

Private Practitioners in Schools Guidance for Schools

Responding to Requests

A parent/carer may request that a school accommodates a private practitioner to carry out targeted assessment or intervention work with their child during school hours. Before approving this request, the school should consider the purpose of the request and if it is likely to impact on the running of the school, e.g. the disruption to learning of other pupils, any staff time required and whether a suitable space is available for the pupil to meet with the practitioner.

Should the request be approved, the school would not be responsible for any missed learning during the time that the child/young person is with the practitioner. This must be clearly communicated to the parent/carer and a discussion should take place with them on how they will support their child with any lost learning.

Private practitioners are not permitted to carry out any assessment or intervention work (including observations) within the classroom setting where other children/young people are present.

The targeted work would require to be agreed in advance between the school, the parent/carer and the practitioner. The date and time of the session would also be agreed in advance.

Requirements

Prior to the practitioner meeting with the child/young person in school for the first time, the practitioner must provide the school with a current PVG Certificate and confirm that they have suitable public liability insurance.

The school must provide the practitioner with a copy of the school's Child Protection policy/guidance and procedures to follow should they have a child protection concern.

Child's Plan Meeting Attendance

Private practitioners may attend Child's Planning meetings at the request of the parent/carer.

Requests for information

It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to provide the private practitioner with copies of any relevant documentation (e.g. Individual Education Plan, Child's Plan, minutes of meetings, dyslexia screening assessments, education reports) if they think this is required. The private practitioner will not be sent individual copies by the school.



The school will not undertake any work on behalf of the private practitioner (e.g. completing questionnaires, carrying out observations) due to the impact of this on staff time and subsequent disruption to the running of the school.

Private practitioner Recommendations

Schools should take account of any recommendations provided by a private practitioner when planning to meet a pupil's needs. However there is no requirement to act on these recommendations if they:

- Do not align with the school's assessments and/or the assessments of specialist education support services and/or partner agencies,
- Cannot be practically implemented within the school setting,
- Will result in unreasonable cost / resource implications for the school and/or local authority.

Co-ordinated Support Plans

In terms of section 23(2) of the Education (Additional Support for Learning)(Scotland) Act 2004, private practitioners are not considered as appropriate agencies and as such would not be included in Co-ordinated Support Plans.

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