

Contacting the Psychological Service

The first point of contact for all work is the child's school.

Agencies can make direct contact with Psychological services provided permission from parents, or those with parental rights, has been obtained.

Where the involvement is being requested for an individual child then parental permission must be sought using the service 'Consent for Consultation' form. This should be discussed with the Educational Psychologist beforehand.

Further Information

The service also has information leaflets for:

- Parents/carers
- Children and young people

If you have any further queries, you can contact the psychological service:
Scottish Borders Council
Educational Psychology Service
Council Headquarters
Newtown St. Boswells
Melrose TD6 0SA

Telephone: 01835 825098

Web-site:
<http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/EPS>

You can get this document on audio CD, in large print, and various other formats by contacting us at the address below. In addition, contact the address below for information on language translations, additional copies, or to arrange for an officer to meet with you to explain any areas of the publication that you would like clarified.

Educational Psychology Service

Information for Education Staff and Partner Agencies



What is the educational psychology service?

The Educational Psychology Service is part of Children and Young People's Services. Educational Psychology is a statutory service of the Local Authority. We provide advice and support to schools, to families and other professionals about children and young people 0-24 years of age.

Educational Psychologists are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) as required by law.

Educational Psychologists work closely with schools, teachers, parents, pupils and other professionals to provide help and advice on how to help children learn and develop.

The roles of the educational psychologist

Educational psychologists work at different levels:

- Individual children and families
- School/Establishment
- Local Authority
- National

Within these levels, there are five key roles for educational psychologists:

- Consultation
- Assessment
- Intervention
- Training
- Research

The work of the educational psychologist within schools

Consultation

Consultation is a collaborative problem-solving approach which allows the educational psychologist to work closely with teachers, school staff, parents and pupils to discuss issues, concerns and ways forward. This enables the psychologist to meet with adults who best know the child and are in the best position to directly change factors that can positively benefit learning and development.

Informed consent is required from the parent or carer before discussing any individual pupil.

Consultation can also be used by teachers to discuss whole-class or whole-school issues. For example consultation may be used by a teacher to discuss strategies for supporting a class in friendship issues, or psychologists might be involved in a whole school project on promoting better relationships.

Assessment

Consultation forms part of the assessment and advice of the educational psychologist. In some situations, the psychologist might be involved in more direct assessment of an individual pupil's educational needs. This could involve, for example, observing a child in school or at home, looking at the child's work, analysing strategies, or other direct assessment.

Intervention

The psychologist may offer advice to teachers and parents on intervention strategies through consultation or as part of their assessment of an individual pupil.

Psychologists may sometimes be involved in direct intervention with individual pupils, for example through video work, solution-focused approaches or person-centred planning. Psychologists can also be involved in whole class or school projects.

Training

Educational psychologists are available to offer training for education staff and others on a whole range of issues using their expertise in child development and psychology.

Research

The Educational Psychology Service may undertake research, either on behalf of the Local Authority, or working alongside school staff to develop projects of interest in their school.

