



ELSA

Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

The ELSA at Kingston St Mary primary school is Miss Katie Hannigan

Information for parents/carers

What is an ELSA?

An ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is a member of staff who is trained to support children in the development of their emotional literacy.

What is emotional literacy?

- Understanding and coping with our feelings about ourselves and others.
- Developing high self-esteem and positive interactions with others.
- Being emotionally literate helps children focus better on their learning.

Some of the areas an ELSA may work on:

- Recognising emotions.
- Self-esteem.
- Social skills.
- Friendship skills.
- Anger management.
- Loss and bereavement.

How does the ELSA work?

- A regular slot during the school week for 30-45 minutes.
- One to one sessions are tailored to the child's individual needs.
- Group sessions, known as Nurture, are also available.
- Sessions are fun and might include: role-play, puppets, board games, art and craft, cooking, gardening and stories.
- Sessions include time to talk.
- A pupil's progress will be reviewed on a regular basis in consultation with parents/carers.

If your child's class teacher thinks that your child may benefit from some ELSA support, either on a one to one or group basis, they will contact you.

As a parent/carers, how can you help?

- By informing your child's class teacher if there are any issues that may be affecting your child.
- Please feel welcome to contact your child's teacher or the ELSA if you have any questions.

A note from Miss Hannigan

I have been into both the Woodpeckers' class and the Robins' class to explain to the children a little bit about my new role as the school's ELSA.

They are aware that there is a special box in the school library that they can put their name into should they wish to talk to me about anything which might be worrying them.

Any child or parent who wishes to come and speak to me may do so. Parents please let your child's class teacher know if you would like to speak to me and I will contact you. .

Please do not hesitate to ask me any questions you may have about the ELSA programme.