

The Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service is a traded and statutory service that works in partnership with Education, Social Care, Health and the Voluntary Sector. The service works with children/young people 0-25 who live in Liverpool in order to promote their attainment, inclusion and well-being.

The Educational Psychology Service uses an approach which focuses on children and young people's strengths and seeks to promote their well being, resilience and emotional intelligence. The service is committed to applying effective models of psychology to promote positive change and to contribute to successful teaching, learning and care environments. In working in this way it is the service's aim through positive and supportive interactions with parents, schools and other professionals to promote the very best outcomes for children, young people, families and local communities.

The Educational Psychology Service can be accessed in a variety of ways depending on the age of the child/young person. Access arrangements are illustrated in the diagrams attached to this record.

What is the role of an Educational Psychologist?

Educational Psychologists (EPs) bring a specialised perspective to working with children and young people. They are concerned with children's learning and development and they aim to bring about positive change for children and young people. They have skills in a range of psychological and educational assessment techniques and have expertise in different methods of helping children and young people who are experiencing difficulties in learning, behaviour and or development.

During their training, EPs study normal child development, the psychology of learning and teaching and psychological aspects of educating children with special needs. They study how groups function and how people communicate and maintain relationships. They also learn about assessment, problem solving, counselling, treatment, research and training others.

EPs have a role in the assessment of children's difficulties from an early stage and a statutory role in the multi-professional assessment, as required by the Code of Practice (2014 ed). Much of the work of EPs is with children and young people from 0 to 25 years, both at pre-school level, in mainstream and special schools and more recently further education institutions.

Why would my child be referred to an Educational Psychologist?

Children and young people can be referred to the Educational Psychology Service for lots of different reasons. Usually schools will discuss any concerns they may have about your child's learning, behaviour and or development with you. Where schools do not fully understand your child's needs or where questions may exist about the rate of your child's developmental progress or academic attainment, a request for service involvement form to the Educational Psychology Service may be considered helpful. You will be asked to give your permission (in the form of a signature) for this process to take place. You should also be given a leaflet explaining in more detail the types of work that the psychologist may undertake with your

child. Requests for involvement will not be considered if parents have not given their consent.

What assessments will an Educational Psychologist do with my child?

Educational Psychologists work in different ways. The activities that the Educational Psychologist (EP) undertakes will vary depending on the needs of your child. Sometimes the EP will undertake testing to identify your child's academic strengths and areas for development. They may also observe your child to identify how they approach tasks in the classroom or respond socially with peers on the school yard. Educational psychologists may also speak to school staff and parents in order to define strengths and help develop a shared understanding of your child's needs.

What happens next after my child has been seen by an Educational Psychologist?

After an Educational Psychologist has worked with your child you will receive a written report within a maximum of six weeks. The length of the report will vary depending on the needs of your child and the work that has taken place. Your child's school will also receive the report. Within the report there will be advice and recommendations about strategies or approaches that could be used to support your child. If upon receiving the report you would wish to discuss any of its contents in more detail please contact the relevant Educational Psychologist on the number on this record

Who to contact

Contact Name

Dr Joanne Bowden

Contact Position

Principal Educational Psychologist

Telephone

0151 233 5978 [0151 233 5978](tel:01512335978)

0151 233 5985 [0151 233 5985](tel:01512335985)

E-mail

Joanne.bowden@liverpool.gov.uk