

ELSA Best Practice

What is needed	Why it's important
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior leadership team understanding and commitment to the ELSA role. ▪ A designated Line Manager ▪ Helping teachers and staff understand what the ELSA intervention is about. 	<p><i>The ELSA programme works best when the school as a whole is aware of what ELSA is about and how it can help children. The idea is for everyone to work together to support children's emotional wellbeing.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular time for ELSAs to plan interventions, and keep records. 	<p><i>ELSAs may have other roles in the school and can often be very busy. However, it is really important for ELSAs to have regular time to plan interventions with children and create resources.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interventions are delivered at a regular time in a quiet room each week. ▪ It is not helpful if ELSAs are pulled out to cover a class and cancel sessions with children at the last minute. 	<p><i>It is important to respect the needs of the children we work with. Vulnerable pupils who may attend ELSA sessions may have experienced loss, have poor self – esteem and feel that adults are not there for them regularly. Knowing that they have their ELSA time once a week will help the child feel secure and ready to use the time effectively.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Listening to ELSAs. Allowing time for staff and ELSAs to liaise and talk about children. ▪ Line Manager support and guidance. 	<p><i>Not only have ELSAs received training, but as they start to work with children they will begin to develop a greater understanding of the child. This understanding can be shared with staff who work with the child. Staff who work with the child can also support in setting, implementing and reviewing targets.</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular half-termly access to ongoing supervision sessions. 	<p><i>In the ELSA context, supervision provides a safe space to share experiences, collaborate within the ELSA community and develop ELSA skills. Best practice in all caring professions is to receive supervision from experienced practitioners.</i></p>