

Emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA) – Support Directory for Schools

Overview

Service	Support						
	Universal intervention	Targeted intervention	Bespoke intervention	Direct work with CYP	Direct work with family	Consultation with staff	Free at point of delivery
Oxfordshire Educational Psychology Service (EPS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mental Health Support Team (MHST)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (Under 12)	✓	✓
Oxfordshire Hospital School (OHS)		✓	✓	✓ (with medical diagnosis)	✓	✓	
Special Educational Needs Support Service (SENS)	✓	✓	✓	✓ (C&I/ ASC as primary need)	✓	✓	✓
Locality and Community Support Service (LCSS)		✓	✓			✓	✓
Learner Engagement Team		✓	✓			✓	✓ (training)
OXSIT	✓	✓				✓	
County Attendance Team	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Educational Psychology Service

Who are we?

We are a team of registered practitioner psychologists with the Health and Care Professionals Council (HCPC) and abide by the Code of Conduct of the British Psychological Society (BPS). We help people to understand how they think, feel, learn and behave. We work with children and young people aged 0-25 in a range of settings, including nurseries, mainstream schools, special schools and colleges. Our work can be undertaken at the individual, class or whole-school level.

We work with children and young people who may be experiencing difficulties in their learning, behaviour, social interaction, communication, emotional well-being, physical or sensory skills.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

We work with schools as part of the graduated response, from early intervention at the start of the presenting anxieties and worries to supporting schools when managing more compels and entrenched difficulties relating to school avoidance.

What can we offer?

School staff can access Educational Psychology support through our traded service. EPs can offer support and advice through a joint problem-solving approach. EPs can assist in the identification of the function of the EBSA behaviour which helps to inform the subsequent action planning and intervention. In addition, the Educational Psychology Service can deliver training for schools on working with children and their families who display EBSA.

Contact information

Name of contact: Deborah Smit

Contact/team email: educationalpsychology@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Contact/team telephone: 01865 323381

Team website: [Educational Psychology Service | Family Information Directory \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Mental Health Support Team

Who are we?

We are part of a nationwide project aimed at supporting the early intervention of emerging mental health needs in schools. We are able to support at much lower thresholds than currently offered by CAMHS.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

We are an early intervention service so can support schools/families at the start of anxieties and worries which may be leading to school avoidance.

What can we offer?

Up to age of 12 our work is primarily with parents; we are also developing a more detailed family offer. After 12 it is with pupil. Both of these interventions are over 6-8 weeks. We are also there for schools to access for whole school support, including resources, assemblies and consultation.

At the moment we are only in 79 schools in Oxfordshire and cannot support schools who are not part of the MHST pilot. They access 1:1 via our web referral form (within CAMHS), other work is via email to members of our team- schools involved are aware of how to do so.

Contact information

Name of contact: Jamie Douglas

Contact/team email: Jamie.douglas@response.org.uk

Contact/team telephone: 07885804516

Team website: <https://www.response.org.uk/oxfordshire-mental-health-support-team/>

Oxfordshire Hospital School (Outreach)

Who are we?

The Oxfordshire Hospital School outreach programmes are carefully designed to ensure pupils remain an integral part of their home school. Our team of teachers and HLTAs work in collaboration with young people, their families, education, health and social care professionals to create focused, personalised learning programmes.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

OHS staff can assist with providing guidance to schools where anxiety becomes linked to school avoidance.

What can we offer?

Our support could be anything from a one-off telephone call with assistance to support intervention strategies to longer term education support following a referral from school which could continue until the young person is ready to go back to school.

Our intervention support is only ever temporary, and we aim to support pupils and schools to ensure that young people are able to remain in school

Contact information

Name of contact: Daniel Lawrence

Contact/team email: daniel.lawrence@ohs.oxon.sch.uk

Contact/team telephone: 01865 957480

Team website: <https://ohs.oxon.sch.uk/>

SENSS

Who are we?

The Communication and Interaction service is part of Oxfordshire County Council's Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS).

We work with schools and settings to help children and young people with speech, language and communication needs and autism spectrum conditions make good progress, achieve well and enjoy school, family and community life.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

At any stage, as long as they are (at least for some time) in school and on our caseload.

We prefer to be involved as soon as concerns about attendance start to emerge. Referrals that come through when a child is already at serious risk, as they do from schools who have been slow to recognise an emerging issue, or do not identify underlying C&I Needs have poor outcomes.

What can we offer?

We work with children with a primary need of C&I. Typically support to schools is ongoing - we have a Specialist Advisory Teacher for every school and our graduated approach means that we have an ongoing dialogue with schools about all students. We can remain involved for an extended period if our involvement is effective.

