

What is an ELSA?

An ELSA is a specialist-teaching assistant with a wealth of experience of working with children. ELSA's are trained and regularly supervised by Educational Psychologists in your Local Education Authority.

An ELSA is a warm and caring person who wants your child to feel happy in school and to reach their potential educationally.

Their aim is to remove the barriers to learning and to have happy children in school and at home.

Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns about your child and feel they may benefit from ELSA.

Individual Sessions

Your child will be offered 6 sessions initially and they can vary in time according to the age of the child

The ELSA will plan their sessions for your child very carefully. The session consists of several parts.

Example Lesson

Emotional check in

This is an opportunity to talk about feelings

Main Activity

The ELSA will plan the activity to a learning objective. Something your child will be able to do at the end of the session that your child cannot do now. For example, your child may have low self-esteem and so the ELSA will work on your child's strengths. The ELSA will encourage your child to talk about their talents or personal characteristics such as 'kind', 'caring', and 'helpful' or 'brave'.

Relaxation

Your child will be taught a relaxation exercise to help get ready to go back to class.

Review

Your child will be able to reflect on the session and realise they have lots of strengths and talents which will boost their self-esteem.

Group Sessions

Your child will be offered 6 sessions initially and they can vary in time according to the age of the child

Emotional check in

This is an opportunity to talk about feelings

Warm up activity

A fun game or activity to help all children feel relaxed

Main Activity

This is similar to the individual session but your child will be encouraged to work with other children. This helps with co-operation, social skills, friendship and gives a sense of belonging.

Relaxation

Your child will be taught a relaxation exercise to help get ready to go back to class.

Review

Your child will be able to reflect on the session and talk about what they have learnt.

Working Together

Whilst the ELSA will be working closely with your child, the school SENDCO will be providing a supportive role both to the ELSA and to you as a parent. Both the SENDCO and ELSA will liaise with the class teacher and yourselves to identify a focus for your child's ELSA sessions. If you have any concerns or questions about the ELSA support either before or during the ELSA sessions then please contact the SENDCO by emailing nwaylen@ksm.wilts.sch.uk or call the school office to arrange a suitable time to meet.

ELSA can help with

- Loss and bereavement
- Emotional Literacy
- Self esteem
- Social skills
- Friendship issues
- Relationship issues for the child
- Managing strong feelings
- Behaviour difficulties
- Anxiety
- Conflict
- Bullying
- Social Stories
- Growth Mindset
- Emotional Regulation

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant



Mrs Jeanine Attiogbe