



Information for Parents and Carers Educational Psychology Service



shutterstock.com · 2040833939

What is the Educational Psychology Service?

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

The service aims 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. For more information about the role of Educational Psychologists please see:

<https://enquire.org.uk/asl/whats-role-educational-psychologists/>

How does the service become involved?

Schools will make contact with the Educational Psychologist in the first instance to discuss how the service might be able to help. This is called **informal consultation** and no names will be shared. Sometimes is enough to resolve concern. The Educational Psychologist might offer advice, support and/or training to staff. When this happens there is no need for an Educational Psychologist to become directly involved with the child or young person.

Sometimes it will be helpful for the Educational Psychology to become directly involved with a child or young person and their family. When this is the case, the school will arrange a **formal consultation** to take place. The school will discuss their intention to do so with parents, carers and children and young people.

Parents can make direct contact with the service, as can young people themselves. However, it is usually helpful for parents and carers to raise any concerns they may have with the school first.

If agreement is reached about the need for the Educational Psychologist to become involved formally, the School will complete a Request for Involvement form which is submitted to the Education Outreach Group. The Education Outreach Group is made up of the Educational Psychology Service and a range of specialist Education Outreach Services Teachers who work

together to identify and provide support for meeting the needs of learners. Sometimes staff from the Education Outreach Group may also become involved to support. For more information on this and how we work together please see <https://www.shetland.gov.uk/support-pupils/education-outreach-service>

What will the Educational Psychologist do?

The Educational Psychologist will gather information about the child or young person's strengths, interests and any areas of difficulty or concerns. Often this is carried out indirectly by the Educational Psychologist gathering information about the child from those who know them and their situation best. 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 your child to assess their needs
- Link with other agencies who are also involved and contribute to child's planning meetings.

Getting it right for every child

Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) is a practice model that aims to improve outcomes for all children and young people. The Educational Psychology Service works within this guidance and service involvement with a child or young person will usually be part of a GIRFEC Child's Plan.

More information on GIRFEC can be found at: www.shetland.gov.uk/girfec

Contact Details

Rhonda Simpson
Principal Educational Psychologist
Educational Psychology Service
SIC Children's Services, 28 Burgh Road, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LA
Tel: 01595 745588
Email: psychological.service.admin@shetland.gov.uk



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>