

ELSA

ELSA is an initiative developed and supported by educational psychologists. It recognises that children learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are supported.

The majority of ELSA work is delivered on an individual basis, but sometimes small group work is more appropriate, especially in areas of social and friendship skills.

ELSA sessions take place in Hawthorn, which provides a calm, safe space for children to be supported and nurtured.

The programme aims to give sessions to facilitate the pupil in developing new skills and coping strategies that allow them to manage social emotional demands more effectively. Each session lasts between 30-45 minutes once a week.

In supporting not fixing, it needs to be appreciated that change cannot necessarily be achieved rapidly and is dependent upon the context and complexity of the presenting issues. For children with complex and long term needs it is unrealistic to expect ELSA intervention to resolve all their difficulties, however support will be designed to target specific aspects of a child's needs.

In ELSA we aim to provide support for a wide range of emotional needs:

Recognising emotions

Anxiety

Self-esteem

Social skills

Friendship skills

Anger management

Loss and bereavement



Training and development of ELSAs is an

ongoing process and wisdom is required to recognise when issues are beyond the level of expertise that could reasonably be expected of an ELSA. The educational psychologist that works with our school would be able to offer advice on suitability or nature of ELSA involvement of complex cases.

Mrs Hickman is our ELSA and she is supported by your child's teacher and our SENCO Mrs Sipson.

