

Supporting Children with PANS or PANDAS in Educational Settings



A guide for Educational Psychologists

PANS and PANDAS are medical conditions that often appear very suddenly and affect the physical and mental health of children and young people.

- **PANS (Paediatric Acute-onset Neuropsychiatric Syndrome)**
- **PANDAS (Paediatric Autoimmune Neuropsychiatric Disorders Associated with Streptococcal infections)**

The conditions develop in the wake of common infections (such as Covid-19, chicken pox, influenza, or strep A in PANDAS cases), when the infection subsequently causes a misdirected immune and/or neuroinflammatory response. Children and young people can develop special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) following onset, without any prior evidence of need.

PANS PANDAS UK is pleased to offer free CPD-accredited webinar training for educational psychologists.

The training focuses on the early identification, assessment and tailored support for children and young people living with the conditions.

Training Aims

- Enhance awareness of PANS and PANDAS
- Evaluate the conditions' educational impact
- Provide contextual understanding
- Facilitate support planning for children and young people (CYPs)

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Why is this training needed?

Recent medical advancements have led to increased diagnoses of PANS and PANDAS, prompting national collaboration across health, education, and social care sectors. UK clinical guidelines, accredited by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), along with guidance for Local Authorities in England, are expected to be published within the next year.

How can Educational Psychologists help?

The sudden onset and complex symptoms of PANS and PANDAS can significantly disrupt a child or young person's education. Limited awareness and symptom overlap with other disorders and/or neurodivergence are contributing to poor educational outcomes and reduced wellbeing.

Educational psychologists play a crucial role in early identification and intervention.

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Who should attend this training?

This training is primarily designed for educational psychologists but is also relevant for specialist support teachers, SEND professionals, and allied staff working in multidisciplinary teams. While it offers valuable context for a broad audience, currently the training does not cover the specific areas of expertise for professionals such as speech and language therapists, dietitians, or occupational therapists.

What does the training cover?

The training equips educational psychologists with essential knowledge of PANS and PANDAS focusing on their impacts on children and young people. Participants will explore how the conditions affect learning, development and educational outcomes, both in the short and long term. The session also provides actionable strategies and practical tools.

How is the training delivered?

The training is delivered online via Teams and lasts for two hours; flexible alternatives are available. Following the training, further resources and a digital copy of the slides will be available.

What does the training cost?

There is no set fee, but the charity kindly requests voluntary contributions to support the continuation of their work.

How do I access the training?

Please email the Education Team at schools@panspandasuk.org to arrange a time and date for your organisation or Local Authority.

One of the clearest and most practical training sessions I have had.

This will make a real impact to young people, families and schools.

Educational Psychologist

More information, support resources and further training opportunities for educational or health professionals can be found on our website:
www.panspandasuk.org/training