

HEREFORDSHIRE PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE (HPS)

We hope this leaflet provides you with some useful information about what we do, and what you might expect from working with an educational psychologist.

What educational psychologists do

As educational psychologists, we use our knowledge of psychology and research literature to promote evidence-based practice. We are experienced in applying psychology in various contexts to understand and resolve difficulties. Each educational psychologist has a postgraduate qualification in psychology, such as a Masters or Doctorate qualification, and all are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

Educational psychologists work with children and young people aged 0-25 in a variety of educational settings (e.g. nurseries, schools and colleges). We work with pupils who experience difficulties with their learning, social or emotional needs, or have a disability, as well as those with more complex difficulties. We are also able to offer training packages, provide advice on school policy, and have links with other professional agencies.

The aim of educational psychology involvement is to support staff, parents/ carers and other professionals to identify solutions and strategies when a barrier to learning or an educational need has been identified.

To do this the educational psychologist may do some or all of the following;

- Observe your child in class or within their educational setting
- Look at your child's work
- Talk to the people involved: you, educational staff, and other professionals
- Talk with your child and carry out assessments which identify their strengths and any areas for development
- Work together with other professionals to make a plan to help your child.

Information relating to safeguarding and confidentiality and how we use the information you give us is shared at the point of referral. We only work with children with their consent and the consent of parents/carers. For 'Looked After Children' (LAC), we will need permission from the child's social worker.

What will happen after the educational psychologist has been involved?

The educational psychologist will do some or all of the following:

- Talk to you and staff about their involvement and discuss how their ideas can be included in your child's educational plan
- Write a summary of their involvement or a report. This will be sent to you, the educational setting, and to other professionals if you have asked us to do so.

Members of Herefordshire Psychology Service can be contacted by telephone on 01432 261584.