

# Consultation: Information for Schools

## 1. What is consultation?



Consultation is a collaborative problem-solving approach in which people who share concerns work together to develop a shared understanding and identify agreed actions and next steps.

The role of an Educational Psychologist is to facilitate the process and contribute from their psychological knowledge base, skills and expertise.

Agreed actions and next steps from consultation will vary and will identify a clear role for everyone in supporting positive change.

## 2. Why use consultation?

Consultation can be used to explore concerns and possible solutions relating to a range of issues including:

- Whole school policies / approaches
- Year groups / classes / vulnerable groups
- Individual children and young people

Consultation also supports a plan-do-review cycle and fits well with the current SEND Code of Practice.

Participants are enabled to develop the understanding, skills and confidence to manage similar situations in the future.

## 3. How can I prepare for a consultation?

To ensure that the time spent during a consultation is used most effectively, it is helpful to consider the following questions before an Educational Psychologist visits:

- What are my best hopes for involving an Educational Psychologist?
- Who are the people most concerned about this child / young person / issue?
- What are the strengths in the current situation?
- What has been done previously to support this concern and what was the impact?