



Curriculum Vitae
Dr Michele McDowell
Chartered & HCPC Registered Psychologist. C.Psychol., AFBPsS.

Expert in Mind Ltd, Astec House, Sedlescombe Road South,
St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, TN38 0TA
Tel: 01424 444130 Fax: 01424 234625

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERTISE:

Professional Qualification: British Psychological Society (BPS) Chartered Educational & Child Psychologist; Associate Fellow BPS; and, Health and Care Professional Council (HCPC) Registered.

Areas of experience:

- Assessment of children and young people and their families, including: full psychological and cognitive assessment of children and young people and cognitive and personality assessments of adults.
- Assessment of children and young people in preparation for parental requests to local authorities (LAs) for statutory assessments and/or for Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunals (SENDIST).
- Assessment of children and young people with developmental disorders including: Autism and Asperger's Syndrome; ADHD and Social and Emotional Problems; Dyspraxia and Dyslexia; Learning Disabilities; Speech and Language Difficulties; and, children with acquired brain injury.
- All aspects of Special Educational Needs work, including reports for, and attendance at Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunals.
- Assessment of Children with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties.
- Assessment of attachment relationships including: the welfare of, and impact on, the child and young person in parenting breakdown and, the assessment of risk in cases where parents are having emotional difficulties in parenting their children and the parent-child relationship is starting to break down.
- Assessment of the impact of parenting and school contexts on educational performance. Delivery of therapeutic interventions such as solution focused brief therapy.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

I have over 15 years educational and clinical experience working as a psychologist in multi-professional settings, with: adults, children, families, support services in different Local Authorities and, within private organisations. I have expertise in all aspects of child development: cognitive, linguistic, sensory, physical, social, behavioural and emotional and I am able to identify children and young people whose development is either delayed or disordered and to consider why this might be and advise about needs.

I have experience of working in multi-disciplinary teams and in multi-professional working groups, especially with regard to the mental health needs of children and young people in schools: I am a qualified, registered user with The HOME Inventory and Family Pack of Questionnaires and scales to assess parents and the family life of children and, a certified facilitator for the Strengthening Families and Communities Parenting Programme and has run a number of programmes for families known to Social Services. I have held an honorary contract at The Monroe Family Assessment Centre (MFAC), which is a part of the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust: I was a part of a multi-disciplinary team undertaking child and parents assessments for Court.

I have an interest in advising parents/carers, early years professionals, social workers and teachers in the assessment, management, support and protection of young children and adolescents who experience cognitive, emotional and social difficulties (at school and in the wider community) as a consequence of early traumatic experiences, special needs, cultural and ethnic issues and learning difficulties resulting in attachment and executive functioning difficulties.

I have extensive experience working with coaching and consultation models, both within schools and privately and, have a particular interest in positive psychology and the new emerging area of energy psychology.

I accept instructions as an expert witness to the court within Family Proceedings and Private law Disputes on a range of assessment issues concerning adults and children including:

- Psychological profiles including learning disability and mental health
- Parenting ability
- The nature of a child's attachment and sibling relationships and the impact of separation, contact and loss.
- Therapeutic and support needs of children
- Placement needs of children following a Care Order including whether siblings should be placed together or separately and the nature and extent of contact with the birth family.
- Challenging and dysfunctional behaviour in children and adolescents.
- Children's special educational needs including Autism and communication disorders and their impact on relationships and learning.

I am DBS Checked and hold personal professional indemnity insurance.

QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING & RESEARCH

My qualifications include: BA Honours Degree in Social Science (University of Westminster), a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (University of London, Institute of Education) a Masters Degree in The Psychology of Education (University of London, Institute of Education), a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology (University of Essex, Tavistock Centre) and a Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Systemic Theory (University of Essex, Tavistock Centre). A Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology (University of Essex).

Recent CPD training attended:

- Certificate in Evidence Based Hypnotherapy
- Emotional Freedom Technique level 1 and 2
- Mindfulness meditation for Children and Adults
-

MEMBERSHIPS & PUBLICATIONS

Professional Memberships

- British Psychological Society, Division of Educational and Child Psychologists (DECP).
- Association of Child Psychologists in Private Practice (AChiPPP)
- Association of Educational Psychologists (AEP).

<u>CASE TYPES</u>	<u>SPECIALISMS</u>
ADHD	ADHD (Diagnosis)
ASD	ASD (Diagnosis)
Clinical Negligence	ADD (Diagnosis)
Cognitive	ADHD
Educational	ASD
Family	ADD
Global Family Assessment	Attachment
Immigration & Asylum	Cultural Diversity
Neuropsychological	Learning Disabilities
	Neglect