



Information for Educational Establishments and other Agencies

Educational Psychology Service

What is the Educational Psychology Service?

The Educational Psychology Service is part of Children's Services within Shetland Islands Council.

The aim of the service is to promote the wellbeing and development of all children and young people using the knowledge and evidence base of child psychology.

Educational Psychologists use their knowledge to work alongside school staff, parents and other professionals to help children and young people reach their full potential.

The service is made up of 2 full-time Educational Psychologists who work with schools across Shetland.



How does the service become involved?

The Educational Psychology Service works through a consultation model of service delivery. Consultation is used to negotiate and agree our work with schools and children and young people.

Our process is described below:

Informal Consultation – A professional dialogue to support reflective practice and identify strategies and ideas that the member of staff or the school can use to bring about positive change for an individual, class/group or school. Often this will be sufficient to resolve concerns and identify next steps for support and no further action or involvement will be required.

Formal Consultation – Sometimes it will be helpful to seek formal involvement with the Educational Psychologist about an individual child or young person. A member of the schools senior leadership team should arrange a time for a formal consultation to take place. Those phoning for consultation should always discuss their intention to do so with parents/carers and children and young people themselves. This may or may not lead to a Request for Involvement.

Request for Involvement – If formal involvement with a child or young person is agreed, a request for involvement form should be completed. To access the request for involvement form please see (<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/support-pupils/education-outreach-service/4>) The service works collaboratively with the Education Outreach Group to manage requests and

ensure appropriate support for children and young people. Please see [Education Outreach Group – Shetland Islands Council](#) for more information.

What do Educational Psychologists do that makes a difference?

Strengthening Universal Approaches - the Educational Psychology Service is committed to developing universal practice to support all children and young people. We can offer advice on a range of evidenced based interventions and topics such as:

- Nurture and relational approaches
- Emotional literacy and self-regulation
- Inclusive classroom practice

Targeted Support for Children and Young People – using consultation the Educational Psychologist will gather information about the child or young person’s strengths, interests and any areas of difficulty or concern. The views of the child or young person are also centrally important to guide effective supports and interventions.

The Educational Psychologist will work collaboratively with others to contribute to a plan of support. They may recommend programmes or curricular resources that can help. They may also offer training to school staff.

When helpful and with agreement, the Educational Psychologist might also:

- Observe in class and school
- Consider assessment information that is already available
- Consider what other assessment might be helpful and/or meet with the child to assess their needs
- Link with other agencies who are also involved and contribute to child’s planning meetings

Building Professional Capacity – the Educational Psychology Service contributes to school, local authority and national improvement priorities by providing training, carrying out research, applying psychological knowledge and facilitating development and change to support learning and teaching.

Contact Details

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This leaflet is available in a variety of formats on request.

If you need to find out more you can phone, write or email the service or look at our website:

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/support-pupils/educational-psychology-service>