DR ASHLEY SMITH
Educational and Child Psychologist

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Educational Psychologist with over 10 years' experience across education, including teaching, senior leadership, and local authority practice. Currently working as an EP in Cambridgeshire, I specialise in trauma-informed, relational, and psychodynamic approaches, with a strong emphasis on systemic consultation and inclusive provision. I hold a Master's in Educational Leadership and lead on CPD within the EP service, with a particular interest in supervision, training, and developing reflective practice within systems. My work focuses on supporting adults to reframe their understanding of children's needs, enabling more attuned, inclusive, and effective responses.

I have a specialist link role with CAMHS, working within multi-disciplinary teams across both neurodevelopmental and mental health pathways. This includes supporting educators and parents to understand children's profiles of need and adapt environments to promote inclusion, belonging, and engagement. I also have experience working across Tier 4 provision, supporting young people admitted to hospital, and collaborating with hospital schools and community education services to ensure continuity of education during periods of medical and mental health need.

I am committed to applying psychology at both individual and systemic levels to promote sustainable change, strengthen inclusive practice, and improve outcomes for children, families, and professionals.

Locations: Cambridge. Remote.

EXPERIENCE

2025 - Present

Director
Nova Vista Psychology Ltd

- Provide psychological assessment, consultation, and intervention for children and young people with complex and neurodevelopmental needs
- Work systemically with senior leaders and staff teams to develop inclusive, psychologically-informed practice
- Design and deliver training and CPD focused on trauma-informed approaches, relational practice, and understanding behaviour
- Provide supervision and reflective practice to support and build capacity within systems

2022 - Present

Educational Psychologist
Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge.

- Specialist link EP for CAMHS, working within multi-disciplinary teams across neurodevelopmental and mental health pathways
- Support educators and parents to understand children's needs and adapt environments to promote inclusion, engagement, and belonging
- Work with children and young people with complex presentations, including those within SEMH provision and Enhanced Resource Bases
- Lead and deliver CPD within the EP service, developing reflective and psychologically-informed practice
- Work across Tier 4 provision, including supporting young people admitted to hospital and liaising with hospital schools and community education providers

2017 - 2021 ***Assistant Headteacher***
University of Cambridge Primary School

- Held a senior leadership role within an innovative, research-informed school, contributing to whole-school strategy and development
- Played a key role in the school's inaugural Ofsted inspection, resulting in an Outstanding judgement
- Led on behaviour, pastoral provision, and safeguarding, developing systems to support pupil wellbeing and inclusion
- Contributed to initial teacher training as an Associate Lecturer on the PGCE at University of Cambridge
- Engaged in research and professional learning, including editorial contribution to academic work

QUALIFICATIONS

2024 **Doctorate in Educational, Child and Community Psychology**
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust / University of Essex, Essex, England

2016 **Master's in School Improvement and Educational Leadership**
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

2012 **Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) Teacher Training**
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

2011 **BSc (Hons) Psychology (2:1)**
University of Edinburgh, Scotland

KEY SKILLS

- Educational Systems
- Trauma-informed practice
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- Systemic Consultation
- Neurodevelopmental & Complex Needs
- Leadership & Organisational Change
- Training Facilitation Supervision & Reflective Practice
- Multi-Agency Collaboration
- Communication & Relationship Building
- Educational Systems
- Trauma-informed practice
- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)
- Motivational Interviewing (MI)
- Systemic Consultation
- Neurodevelopmental & Complex Needs

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC), registration number: PYL044517
- Association for Educational Psychologists (AEP), registration number: 106770

REFERENCES

- References available on request