
Educational Psychology & Advisory Service in Bexley



Educational
Psychologists

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Educational Psychologists

Educational Psychologists offer psychological assessment and short-term interventions arising out of school consultations to children in Bexley Schools. In addition, they work with Bexley pre-school children and children out of school.

- ◆ All Bexley Educational Psychologists are eligible for Chartered Status; they have a first degree in Psychology, substantial teaching experience and a postgraduate qualification in Educational Psychology or equivalent.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists use their knowledge of psychology and child development and their skills and experience in helping school and nursery staff, parents and children to solve problems and concerns. They promote whole school and class approaches to both preventing and dealing with developmental, learning and behaviour difficulties. They offer INSET to teachers and training to a range of others as well as contributing to projects and research within the LEA.
- ◆ Bexley Educational Psychologists consult with schools and parents and contribute to Additional Educational Needs Team meetings. They help those who work with and care for children in a range of contexts to address their concerns and to solve problems.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists' work can include direct work with children as well as consultation with school and nursery staff, parents and carers. In addition, they liaise with therapists and other professionals.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists have a statutory role in providing psychological advice within the prescribed timescales when requested. When providing Statutory Advice for a 1996 Education Act assessment of a child's Special Educational Needs the Educational Psychologists consider factors including children's cognitive, communication and perceptual skills as well as their adaptive, personal and social skills. They consider their approaches and attitudes to learning, their educational attainments and their self-image, interests and behaviours.



Psychological Assessment

Educational Psychologists bring different kinds of information together to make an assessment at both School Action plus and for Statutory Assessments;

- ◆ Initially most children are discussed through a consultation meeting which brings the Educational Psychologist together with staff who know the child, the child's parents, and sometimes the child himself, and they discuss the best way forward.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists review information from earlier reports about the child's developmental and educational history. They obtain information from others such as parents, assessment teachers, advisory teachers, health professionals and school and nursery staff.
- ◆ Often a consultation meeting results in changes in the ways in which key adults help children and enable them to improve their learning and / or behaviour
- ◆ In some cases other kinds of assessment are considered. A structured interview with children is conducted to find out about their feelings, expectations and learning style. The views of the child are sought either directly or indirectly.
- ◆ Curriculum related assessments, which reflect the child's functioning on the National Curriculum, perhaps in a particular area, may be carried out.
- ◆ Normative tests are often carried out. These compare how a child performs on a series of tasks in relation to other children of the same age.
- ◆ Observation of the child may be carried out in the classroom, playground or other settings.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists help school staff and others to plan individual or group programmes to improve children's learning, behaviour or self-confidence and to monitor progress on the programme.



Working with Parents

- ◆ No child is seen by an Educational Psychologist without the agreement of parents, who will be asked to assist with the assessment by providing information and helping to carry out programmes.
- ◆ Parents have the right to be present should the Educational Psychologist carry out any psychological test with their child, although many parents prefer to discuss the results afterwards.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists are able to help parents in a variety of ways; they may provide advice and materials to help parents support their child; they may advise on their child's development and how to promote this; and they may develop behaviour programmes with parents, to be run at home.
- ◆ Educational Psychologists always provide copies of their psychological reports on children to parents, and seek to ensure that parents understand all aspects of the psychologist's work with the child.



Referring Children for Help

- ◆ Any professional (with parents agreement) may refer a child to the service. Children of school age should be referred to the service through the school wherever possible.
- ◆ Each Bexley school works with a named Educational Psychologist. Each term school staff hold a Additional Educational Needs Team meeting with the Educational Psychologist, to agree, plan and review actions taken, and to discuss new referrals.



Other Roles

Educational Psychologists in Bexley work with Bexley Primary Care Trust and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service over particular cases. In addition, they manage projects, advise and support the LEA on special educational needs issues. They carry out training and preventative work.

Comments, Compliments and Complaints

We welcome comments and compliments on the services we provide. These help us to judge whether we are providing a good service and how it can be improved. Similarly, if you are dissatisfied with any part of our service, we need to know.

For comments, compliments or complaints, please telephone on one of the numbers already given. Further advice and details of the formal complaints procedure are available on our website at www.bexley.gov.uk/contact/comments.html

Further information about the work of the Educational Psychology and Assessment Service is provided on further leaflets or contact

Educational Psychology and Advisory Service
Hill View
Hill View Drive
Welling
Kent
DA16 3RY

Telephone: 020 8303 7777

Minicom Number: 020 8319 9684

If you would like to know more about the services the Council provides, or would like either a translation of this document or the information in a different format, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 020 8303 7777 and press 0, quoting reference: 507831/14905/12.06

