# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL JOB DESCRIPTION

# Job Title: Educational Psychologist

# Department: Children’s Services

# Grade: [Soulbury EPA 2-7](https://new.eastsussex.gov.uk/jobs/benefits/soulbury-officers)

# Responsible to: Senior Educational Psychologist

# Purpose of the Role:

The Education Division sits within the Children’s Services Department (CSD) of East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and has overall responsibility for the council’s strategy to improve educational outcomes for children and young people. The division acts as the champion for all children and young people, especially those who are vulnerable to underachievement, and works in partnership across early years, primary, secondary, special, and post-16 education. The division also leads on statutory duties in relation to supporting children with additional and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Educational Psychologists actively contribute to an efficient, responsive, and professional educational psychology service for young people aged 0-25 years through the delivery of high quality statutory, non-statutory and traded services in accordance with local priorities.

Educational Psychologists provide support and consultation to a group of schools and colleges and offer a traded service as well as completing psychological advice as part of statutory assessments. Educational Psychologists can also contribute to early intervention projects and priority developments within the service according to their interests.

# Key tasks:

1. Provide high quality core, traded and statutory psychological services to Education Division staff, other partners and to a variety of schools, colleges, and settings, promoting inclusion and wellbeing.
2. Improve outcomes for children, young people and their families through consultation and capacity-building in a range of settings, including mainstream and special schools, academies, and free schools.
3. Take the lead in person-centred planning meetings, providing relevant information as required to enable a comprehensive assessment of children and young people with a view to securing improved outcomes.
4. Contribute to SEND decision-making processes by providing high quality psychological advice and guidance across all areas, attending decision-making panels, and representing the Local Authority at SEND Tribunals.
5. Promote co-production with parent/carers and their children to better ensure choice and control in support of agreed outcomes included in any planned intervention and support.
6. Strengthen parents’ and carers’ roles in supporting their children and to work in partnership and in close cooperation with other services to contribute to a coordinated service for children with additional SEND and other vulnerable groups and reduce reliance on statutory processes.
7. Contribute to the organisation and implementation of staff training in support of improved outcomes for children and young people and implement research and evaluation projects in priority areas.
8. Work as part of a coordinated multi-disciplinary team around a school, supporting the wider Education Division Provider Service teams in delivering improved outcomes for children and young people with additional and SEND and helping schools to make effective use of delegated SEND budgets.
9. Work closely with other services to co-develop effective communication and pathways for joint working.
10. Engage in the development of ICT systems to support wider co-production and transparency with families and education providers.
11. Actively seek new personal learning and contribute to the learning and mentoring of peers, including trainee educational psychologists and assistant educational psychologists.

# PERSON SPECIFICATION

# Essential education and qualifications

* Honours degree in Psychology or a qualification recognised as equivalent by a university or by the British Psychological Society (BPS).
* Successful completion of a course of recognised postgraduate professional training as an Educational Psychologist.
* Registered to practice with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC).

# Essential key skills, abilities, knowledge, experience, values and behaviours

* Interpersonal skills and the ability to relate to teachers, children and families, local authority colleagues and other agencies in a variety of roles and settings.
* Ability to communicate clearly, concisely, and effectively in speech and in writing.
* Ability to resolve constructively situations where conflicts and tensions arise.
* Ability to organise and prioritise work and manage time effectively.
* The skills to promote effective teamwork.
* Ability to make effective use of psychological supervision to support reflection and learning.
* A commitment to the principle of high-quality inclusion for the large majority of pupils with SEND.
* Experience of using MS Word, Excel, and MS Outlook and/or MS exchange software.
* Effective preparation and presentation of training.
* Knowledge of child and adolescent development and of common developmental problems.
* Knowledge of the legislative framework within which local authority educational psychology services operate.
* Knowledge of up to date techniques and strategies for educational and psychological assessment.
* An effective range of approaches to educational and psychological intervention, with individuals and groups.
* Experience in educational psychology
* An understanding of, and demonstrable commitment to, equal opportunities and antiracist practice.
* Self-motivated and organised.
* Ability to manage own wellbeing and support the wellbeing of others.
* A commitment to achieving the best outcomes for children and young people.
* Full driving licence or the ability to meet the travel requirements of the role.

# Desirable key skills, abilities, knowledge, experience, values and behaviours

* Relevant experience working with children and young people in roles outside educational psychology in education or other child and youth services.
* Publication or communication of research findings to effect change.

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Health & Safety Functions

This section is to make you aware of any health & safety related functions you may be expected to either perform or to which may be exposed in relation to the post you are applying for. This information will help you if successful in your application identify any health-related condition which may impact on your ability to perform the job role, enabling us to support you in your employment by way of reasonable adjustments or workplace support.

| **Function** | **Applicable to role**  |
| --- | --- |
| Using display screen equipment  | Yes |
| Working with children/vulnerable adults | Yes |
| Moving & handling operations | No |
| Occupational Driving | Yes |
| Lone Working | Yes |
| Working at height | No |
| Shift / night work | No |
| Working with hazardous substances | No |
| Using power tools | No |
| Exposure to noise and /or vibration | No |
| Food handling | No |
| Exposure to blood /body fluids | No |