Aspen Psychology Services
Box 39
14-15 Triangle South
Clifton
Bristol
BS8 1EY

Director: Mark Adams CPsychol MISCP (Accred)
Educational & Coaching Psychologist
HCPC Registered Practitioner Psychologist

T: 07930 432807
E: mark@aspenpsychologyservices.co.uk
W: www.aspenpsychologyservices.co.uk

APS SERVICES DURING CORONAVIRUS – Sept 2021.

APS will be continuing to provide services while taking steps to reduce the risk of inadvertent transmission of Covid-19. We are committed to ensuring the safety of pupils, staff, psychologists, and their respective families, while also having regard to a broader social responsibility to minimise the extent of virus transmission.

All members of the Aspen team have received both Covid-19 vaccinations.

Working remotely

We will continue to work remotely for some of our work, e.g. planning meetings, consultation meetings, staff surgeries, online training, coaching etc.

In-person work

In accordance with government guidelines ('Working Safely During Coronavirus'), and in response to our own reflections and structured risk-assessment, we will:

- Only attend appointments if the psychologist and any member of their household has not experienced any COVID-19 symptoms in the previous 10 days (or unless there is a confirmed negative COVID test result).
- Not attend in-person visits if awaiting the outcome of a COVID-19 test.
- Continue to monitor our own health and will self-isolate in accordance with government guidelines if required, if instructed as part of test-and-trace, or if a child we have carried out assessment work with has a positive COVID test result.
- Not work with a young person or adult who is presenting with overt symptoms of COVID-19, where a member of that young person's household has experienced COVID-19 symptoms within the last 10 days (we would ask schools to check this prior to the appointment taking place), or where a member of the household is awaiting the outcome of a COVID-19 test.
- Adhere to any safety protocols as advised by individual schools.
- Maintain at least 2m distance from the child for the majority of the assessment. The psychologist may need to approach for short periods (less than 1 minute) to support the administration of the assessment (e.g. turning pages of the booklet) before moving away again.
- According to the child's age and needs, it may be necessary/helpful to have an adult from the child's 'bubble' present for the assessment or parts of it. This will be considered in collaboration with the school or family (if a home visit) on a case-by-case basis. Where this is necessary, the psychologist will provide the adult with clarification re how to help without compromising the standardisation of the test. The psychologist and additional adult will also explain to the child/young person how the adult is and is not able to help.
- In addition to the cleaning of assessment items and the use of hand sanitiser (both essential), the psychologist may elect to use protective gloves.

- The room or space where the assessment or meeting takes place will need to be carefully considered (taking into account distances between people, ventilation) alongside additional precautions as per this guidance. Psychologists cannot work in rooms where there is insufficient distance or ventilation.
- Not engage in any physical contact e.g. handshaking.
- Bring a face visor and face mask to wear during any visits. A mask will be worn for as much of the visit as possible. During assessments, there may be short periods when the mask needs to be lowered so that a pupil can hear particular words clearly (e.g. during verbal reasoning or spelling assessments); when this is necessary, a visor will be worn instead, and a 2m distance will be maintained. Psychologists will evaluate the risks and needs of the circumstance in each instance.
- Wash our hands and use hand sanitiser before and after any visit or assessment.
- Clean assessment items that have been touched by pupils with a suitable cleaner before they are used again.
- Bring our own refreshments, food and drink.

We understand appointments may need to be cancelled at short notice and may sometimes need to cancel appointments ourselves.

The central principle is to act as if we are infected and to take precautions that will prevent us from transmitting it. By adopting this principle, we aim to keep ourselves and others as safe as possible.

If you have any queries about the above, do please get in touch with either me or your link EP.