

What is an Educational Psychologist (EP)?

- EPs use their knowledge of psychology to support children, parents and teachers where there are concerns regarding children's learning, development or behaviour.
- EPs work collaboratively with teachers, parents, carers and other professionals to help identify children's strengths and difficulties and to develop strategies for change.

What do EPs do?

EPs predominantly work in educational settings within the local authority including: mainstream and special schools, playgroups and nurseries and clinics with health professionals.

Types of work include:

- Consultation and advice.
- Carrying out in-depth individual assessments.
- Individual, group or whole school interventions for change.
- Delivery of training for professional development.
- Research.

Contact information

If you have any further questions or concerns about your child, contact the school's SENCo/ALNCo, alternatively contact the school EP at:

Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Educational Psychology Service
Unit 5 Triangle Business Park
Merthyr Tydfil
CF48 4TQ
01685 724642

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Educational Psychology Service
Ty Trevithick
Abercynon
CF45 4UQ
01443 744000



**Rhondda Cynon Taf
and Merthyr Tydfil**

**Educational
Psychology
Service**

**Information for Parents and
Carers**

This leaflet explains who we are, what we do and what might happen if you or your child were to meet with an Educational Psychologist.





Why might my child be seeing an EP?

Your child might be seeing an EP because your child's school (or possibly another agency, particularly if your child is below school age) has a concern regarding your child's:

- Academic or developmental progress
- Communication skills
- Behaviour
- Wellbeing
- Social interaction

An EP will not see your child without your written consent. It may be helpful to discuss the exact reason why an EP has been asked to see your child with the person who is recommending involving an EP.

What will happen when an EP becomes involved?

- The EP may work directly with your child to discuss their strengths and difficulties, likes and dislikes, and how they would like to move forward.
- They may work with the adults who are close to your child including parent(s)/carers and teacher(s).
- They may conduct observations and assessments to improve their understanding of your child's strengths and difficulties.
- They will be supportive, listen to your child's views and include them in planning actions for change.

How will I be involved and kept informed?

- The EP will listen to your views, ensure that your views are represented and will fully involve you in all decisions that are made about your child.
- The EP will provide you and your child's school with a written summary of their work.
- You may also contact the Educational Psychology Service directly if you have any questions for your child's EP.

What will happen after my child has been seen by the

- Following an initial meeting, the EP will provide a written summary which will include recommendations for change.
- It may not be necessary for the EP to see your child more than once. However, if you or the school feel that progress has not been made then the EP may arrange another visit.

How can I contact an EP for my child?

- Each school has an EP who visits regularly. The school identifies children and young people who they feel would benefit from working with an EP.
- Parents and carers can also request EP input through the school. If your child is in school then express your concerns to your child's teacher or school SENCo/ALNCo. If your child is not in school then a health visitor, or another professional, can make a request for an EP to see your child.