



## The White Horse Federation Educational Psychology Involvement

### What is an Educational and Child Psychologist (EP)?

Educational and Child Psychologists (or Educational Psychologists, or EPs) work to improve the learning and wellbeing of all children. They work in schools in a variety of ways, using their knowledge of psychology and child development to support settings to create contexts that best meet the needs of children and young people (CYP) in their care. This may include working on whole school projects, supporting members of staff, training, working with groups or working with individual pupils.

### What might they do?

If the school has suggested to you that EP involvement may be helpful for your child this could take a variety of forms:

- A meeting with staff at school who know your child well to think about the situation together and generate doable actions (bookable consultation)
- An initial meeting with you and school staff to gain a shared understanding of the situation and consider what everyone would like to be different
- Talking with your child about what is happening for them
- Carrying out activities or assessments with your child to find out more about the areas identified for further exploration (some activities may be recorded to support exploration of needs: This will be deleted as soon as the information has been used in the assessment/feedback)
- Further meetings to feedback/plan interventions for school/review
- Attend other meetings that are relevant to your child when invited
- Produce a written record of their involvement (e.g. summary of assessments/meetings)

The EP will always try to make sure that everyone feels comfortable and are listened to. They will ask questions to help develop a shared understanding of what is happening for your child, and what needs to happen for change to take place.

### Why is it helpful to have an EP involved?

EPs have skills and training in ways to help people think through situations and find solutions (e.g. asking questions, using certain frameworks and/or summarising key information). In addition, they have knowledge of psychology and child development that they can use to contribute to the shared understanding about what is happening for a child or young person.

For a description of the EP role using plain language please visit:

<https://edpsy.org.uk/about/educational-psychology/> this site also has information available in Arabic, Bengali, Panjabi, Polish, Romanian and Urdu.

If you have any further questions, then please contact your school SENCO.