

Dr Michele McDowell BA (Hons.) CPsychol., AFBPsS.
Chartered Educational and Child Psychologist



Health Professions Council Registration: **PYL17908**
British Psychological Society Membership: **194118**

Dr McDowell has over 15 years of experience working as an educational psychologist, as well as working with adults, children, families in Local Authorities and for the courts. She has expertise in child development including cognitive, language, sensory, physical, social, behavioural and emotional difficulties. She specialises in working with children and young people whose development is either delayed or disordered.

FAMILY COURT EXPERTISE

- Dr McDowell regularly reports to Local Authorities and the Family Courts.
- Comprehensive assessments of children and young people and their families including full psychological and cognitive assessment of children and young people.
- 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.
- Assessments of parental personality, mental health difficulties and the impact this has on their parenting capacity.
- The nature of a child's attachment and sibling relationships and the impact of separation, contact and loss.
- 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.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERTISE

- 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 the impact of parenting and school contexts on educational performance.

WORK HISTORY

- She has 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:
- A qualified, registered user with The HOME Inventory and Family Pack of Questionnaires and scales to assess parents and the family life of children
- Certified facilitator for the Strengthening Families and Communities Parenting Programme and has run a number of programmes for families known to Social Services.
- 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 parent's assessments for Court.
- Has 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.
- 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.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

- BA Honours Degree in Social Science, University of Westminster.
- Post Graduate Certificate of Education, University of London, Institute of Education.
- Masters Degree in The Psychology of Education, University of London, Institute of Education.
- Master's Degree in Educational Psychology, University of Essex, Tavistock Centre.
- Post Graduate Certificate in Applied Systemic Theory, University of Essex, Tavistock Centre.
- Doctorate in Educational and Child Psychology, University of Essex.

SPECIALIST TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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