

Identifying Behaviour Issues in Children in School

What are behavioural issues?

Most infants and children will display some level of behaviour problems at different stages as they develop and become more independent, they may have challenging moments which push limits from time to time but with the help of family and teachers most will learn to behave appropriately. When behaviour problems become more than just developmental and long-term additional support may be helpful.

Common influencing factors

- Child's temperament
- Health issues
- Neurological difficulties (e.g. ADHD)
- Parental/Family stress and conflict

How might behaviour issues present?

- Not listening or following instructions
- Difficulties at bedtime
- Tantrums
- Being rude to others
- Withdrawing socially in class and at playtime

When should I consider referring for further support

- Behaviour issues are appearing to be getting more frequent or worse over time
- Behaviour becoming difficult to manage
- Impact of behaviour is causing a child and/or parent distress
- When the behaviour is getting in the way of everyday life (e.g. school, family relationships)
- When the behaviour starts to affect the child's mood

What to do if you have concerns

- Speak to the parents/carers
- If the family is not already receiving support from CAMHS and/or children's services, consider referral to Educational Wellbeing Practitioner (EWP) based within your school. Contact Dr Rachel Couper (Clinical Psychologist and Team Lead for EWP Team – rachel.couper@swlstg.nhs.uk)
- Discuss with Mental Health Lead within school.