefield has a Local Offer which aims to help people find information about the services, activities and support available in the local area for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and their families.

For further information please see Wakefield Local Offer at:
www.wakefield.mylocaloffer.org

Confidentiality

The Educational Psychology Service stores and uses confidential information in line with the General Data Protection Regulations. Information is collected to provide the best possible support to children, young people and their families. This information will not be used for other purposes without the knowledge and written consent of the families concerned. We may share information with other Local Authority staff in order to provide the best possible multiagency support, or if safeguarding concerns arise. A copy of our Privacy Notice is shared with all families.

Further information

If you would like to speak to someone please contact the EPS on 01924 307403.

We are based at:
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Email: eps@wakefield.gov.uk
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Principal Educational Psychologist
Alison McCoy

The EPS values feedback and would love to hear your views. Please speak to your EP or contact the service directly.