Information for schools and teachers

Frequently Asked Questions

We use psychology to promote learning, well-being and inclusion of all children and young people in Luton

What professional training and background do EPs have?

Educational psychologists (EP) are postgraduate, applied psychologists. Many have a teaching qualification and / or experience of working with children and young people in educational settings in addition to a Masters degree in Educational Psychology and/ or a doctorate in Educational Psychology. We work through consultation and collaboration with significant adults to seek solutions to concerns and difficulties of children and young people aged 0 - 25 years.

What is the role of EPs?

We aim to apply psychology in promoting the quality of young people’s learning, development and welfare. This involves a range of work, including INSET, project work and research. Often our work is directly related to individual pupils. Through a process of consultation with adults and the young person, we aim to work collaboratively to assess the pupil’s situation and to agree next steps in planning for their needs. Our assessment work includes reviewing and evaluating interventions.

Who do EPs work with?

- Children and young people aged 0 - 25 years
- Families and carers
- Staff in pre-school, school and other educational settings
- Educational professional support staff, such as specialist teachers for hearing impairment
- Social Workers
- Doctors and other health professionals
- Voluntary organisations and charities

Do I need to tell parents/carers?

EPs must have written consent from parents/carers before discussing or seeing any child. Young people over the age of 16 may give their own consent, although usually we prefer parents to be included in consultations. Parents also need to give their consent for children to be discussed at School Liaison Meetings. The school is responsible for gaining consent. EPs will usually wish to meet with parents as part of the assessment and intervention work and it is helpful to parents if they are invited to the meeting by the school and prepared for it with an explanation of what to expect.

Providing parents with a copy of our leaflet for parents/carers may be useful.
How do I get involvement with a pupil I am concerned about?

All schools in Luton have a link EP. The school’s Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) or LSU manager is the first person to consult in order to raise your concerns with the EP and if appropriate and agreed a request for EP involvement can be made.

How will the EP work with schools/teachers?

EPs may do a range of things depending on the concerns raised. Activities may include some or all of the following:

- Training
- Research and project work
- Helping develop and review school policies
- Direct consultation with the person who holds the concern
- Attending professional meetings

We also work with individual pupils and following discussion, consultation and information gathering, further psychological investigation takes many forms and may include:

- Observation
- Questionnaires
- Individual interview
- Assessment of attainments, learning styles, motivation, self-esteem, social skills
- Designing and monitoring interventions
- Therapeutic / educational intervention (individuals or groups)
- Planning and evaluating agreed interventions
- Contributing to Statutory Assessment and
- Annual Reviews under the 1996 Education Act

How can teachers help EPs be most effective?

It really helps us if schools make certain preparations and gather relevant information before we visit. This includes:

- Signed parental consent
- A completed request for EP involvement
• Copies of the last 2 IEPs
• Copies of any relevant reports
• The school file
• A selection of the pupil’s work books
• A private room for working with the pupil/parents
• Plans for cover to release the teacher for discussion

What if the pupil is absent?

When a child or teacher is absent from school please inform the service as soon as possible. An alternative appointment will be arranged with the school as soon as possible and subject to the constraints of EPs’ diaries.

What if an EP has to cancel a visit?

We will make every effort to give as much notice as possible if we are unable to visit as planned and make alternative arrangements. We will only cancel visits in special circumstances such as involvement in a critical incident, illness or other unforeseen events. It is not always possible to find additional time and previously agreed work may need to be reprioritised.

Will the EP send a report?

The school should keep a record of our work. We will also send a consultation summary to record main points and actions agreed. We will copy this to parents and other relevant people. We may write letters to pupils. We do not routinely write formal reports, except when required for Statutory Assessment. We will keep confidential records about children until they are 26 years old. Parents/carers can ask to see their child’s EPS file at any time. We may also keep electronic (computer) records.

How do I get in touch with the service?

Educational psychology service
Futures House
The Moakes
Luton
Bedfordshire
LU3 3QB

Tel: 01582 548150