



Pupil and School Support (PSS) – Parent Information

Who are Pupil and School Support?

- Pupil and School Support (PSS for short) is part of Access to Education who are a group of services supporting children and young people with additional needs in schools in Birmingham.
- We are qualified teachers who support children and young people in educational settings who have cognition and learning difficulties.
- Every mainstream school and academy has a qualified teacher assigned to their setting.

How does the Pupil and School Support Team support schools?

- We work with schools to help their pupils with cognition, learning and language difficulties make progress and achieve to the best of their abilities.
- We help to develop the knowledge of SENCOs, ensuring they are able to lead whole school improvement; help school staff to support pupils with SEN, promote inclusive practice, set aspirational targets and raise attainment, and support early identification of need and evidence-based intervention.

How does the Pupil and School Support Team support individual children and young people?

- Schools will ask their PSS teacher to become involved if they have concerns about your child's learning and progress.
- This should be after they have already given some additional support and tried different things in the classrooms.
- The decision to involve PSS should be discussed and agreed with you as parents/carers and your written consent will be gained first.
- All PSS involvement is personal to the child/young person and will take place after discussion with the school about their concerns. The PSS teacher may:
 - Work outside the classroom with your child to assess their skills;
 - See how your child works in the class;
 - Talk about your child's learning need with staff;
 - Talk to your child about how they feel about their learning.

How do we assess your child?

The PSS teacher may assess a pupil's ability in any of the following areas:

- Speech and Language
- Reading
- Spelling
- Writing
- Memory & Processing
- Mathematics

What happens after your child has been assessed?

After seeing your child, the PSS teacher will:

- Share ideas about what to try next
- Work with staff on how to help your child

We may also:

- Provide a written report for the school
- Meet you in school to discuss the work carried out
- Suggest other outside agencies who could also help your child
- Work with the school in monitoring you child's progress and setting targets.



- See your child more than once to assess the progress that has been made over 6 months or a year.

How do I contact a Pupil and School Support Teacher?

- You can arrange to see or speak to us through the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) at your child's school.
- Contact details for the school SENCo can be found on their school website. Look for their 'SEN Information Report' for more information.

Will I meet the Pupil and School Support Teacher working with my child?

- You are the expert on your child, and it is important that we work together to make decisions about your child's learning
- Sometimes you will meet the PSS teacher in school.
- Sometimes contact will be via email, phone call or Microsoft Teams.

Do Pupil and School Support have any further information for parents?

Webinars:

- Parent and carer webinars on a range of topics can be found on the Local Offer website: <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk>
- Previous webinars which you can watch and listen to can be found via this link: <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/webinars/>

Webpages:

- You may find the following links to our parent information pages and videos helpful too:
- Supporting children who have dyslexia: [Dyslexia Information for Parents \(birmingham.gov.uk\)](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/dyslexia)
- Supporting children with learning needs: [Supporting learning \(birmingham.gov.uk\)](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/supporting-learning)

Contact Details:

Pupil and School Support

Access To Education

Education and Skills Directorate

Birmingham City Council

Office: PO Box 17843, Birmingham, B2 2JR

Birmingham Local Offer: www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

Access to Education: <http://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk>

Birmingham Local Offer: www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk

To contact PSS: LDParentEnquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

Please note: Provision and support may change due to COVID restrictions.