

## **Support from Educational Psychologists and Post-Vention Services**

### *Supporting children beyond the immediate response*

When we think about emergencies, it's easy to picture a major incident happening within a school. However, the situations that affect children and young people are often much broader and more varied.

#### **An incident may:**

- Happen within the school
- Occur in the local community (e.g. nearby emergency services activity or a local incident)
- Be part of a wider regional or national event reported in the media
- Affect one individual pupil in a very personal way
- Impact the whole school community, even if indirectly

In all of these situations, children and young people may experience worry, uncertainty, or distress and schools may require additional support to respond effectively.

#### **Post-Vention Support**

Post-vention refers to the structured follow-up support provided after any critical or traumatic incident to promote recovery and resilience. It is not limited to suicide and can be used in response to a wide range of events affecting the school community.

Local Authority post-vention support includes:

- Advice and guidance for school leaders on managing recovery
- Support for staff in responding to pupils' emotional and behavioural needs
- Targeted interventions for pupils or groups most affected
- Coordination with external services where specialist input is required

Key points:

- Post-vention support is available for any incident, whether within school, nearby in the community, or affecting pupils indirectly
- It is part of the Local Authority's wider emergency planning and safeguarding framework
- Early and coordinated post-vention can reduce long-term impacts and help restore a sense of safety and normality

#### **Specialist support: Educational Psychologists**

As part of wider emergency and safeguarding arrangements, schools can access support from educational psychologists.

Educational psychologists are specialists in:

- Child development and learning
- Emotional wellbeing
- Supporting children following distressing or traumatic experiences

Importantly, this service is available to both maintained and non-maintained schools, ensuring all settings can access the same level of professional support when needed.

### **When might this support be used?**

Support from educational psychologists is flexible and can be accessed in a range of situations, including:

- Following a serious incident or bereavement
- When there has been an incident in the local area affecting pupils
- In response to wider events causing anxiety or uncertainty
- To support a specific pupil or small group
- Where there is a broader impact across the school community

This recognises that emotional impact does not always match the scale or location of an incident.

### **What support can they provide?**

#### **Educational psychologists can support schools at different stages:**

##### **Immediate advice**

- Guidance for school leaders on managing the situation
- Support with clear, sensitive communication
- Helping maintain a calm and structured environment

##### **Short-term support**

- Helping pupils understand what has happened in an age-appropriate way
- Supporting staff to respond to emotional needs in the classroom
- Identifying those who may need additional support

##### **Ongoing recovery**

- Strategies to support longer-term wellbeing
- Advice on further support or referrals if needed

Local Authorities are committed to supporting schools both during and after incidents. Post-vention, delivered in large part by educational psychologists, ensures that children, young people, and staff can recover safely, and that schools are equipped to respond appropriately to a wide range of situations.

Support from educational psychologists and post-vention services is grounded in national safeguarding and emergency planning guidance, including *Keeping Children Safe in Education* and professional standards from the *British Psychological Society*. These frameworks emphasise that schools and Local Authorities should plan for and provide structured emotional support following critical incidents. Local Authorities work within these national expectations to deliver coordinated post-vention support tailored to the needs of schools and pupils.



We hope you have had a great break and have had a safe return this term. Please do not hesitate to contact the CSW Resilience Team regarding your school's emergency planning arrangements or exercise planning process.

Kind Regards,

*CSW Resilience*

CSW Resilience Team