

Finola Holyoak - Educational Psychologist

Who am I: I am Dr Finola Holyoak, a Child and Educational Psychologist (EP). I have been a qualified Educational Psychologist since 2019 and have worked across 4 different local authorities since beginning my training in 2016.

Before I became an Educational Psychologist, I worked in secondary schools in England and New Zealand, and taught English as an additional language to students in Hong Kong.

Outside of work, I love taking my dog on long walks and spending time with my family. I also enjoy food – some cooking, but mostly eating.



What do I do: I work with school staff to help them to support children and young people who are struggling in school, usually because they have a Special Educational Need or Disability. I use my psychological knowledge and training to make sense of what the child is finding difficult in school, and support staff to come up with ways to help them.

Sometimes I do this by meeting with the child and parent to gain more information; sometimes I talk directly to school staff through a process called 'consultation'. At North Somerset Educational Psychologist Service, I also work within Early Years and am responsible for running a consultation process called AANT.

What is important to me: It is really important to me that my work has a meaningful impact on the lives of children and young people. I believe that education and experiences of school are vitally important for having a happy and independent life as an adult; this is why I have dedicated my career to making sure that all children have access to positive learning experiences, whatever their differences and needs.

