

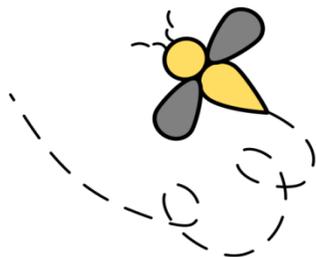
## What is an ELSA



An ELSA is a specialist teaching assistant with a wealth of experience of working with children. ELSAs are trained and regularly supervised by the Educational Psychologists in your Local education authority.

An ELSA is a warm and caring person who wants to help your child 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.

At St Thomas' CEP, ELSA support is delivered to all classes on a rotational basis throughout the School year. If you would like to discuss this further please contact the School Office.



## ELSAs can help with



Loss and bereavement

Self-esteem

Social skills

Emotions

Friendship issues

Relationships

Anger management

Behaviour

Anxiety

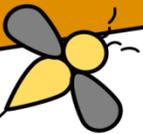
Bullying

Conflict

Relaxation techniques



## ELSA



**E**mootional

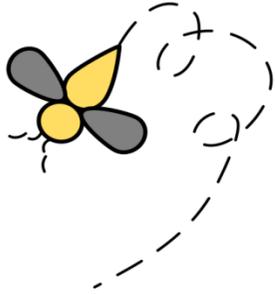
**L**iteracy

**S**upport

**A**ssistant



## Individual session



If a parent or staff member has requested individual ELSA sessions for your child to support a particular difficulty, the ELSA will plan their sessions very carefully. The session consists of several parts.

### 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 they cannot do now. This is usually a 'I can' statement such as 'I can tell you about my strengths' (A self-esteem objective). The ELSA will encourage your child to tell you about their talents or personal characteristics such as 'kind', 'caring', 'helpful' or 'brave'. The child may then make something to reinforce those strengths.

### Relaxation

Your child will be taught a relaxation exercise.



## Group session

Group ELSA sessions consists of several parts. The first two parts consists of a circle-time where children sit in a circle and take turns to speak.

### Emotional check in

This is an opportunity to talk about feelings,

### Warm up activity

A fun game or activity to help relax your child.

### 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. A learning objective will be set for the group of children which they will all be able to answer at the end of the session.

### Relaxation

Your child will be taught a relaxation exercise.



## Typical problems

### A very angry child

The ELSA will take the child through an anger management intervention to help them recognise their anger triggers, techniques to avoid those triggers and calming down techniques.

### A loved pet has died

ELSAs are trained in bereavement and understand that the loss of a pet is probably the first experience of death for your child. They will work with your child to help them feel supported in school.

