

COECT Parent Advocacy & School Meeting Support

At COECT, we understand that meetings with schools, local authorities or other agencies can feel overwhelming, particularly when parents are already managing significant pressures or when there have been difficulties communicating with professionals. Our advocacy support provides parents and carers with emotional support and a calm, trauma-informed presence during meetings.

Our aim is to help parents feel heard and supported while promoting a positive working relationship between the family and other professionals, with the best interests of the child at the centre.

Our approach

COECT's role is supportive rather than adversarial.

We do not attend meetings to take sides or create conflict. Instead, we help parents to:

- Feel emotionally supported and less overwhelmed.
- Prepare for the meeting and identify the issues that are important to them.
- Communicate their concerns and views clearly.
- Understand information discussed during the meeting.
- Ask questions and seek clarification where appropriate.
- Consider the school's perspective and work towards constructive solutions.
- Keep the focus on the child's needs, wellbeing and best interests.
- Identify positive and practical next steps following the meeting.

Our intention is to help build understanding and strengthen the relationship between parents and professionals.

Online advocacy – our usual approach

Online meetings via Teams are our preferred and default option.

This allows us to provide accessible support to parents without the additional time and cost associated with travel. It also means that parents can receive support from the comfort of their own home.

Our online support can include:

Before the meeting

- A brief preparation conversation with the parent/carer.
- Identifying key concerns and priorities.
- Helping the parent consider what they would like to achieve from the meeting.
- Providing emotional reassurance and preparation.

During the meeting

- Joining the Virtual Meeting alongside the parent.
- Providing emotional support and reassurance.
- Helping the parent feel confident to contribute.
- Supporting clear and constructive communication.
- Helping clarify points where appropriate.
- Keeping the child's needs and best interests central to the discussion.

After the meeting

- A brief opportunity to reflect on how the meeting went.
- Helping the parent understand agreed actions and next steps.
- Identifying any further support that may be appropriate.

Fees for COECT Members

Online Parent Advocacy Support

£75 + VAT per hour

We will discuss any additional time with the parent before it is incurred wherever possible.

Face-to-face meetings

Although online support via Teams is our standard approach, we recognise that there may be circumstances where a face-to-face meeting would be more appropriate.

We can consider face-to-face advocacy on an individual basis, subject to availability.

The advocacy fee remains:

£75 + VAT per hour

Travel expenses are charged separately at 45p per mile

Please note: Where significant travel is required, any additional travel time or expenses will be discussed and agreed in advance.

What we hope to achieve

Our aim is not simply to attend a meeting.

We want to help create a space where parents feel heard, professionals feel able to listen, and everyone can work together around the needs of the child. By providing emotional support and helping parents communicate their experiences and concerns, we hope to reduce overwhelm, improve understanding and support more positive relationships between families and schools.

Important information

COECT advocacy support is intended to provide emotional and practical support to parents and carers. It does not constitute legal advice or formal statutory advocacy.

Where a situation requires specialist legal or statutory advocacy, we may recommend that the parent seeks additional appropriate support.

For more information contact info@coect.co.uk