

THE ROLE OF THE EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

This leaflet outlines the role, responsibilities and training of an educational psychologist.

In January 2004 the Welsh Assembly Government published a document entitled "Children and Young People: Rights to Action". In the foreword the Ministers for Health and Education and Lifelong Learning state their "ambition for **all** children" (their emphasis) that "everyone should be able to reach his or her potential." They recognise, however, that some children face far more serious problems and that "helping them must be our priority".

As a result of their training, skills and knowledge, educational psychologists are well placed to support the children and young people whose school-based problems are more complex.

QUALIFICATIONS

Educational Psychologists currently:

1. Have an initial degree in psychology or equivalent;
2. Have significant experience over two years, with children and young people;
3. Have undertaken specialist post graduate professional training in educational psychology;
4. Are eligible for Chartered Psychologist status with the British Psychological Society after completing supervised Practice.

CLIENT GROUPS

Educational Psychologists frequently work with the following people:

- School Staff;
- Children, Looked After Children and Young people;
- Parents and Carers;

Other professionals involved in the care of children and young people including medical and social services staff as well as members of voluntary bodies.

Every LA will have the address and contact details of its Educational Psychology Service if you need to contact them.

ACTIVITIES

Educational Psychologists will at times be involved in the following activities:

- Work with children and young people between the ages of 2-19 who have difficulties with learning and/or behaviour and mental health issues;
- Support schools in raising pupil achievement and promoting school effectiveness;
- Work with parents to help resolve their child's difficulties at home and at school;
- Providing training for teachers, Learning Support Assistants and other staff on all aspects of child development;
- Undertake research to improve our knowledge of children's difficulties with learning and/or behaviour and means of addressing them;
- Contribute to Statutory Procedures under the 1996 Education Act;
- Monitor progress of children with Statements of Special Educational Needs.
- Advise on SEN policy and practice.



Association of
Educational
Psychologist

Cymru/Wales

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGISTS

A BRIEF GUIDE

Telephone: 0191 3849512

Fax: 0191 3865287

Email: sao@aep.org.uk