In school e.g. supporting key staff, training re anxiety and EBSA, maintain links with families, reframe problems, advise on alternative provision, reintegration planning

Direct work with CYP e.g. support to build relationships with key school staff, joint working with school and child, support with anxiety, sensory sensitivities and emotional regulation, individual interventions delivered by ASWs (emotional regulation / sensory processing / anxiety)

Direct work with families e.g. attending / contributing to TAFs, and review, informal mediation between parents and schools when relationships are at risk, rebuild parent trust / confidence in the school and to reassure parents, listening

If we are not seeing improvement in EBSA then we would signpost to other services, but no 'discharge'. We work as part of larger package of support from the school - supporting the review of reintegration planning. We no longer have staff able to work with children already out of school in the home.

Contact information

Name of contact: Alison Blaylock

Contact/team email: alison.blaylock@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Contact/team telephone: 07990550739

Team website: [Special Educational Needs Support Service \(SENSS\) | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schools/special-educational-needs-support-service-senss/)

LCSS

Who are we?

LCSS provides advice and guidance to universal professional partner agencies including schools, health and voluntary and community groups, across Oxfordshire when emerging concerns are raised for children that do not require an immediate safeguarding response.

The LCSS are the first point of contact where non-immediate safeguarding concerns are identified.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

There are no lower thresholds, but there should be no immediate safeguarding concerns. Professionals or families can contact us directly. As long as child and family are not already open to Children's Services (Early Help or a Statutory team) then we can be contacted for support.

What can we offer?

We would support the School and the family, and any other professionals to try to understand any underlying causes to school avoidance to try to find ways to overcome them. We would also aim to identify any other strengths and support needs for the family to help inform the plan required. We may recommend an Early Help Assessment as a tool to help identify this. This will support the family and the professionals to gain further insight into the family's needs and strengths, and their functioning. LCSS will support professionals to complete the EHA with the family.

We do not offer direct case work to families but will support professionals already involved with families to support families, LCSS will explore other options for support through the community, once support needs are known.

Contact information

Contact/team email: LCSS.North@oxfordshire.gov.uk, LCSS.Central@oxfordshire.gov.uk,
LCSS.South@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Contact/team telephone: North: 03452412703, Central: 03452412705, South: 03452412608

Team website: [LCSS and Community Co-ordinators | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Learner Engagement Service

Who are we?

The Lead for Learner Engagement is available to support schools, associated services and families (including direct work with young people) in:

- preventing and tackling all forms of bullying;
- promoting respectful relationships and celebrating diversity; and
- working restoratively to ensure more children and young people are positively engaging in their education.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

If all avenues have been explored and professionals are feeling 'stuck'.

What can we offer?

We can offer to facilitate a restorative meeting with a young person to see if speaking to someone external might benefit them and support in identifying underlying needs/finding a way forward. We also offer free whole-school training in restorative approaches, advanced restorative practitioner training and ongoing support for restorative practitioners in schools.

Any involvement by the Lead for Learner Engagement would typically end following a restorative intervention or the provision of training. However, ongoing support is available for school staff and the Lead for Learner Engagement can be invited to attend multi-agency meetings where appropriate.

The Lead for Learner Engagement can work alongside and with individual/multiple agencies to support the process of engaging/re-engaging young people in education.

Contact information

Name of contact: Clare Pike

Contact/team email: clare.pike@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Contact/team telephone: (01865) 323513

Team website: <https://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/learner-engagement-service>

OXSIT

Who are we?

We offer strategic support to School Leaders in Primary and secondary mainstream and special schools. The team have all held positions in Senior Leadership in schools and are educated to Master's level in Education. Schools commission support from the team. We work closely with the County Attendance Team and have a strong working knowledge of support available for schools.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

A school may commission and agree a piece of work around EBSA with the OXSIT team

What can we offer?

We can offer support to school leaders with strategies to develop their offer of support for pupils experiencing EBSA, signposting to different services and when it might be appropriate to engage with these, identifying and assessing pupil needs, meeting needs under the universal and targeted offer for pupils with SEND.

Contact information

Name of contact: Jo Hatfield

Contact/team email: OXSIT@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Team website: www.oxsit.org.uk

County Attendance Team

Who are we?

Our team supports school attendance, including the legal duties associated with this. The team are experienced officers trained in mediation and can advise on the appropriate processes around attendance, including legal duties. We also work with schools and colleagues to promote good attendance and early intervention where difficulties arise.

When might we get involved with an EBSA case?

All CYP of statutory school age with attendance lower than 90% should be raised with the officer for the school. A referral can be made to the team for case work or a legal process, or attendance officers can be approached for advice and assistance. We might also be involved where a parent is not engaging with school, where the provision is not appropriate or where reasonable adjustments are required.

What can we offer?

We work with the school, colleagues and families to support attendance. This might include attendance at meetings, mediation, home visits and guidance around provision. We would not work 1:1 with CYP. Whole school/ county level support for attendance is ongoing.

Contact information

Name of contact: Joanna Goodey

Contact/team email: attendance@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Contact/ team telephone: 01865 323513 (9am – 5pm Mon-Fri during term time)