



One minute guide

Educational Psychology service

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What is Educational Psychology?

Educational psychology is concerned with children and young people with special and additional educational needs, working with them, their parents and carers and educational settings. Educational Psychologists are trained to understand how children and young people: develop their thinking, learning and problem solving skills; behave and develop relationships with other people; understand feelings and control their behaviours; and what may improve their school experience.

What do we have in Leeds?

The Educational Psychology team is led by the Principal Educational Psychologist, who in Leeds is Karen Jessup. There is a named Senior Educational Psychologist aligned to each area (wedge) of the city.

The Educational Psychology team may become involved with children experiencing a range of difficulties, including learning, social emotional and mental health, sensory difficulties, communication and interaction, as well as more complex developmental disorders. The team aims to support inclusion - supporting children and young people to remain in their mainstream settings where appropriate, and be fully included in school and community life - and improve outcomes for children and young people, through the application of psychology.

How does the team work with children and young people?

Educational Psychologists work with children and young people aged 0-25 years of age, in a variety of ways including observations, interviews and assessments which can take place in the home or the educational setting.

When a child or young person is identified as needing support from the team, Educational Psychologists will consult with those who know the child best, for example parents, carers and teachers. Through these consultations, the Educational Psychologist will discuss appropriate interventions and provide advice to teachers, parents and carers, and those working closely with the child or young person in the wider community, about how to support them to achieve positive outcomes.

Educational Psychologists are one of the professional groups who must provide advice to contribute to the assessment and planning for [Education, Health and Care Plans \(EHCs\)](#) for those children and young people with particularly complex needs.

How do Educational Psychologists work with schools and settings?

Educational Psychologists work with schools and other educational settings, delivering training and offering support to help them build their own capacity to support children and young people with special educational needs. They use lessons from research to develop innovative ways of helping vulnerable young people, and often train teachers, learning support assistants and others working with children in using these methods. Each school has a named link to the team who supports their planning and agrees actions and the Educational Psychology role in supporting next steps.

The Educational Psychology team may support schools in relation to meeting the needs of individual children they are working with, and they will also help schools and settings to look more generally at the way their systems and processes support and respond to children and young people's needs.

The team also work at a cluster level in a variety of ways to develop the support available to children and families in the local area. Educational Psychologists may attend cluster meetings such as guidance and support as well as area panels, such as [fair access](#) panels which make decisions about school places.

They may also be involved with area inclusion arrangements, where colleagues work together to improve attendance, reduce exclusions and facilitate support for schools to respond to students presenting with challenging behaviour. The team also works with clusters to identify and prioritise needs and build the capacity of practitioners.

In addition to the direct work with children, families and educational settings outlined above, the Educational Psychology team also contribute to strategic work on behalf of the local authority, for example advising on and helping to develop relevant policies, procedures and guidance for staff.

Where can I find further information?

There is more information available from the Educational Psychology page of the Leeds City Council [website](#). Most contact with the Educational Psychology team is facilitated through schools and settings and information is on the Leeds for Learning [website](#), but if you need to contact the team directly, please call 0113 378 5163.