

## How do you get an IPS?

**Parents** should call our helpline on **01273 772289** and talk to one of our advisers first. We may be able to give you the support you need over the phone. If not, you will be referred to our IPS co-ordinator who will match you up with an IPS from the team.

**Teachers, head teachers and SENCOs** often recommend our service to parents. We ask that they encourage the parent to make contact with us themselves. It is the parent's choice to use Amaze. However, if you know a parent will have difficulty in calling us themselves, please get in touch so we can work out an alternative.

## Amaze's work with schools

Amaze also aims to support schools in working positively with parents. We can provide workshops or training around partnership working. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss this area of our work.

We believe that it is only when professionals and parents work together that the best can be achieved for each child.

## About Amaze

Amaze is an independent charity that offers information, advice and support to parents and carers of children with special needs. We aim to help parents work in partnership with the professionals and services that are involved with their child. The IPS scheme is only one of the ways Amaze supports parent carers. We also offer:

- Helpline
- Publications and website
- Help with making claims for DLA
- Workshops and training
- Support with the transition to adult services
- The Compass leisure discount card

## Helpline: 01273 772289

Open Monday to Thursday, 9.30am to 12 noon Plus in term-time: Tuesdays 12 noon to 5 pm and Thursday evenings 5.30pm to 8pm. Or you can email [helpline@amazebrighton.org.uk](mailto:helpline@amazebrighton.org.uk)

### Amaze

Community Base  
113 Queens Road  
Brighton BN1 3XG  
Tel: 01273 772289  
Email: [info@amazebrighton.org.uk](mailto:info@amazebrighton.org.uk)  
[www.amazebrighton.org.uk](http://www.amazebrighton.org.uk)



## Independent Parental Supporters (IPS)



**Impartial • Practical • Confidential**

**For parents of children in Brighton & Hove  
with special education needs**

## What is an IPS?

All parents worry about their children's education, but if your child has special needs things are more complex and you may welcome some advice and support.

Independent Parental Supporters (IPS) offer practical, one-to-one support with special education issues to any parent carer who needs it. The IPS service is run by Amaze, a Brighton and Hove charity, with funding from Brighton and Hove City Council.

An Independent Parental Supporter may be a member of Amaze staff or a volunteer. All of the IPS team undergo an enhanced CRB check, complete an initial training course and attend regular supervision and training with the IPS Scheme Coordinator.



## What does an IPS do?

An IPS works alongside parents who want to ensure their child is getting the right support at school. An IPS will not take over, but will give a helping hand.

They can:

- Help with writing letters and filling in forms
- Attend school meetings
- Help parents through the Statementing process
- Visit schools with them
- Explain school procedures so they know what to expect to happen and notice when it doesn't
- Support parents in getting their views across clearly
- Look through reports to be sure they understand them
- Help parents to work in partnership with their child's school.

**“It helped us to clarify things with the school and establish a clear way forward.”**

**“My IPS gave me more confidence to say what I did at the meeting. She also reassured me afterwards that I didn't go over the top.”**



## More about meetings

Often parents will ask their IPS to come with them to meetings at school. We aim not to speak for you but to help you express yourself clearly.

At a meeting, an IPS can help you arrive better prepared and ensure that the meeting proceeds in a calm and constructive way, focused on the child and the future. On a practical level, an IPS can take notes, check that you understand any professional jargon and remind you of things you wanted to ask but may have forgotten in the heat of the moment. They can also talk things over with you afterwards.

We always ask parents to inform the school if an IPS will be with them at a meeting.

Schools are also welcome to contact us with any queries about the role of the IPS.