

## Educational Psychology support during the COVID-19 pandemic including transition back to school

Educational Psychologists (EPs) apply psychological theory to real life contexts in order to support organisations, schools, families and children/young people. As such, we are well placed to offer effective support to schools and families at this time.

There is a wide range of information available to facilitate schools and families within the universal level of support on Leeds for Learning and the Leeds Local Offer. These resources are continually reviewed, amended and developed over time to ensure they are appropriate and fit for purpose



### EP Team Core Offer

During this period of time we offering the following support:

The majority of EP work is done using a consultation model and the Educational Psychology Team (EPT) Core Offer is continuing (using technological solutions) in the following ways:

- **Planning Meetings:** All schools have been offered an additional planning meeting this term with the school SENDCo and all schools will also be invited to a cluster meeting led by their cluster EP.
- **Consultation:** the SENDCo may request a problem solving session between family and school representative(s) e.g. teaching, support or management staff. This can involve any issue related to child development and learning or your role within the school. In the current climate, this may also involve thinking about how to support your most vulnerable children and families, communicating with children remotely during teaching, the new school routine, how to communicate with worried parents.
- **Supervision:** teaching, support or management staff can access supervision to reflect on, and find ways to manage, the emotional impact of their work.

### Resources and Support

The EP Team have produced a range of guidance, resources and information on five key areas. These areas have been identified through conversations with and feedback from your settings and partner agencies. The information collated will

continue to be updated and expanded upon over time. It can be accessed on Leeds for Learning.

- Change, loss and bereavement The EPT can support staff in their response to bereavement through a training offer, supportive conversations with staff, children and families and/or highlighting key resources on the understanding of the impact of loss and supporting childrens' needs.
- Children and young people's emotional and mental health and well being The EP team have developed a resource to support building a focused universal offer which meets most children's needs within the school context. This includes adult roles in recognising and supporting normal emotional responses, increasing protective factors as well as identifying and supporting those more at risk.
- Transitions A key area of focus this guidance includes approaches to support children and young people to feel safe, re-connect with others, and re-engage with routines and learning. Further guidance will be added to support key transitions and vulnerable groups who may need more targeted support.
- Staff well-being - "Look after you, to look after them". The EPs have produced a range of resources for staff and managers which focus on staff wellbeing. EPs will be available for individual consultations with schools if required.
- EHCPs, SEND risk assessments/supporting pupils with EHCPs Support for settings in developing their risk assessments for pupils with EHCs, including: what to additionally consider, how to work within 'best endeavours', a potential framework to use as reintegration takes place.

If you want to discuss any of these areas and how the EPT can offer support please contact your link EP.

### **Critical Incident Support**

**Critical Incident COVID-19 Support:** The Educational Psychology Team (EPT) continues to offer critical incident support to Head teachers and members of Senior Leadership Teams in all settings across the city. Information on the current critical incident response from the EPT is available, alongside a framework to support you in planning for future critical incidents related to the current situation. Further information and support documents are available here

[www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Article/74545](http://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk/Article/74545)

### **Contact Information:**

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