



The Group Problem Solving (GPS) Meeting

part of SEEdS in the Virtual School

Guidance for Parents, Carers and Professionals

What is a GPS meeting?

A GPS is a group problem solving meeting, led by an Educational Psychologist. The meeting involves school staff, Social Workers, Virtual School Education Officers, foster parents, carers, parents and others involved with a child who is Looked After by the Local Authority. The GPS is written up by the Educational Psychologist and is added to the child's* Personal Education Plan (PEP).

What is the purpose of a GPS meeting?

A GPS meeting considers a child's background, identifies their strengths and difficulties and sets out strategies for adults to support the child in school and/or at home. It aims to identify the most helpful strategies for supporting a child, by trying to understand their behaviour.

What happens at a GPS meeting?

The adults who know the child best meet together to discuss:

- Their background and important events in their life
- Their strengths, likes and things that people love and admire about them
- What difficulties the child and/or adults are experiencing
- Why the child's behaviours might occur and what they might be communicating
- Strategies to move forward

The underpinning principle is that all behaviour has a function or is communicating something. Often when adults understand this, they are able to support the child more effectively.

Does the GPS meeting include strategies?

Yes. An integral part of the meeting is to draw up a support plan with strategies agreed for the child.

Are the agreed strategies reviewed?

The strategies are usually reviewed at the child's next PEP Review. If this is due more than six weeks after the GPS meeting, a separate review meeting is held. The effectiveness of the strategies used is discussed and further action is considered.

Is the child present at the SEEdS GPS meeting?

Usually the child does not attend the meeting. The Educational Psychologist will meet the child prior to the meeting to gather their views, or gather their views remotely if meeting in person is not possible. The adults who know the child well will also bring the views of the child to the meeting.



**'Child' is used to refer to a child or young person between 3 and 18 years of age.*

For further information please contact:

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