



Paediatric Physiotherapists in the Independent and Private Sectors Committee

APCP Information Leaflet

Working as a Physiotherapist in Education / Independent Schools

As some physiotherapists may work in more than one area e.g. private work and charity work, please refer to each guidance sheet for specific information. There will be some crossover between areas, but also key differences.

Patient funding

- ◇ Funding is often through the Local Education Authority via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- ◇ Depending on the school it may also be self funded, as part of school fees or as a bolt-on.

Advantages

- ◇ The ability to directly integrate therapy within the child's functional activities at school.
- ◇ The ability to interact with children throughout their school day.
- ◇ Opportunity to work closely with education staff, improving quality of each child's programme throughout the day and not just in 'therapy time'.
- ◇ Working on-site means ability to assess needs and implement any changes or strategies quickly.
- ◇ Education setting has a very different atmosphere to other sectors.
- ◇ Working in sync with school holidays (length of holidays may depend on the type of school and region). Note that having any time off out of school holidays can be incredibly difficult.

Challenges

- ◇ Depending on the size of the school you may be working as part of a very small physiotherapy team, or as a sole physiotherapist. You need to be comfortable collaborating very closely with other therapy disciplines such as occupational therapists and speech therapists, as well as teaching staff.
- ◇ You may need to maintain/source own CPD. It can be hard to get allocated CPD time within school/work hours.
- ◇ You will need to work to maintain your scope of practise and establish your identity as a therapist in the education world.
- ◇ A school's administrative focus is on a child's education, be prepared to negotiate for the value of the child's time spent in therapy if withdrawn from the classroom.



- ◇ Knowledge of the legal aspects of the education system (e.g. EHCP) is essential. There can be a significant amount of reports to complete and meetings to attend regarding students' progress and justifying their placement.

Insurance

- ◇ Professional Liability Insurance as a member of the CSP
- ◇ Independent schools will also have their own liability insurance which *may* cover you when on-site and working as an employee. Each school's scheme might be different and it is your responsibility to check.

Training (Mandatory / Statutory)

- ◇ DBS required – using update service is recommended, especially if working across multiple or a group of schools.
- ◇ Schools will have their own mandatory and statutory training requirements which they may provide internally (e.g. fire safety training, safeguarding).
- ◇ This should be topped up by any physiotherapy specific training that may not be offered in an educational setting; it is your responsibility to organise this.

Record Keeping

- ◇ Needs to adhere to HCPC/CSP standards.
- ◇ Planning for groups may be requested to fit in with education timetables.
- ◇ Independent schools are inspected periodically by ISI or OFSTED. Evidence of progress and the impact of therapy may need to be documented and available for inspection.

Terms and Conditions

- ◇ Terms and conditions depend on the employer; independent schools are run by private companies, often as part of a group.
- ◇ Holidays often (though not always) fit in with school terms.
- ◇ You may be asked to work outside of your normal hours e.g. parents evening, residential trips.

APCP

<https://apcp.csp.org.uk>

Published – November 2017

Review—November 2020

