

What is an Emotional Literacy

Support Assistant?

An ELSA is a member of the school staff who works with pupils who have a range of emotional and social difficulties.



ELSAs have been chosen because of their ability to build good relationships with students.

ELSAs work closely with teachers to set clear objectives for individual children.

Activities which target the needs of the child will then be carefully planned to meet the needs of that individual.

The ELSA then works with the pupil, either individually or sometimes in a small group.

What happens in an

ELSA session?

Each session is carefully planned in advance by the ELSA and may include a range of activities such as games, puppets, role play, making things, talking and listening etc.

For example 'playing' with puppets can be a great way to model social situations and to initiate conversation about how the child may feel in certain circumstances.



The programme will endeavour to give your child the tools to develop their social skills and coping strategies.



Your child will be encouraged to use his or her new skills in class and the playground.

What are the benefits of meeting with an ELSA?

Children learn better if their emotional needs are addressed. ELSAs have been working in schools throughout the country for many years and there is considerable evidence that this type of intervention at primary age has many long term benefits for children.



Children will be given the opportunity to:

- develop coping strategies
- talk about difficulties
- learn the skills to interact more successfully with others
- develop greater self-awareness
- manage relationships inside and outside of school
- feel better about themselves.



What issues may be covered

with an ELSA?

Relationships - Self esteem

Recognising emotions

Friendship issues - Social skills,

Understanding anger

Anxiety - Bullying issues

Coping strategies - Building resilience

Loss and bereavement.



What can I do to help at home?

- Do lots of fun things together.
- Find time to listen.
- Encourage problem solving to find peaceful solutions.
- Help your child to see things from the view of other people.

What if I feel my child needs more help?

Your child's progress will be carefully monitored during the ELSA programme by the school SENCo. An appointment can be made to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher or the school SENCo. If additional support is needed the school has access to a range of external specialist services.



Who to contact:

**School SENCo – Ms G Morrison
and Mrs Shah**

Your ELSA at our school is:

Mrs Swanton



Emotional

Literacy

Support

at

**OUR LADY OF
VICTORIES**

Parent leaflet