

Reception, Key Stage 1 & 2 Group Consultation 2025-26

What is R, KS1 & 2 Group Consultation?

- One of the most effective ways that we support children & young people is by working with the professionals that support them.
- R, KS1 & 2 Group Consultation is available to **ALL** primary schools across Knowsley to buy in to as part of a graduated approach.
- The consultation sessions take place six times a year, approximately every half term, via Microsoft Teams.
- During the consultation meeting, settings that have referred a case can present the child to the group, while the rest of the group offers hypotheses and suggests strategies.
- This supports understanding of the child's needs and develops actions that are likely to create positive change.



What you can expect:

- Each setting can refer 1 case per term (up to 3 cases per year) to discuss.
- Access to 6 online group consultation sessions, where you can share best practice and select strategies to implement with similar pupils in your setting.
- SENCOs, class teachers, learning mentors and any other relevant practitioners are welcome to present and attend.
- For each referral, the setting is provided with an individualised action plan.
- All session attendees receive a strategy sheet that lists all of the strategies and additional resources referred to during the session.

All for only:

£375

How to make the most of group consultation:

- All members of the group bring their own unique perspectives and expertise. To make the most of the consultations, we encourage you to attend the full session and, when you're not presenting a case, actively participate in the 'brainstorming team'.
- Our feedback indicates that you value the strategies gained from other cases, which can be applied to similar children in your setting. Therefore, we encourage attendance at all six sessions, even if you're not presenting a case.
- To avoid delays in the referral process, ensure a wet signature is obtained on the correct consent form.
- Take notes throughout the session to enable you to implement the strategies discussed as soon as possible. The action plan will follow within the next two weeks.
- Please send any apologies by 12pm the day before the session, so we can ensure the consultation starts on time and we know not to wait for your arrival.

“

This process allows me to feel confident with the strategies that I am suggesting, that they work in other settings and that they are rooted in research.

”

“

We were really concerned about the young person in our setting, but through this process we were able to come up with new ideas. We are now seeing progress and it is a testament to this process!

”

“

The consultation process gives permission to do something a bit different when it feels like none of the strategies we try are working.

”

R, KS1 & 2 Group Consultation Process

Prior to consultation

The SENCo and school staff identify a child that they feel would benefit from some additional support from the R, KS1 & 2 Group Consultation.

Staff should gain informed **written consent from a parent/carer with parental responsibility** for the child to be discussed at consultation.

Staff then send the completed and **signed** referral form to eps@knowsley.gov.uk **by 12pm the day before** your consultation.

During consultation

Each child is discussed using an effective and efficient structure known as a 'Solution Circle'. Each consultation can facilitate up to three Solution Circles.

The Educational Psychologist or Trainee Educational Psychologist will facilitate the Solution Circle process:

1. **Overview of the case**- The SENCo/staff member who has made a referral will present the child without interruption.
2. **Questioning Phase**- Other members of the solution circle will be given an opportunity to ask clarifying questions.
3. **Brainstorming Stage**- Other members are invited to share thoughts and potential theories on what might be happening for the child ('hypothesising').
4. **Generating Solutions**- Based on the information, thoughts and potential theories, creative solutions are offered by the group.
5. **Next Steps**- The case presenter will then identify next steps to support the child.

After consultation

A consultation record is sent to the setting and strategies are fed back to parents/carers and key staff. New strategies are then implemented to support the child and are reviewed regularly.

If no extra advice is needed, there will be no further involvement.

If extra advice is needed, the setting can review the child's progress again at another group consultation. New strategies are agreed and implemented.