

## What will happen next?

All educational psychologists work to a professional code of conduct. We keep records of the work we do. This information is held by us and is confidential.

As a parent you can ask to look at these records at any time. An educational psychologist may only work with children whose parents have given written permission for their involvement.

All educational psychologists undergo a regular enhanced DBS check and are registered with the Health and Care Professions Council.

## What we aren't

Sometimes people confuse us with other workers. We are not psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, social workers or doctors. However we frequently work with these colleagues to identify and achieve best outcomes for the child or young person.

This works best when the child and the adults around them work together. You know your child best, and we will endeavour to proactively listen to your concerns and help you to become part of the solution.

The best way to get in touch with us is by contacting your child's teacher or the SENCo or Head of your child's school. If you need further information or advice you can contact us directly.

Barnsley Educational Child and  
Community Psychology Service

01226 773577

Ben Powell  
Service Strategy Manager  
Educational Child and Community  
Psychology

## We are based at

Floor 7, Gateway Plaza,  
Sackville Street  
Barnsley

## Useful contacts

If you need help from the Parent Partnership Service you can ring for advice on 01226 773377

# Barnsley Educational Child and Community Psychology Service

## Information for parents and carers

## What does an Educational Psychologist do?

We work in schools, early years and post-16 educational settings and within a range of settings in the community.

We work with staff families and other professionals, to support the education and development of children and young people aged from 0-25 years. We apply psychology to further understanding of a child's needs, find ways to meet those needs and promote positive change.

Educational psychologists work in a range of ways which may include:

- talking and listening to parents/carers, teachers and support staff
- observing and working directly with children in school and/or at home
- bringing adults and young people together to develop support or action plans
- delivering training on specialist topics to professional groups and/or parents

The views of adults who know the child well, and the child's views are important to understanding what children/young people need. By all working together we are more likely to achieve positive changes.

## When might an Educational Psychologist become involved?

Our work relates to a whole range of areas including;

- children's development,
- approach to learning
- social skills and interaction
- behaviour, speech language and communication
- social and emotional development,
- mental health and wellbeing,
- sensory and physical development.

When parents/carers are concerned about their child's educational progress or behaviour, they should first discuss this with staff in their child's school/early years setting.

When a child has complex and long-term difficulties, schools will develop with parents/carers a plan of support for the child.

Every school/early years setting has a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). This person helps staff to identify children/young people with special educational, additional needs or disabilities.

They also usually decide who can best be contacted to help find solutions to difficulties linked to a child's learning and development. An educational psychologist (EP) is one of the specialist support services that a SENCo can seek help and advice from. Priorities for our work are negotiated with the SENCo or Headteacher.

## What are our qualifications?

Educational psychologists have been specifically trained to understand how children learn, think, feel, behave and interact.

We all have a first degree in Psychology with a range of experiences working with children and young people prior to training as Educational Psychologists. This training now takes three years and includes studying at university and working for a Local Authority.