



The role of Pupil Support Staff

Pupil Support Staff are essential and valuable members of the school community. Across the 32 local authorities in Scotland there are a range of job titles and remits for pupil support staff. They are able to make close and meaningful relationships with children and young people and may be best placed to know aspects of the children and young people views and experiences. Their contribution to discussion about needs, strategies and planning is essential. Schools must ensure there is a forum and good opportunities for PSAs to contribute to professional discussion.

The role of pupil support staff is extremely varied, requires flexibility and **may** include the following:

- Relationship building with the child or young person
- Encouraging and supporting children and young people to engage in their learning
- Enhancing communication at all levels, providing appropriate feedback to children, young people and professionals
- Taking on the role of significant adult in offering emotional support and unconditional acceptance to vulnerable children
- Gathering and communicating children and young people's views
- Implementing personal care plans
- Implementing specialist programmes as advised by a therapist or teaching staff
- In secondary schools, providing appropriate aspects of support for SQA assessment arrangements for candidates with additional support needs.
- Linking with class teacher/pupil support teacher and parents (as agreed by senior managers) therapists/peripatetic teachers and others, during protected time, when possible
- Motivating and inspiring children and young people
- Moving and handling
- Playground support
- Proactive support and management of pupil behaviour following Risk Assessments and Behaviour Protocols if required
- Providing support with a specified support plan, including support for independent living
- Supporting eating and drinking where necessary
- Welcoming and departing at beginning and end of day, and escorting throughout the day