



Educational Psychology Service
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The Bereavement & Critical Incident Response Team within the Educational Psychology Service

- This service continues to be free for maintained schools
- Can continue to be accessed by Academies via an insurance fee

Head Teachers and Senior Managers are accustomed to managing a huge variety of different situations. However, the sudden death of a pupil or a member of staff is devastating and can have a wide-reaching impact on both the school and the local community.

For nearly 15 years a specialist team of Educational Psychologists within the Educational Psychology Service, known as “The Bereavement & Critical Incident Response Team”, has been supporting schools following a tragic event. Over the past 7 years the team has supported approximately 90 schools within Shropshire in the following ways:

- Immediate (same day) phone advice to Senior Managers. This includes step by step guidance as to the tasks which need to be undertaken that day to ensure that the institution is supporting its students and the wider community in ways which promote emotional health.
- A staff meeting within days of the incident to advise staff on how best to support students and one another.
- Structured Group Support/Debriefing where young people or staff have witnessed a traumatic event.
- Further access to a specialist individual assessment, arising from a traumatic bereavement or where events have hindered healthy grieving, as agreed by the team.

Educational Psychologists are uniquely placed to support schools in such situations with their familiarity with education and schools, their knowledge of child development, bereavement, trauma and their skills in therapeutic approaches, including CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy) and trauma-focused rewind.

Despite stringent cost savings within Shropshire, **the Council has remained committed to funding this service for maintained schools.**

If Academies would like to continue to have access to such support, they can do so by paying a small insurance fee each year ranging from £75 depending on the size of the Academy. The fees are greater for larger Academies as there is more likelihood of them drawing upon this service. The fees are as follows:

£75 for NOR under 100
£100 for NOR 100-200
£125 for NOR 201-300
£175 for NOR 301-500
£225 for NOR 501-1000
£275 for NOR 1001-1500
£325 for NOR 1501-2000
£375 for NOR 2001-3000
£425 for NOR 3001-4000

Typically, the actual cost of support from the Educational Psychology Service following a critical incident would be between £2000 and £3000.