

Educational Psychology Service



Educational Psychology Consultations

What is Consultation?

Hertfordshire County Council
Children's Services
Telephone: 0300 123 4043
www.hertsdirect.org



Who are we?

The Educational Psychology Service includes educational psychologists (EPs), trainees and psychology assistants who work with children and young people, their families and schools. We are interested in understanding and planning ways to help children and young people learn better and enjoy school more.

What is an Educational Psychology Consultation?

EP Consultation is one way in which the EP Service supports schools and families to meet a child/young person's special educational needs. This is usually part of the school's Assess, Plan, Do, Review Process*.

EP Consultation is a meeting at your child's school between you, the Class Teacher/Head of Year, the SENCo and the EP. Sometimes a young person joins in too. During this meeting everyone will have the opportunity to share their knowledge, views and ideas. The EP's role is to guide the conversation, ask questions and support others to plan a way forward for the child/young person. The EP will use their knowledge of child development and psychological understanding to support the process.

*Assess, Plan, Do, Review Process is a cycle used by schools to plan and meet the needs of children with special educational needs, as identified by the SEND Code of Practice.

Why do we use consultation?

Consultation is effective because it helps everyone to have a shared understanding of the issues, identifies small steps that are focused on specific short-term outcomes and by the end of the meeting participants know what they need to do next to support the child/young person.

How can parents prepare for an EP Consultation?

Consultations work best when adults come to the consultation well prepared and with relevant information.

Before the EP Consultation, a member of school staff will have supported you to complete and sign a Service Request Form and ISL Baseline Assessment Form. Copies of these will have then been sent to the EP and read prior to the meeting.

If there is any additional information or documentation that you think is important for share with the EP, please bring this along with you.

If you have any questions or concerns before the meeting, please speak to the SENCo at your child's school.

What happens next?

During the consultation, notes will be taken as a record of the conversation and the agreed ways forward. These notes will be stored electronically by the EP Service, in accordance with HCC's policies and data protection requirements.

You will receive a copy of these notes following the consultation, however you are also welcome to take your own notes during the meeting.

A review date will be set approximately 6-8 weeks later which is usually attended by you and school staff. This Review meeting is to discuss progress and the impact of the agreed ways forward. The SENCo will take and share notes from the Review meeting with the EP and, if necessary, further involvement from the EP Service will then be discussed.