

Pastoral Care in school.



All children in school are accepted equally, encouraged, respected and valued regardless of their ability and/or behaviour. Our aim is to provide children with the best possible outcomes in preparation for life-long learning. However there will always be children facing challenges that detract from their ability to engage with learning.

There may be times when children need additional support socially and emotionally. We are fortunate in school that we have a full time Family Link and Pastoral Care worker. Over the past year Mrs Hatcliffe's role has developed to provide support for children in school to help them develop their emotional literacy, understand and regulate their own emotions whilst also respecting the feelings of those around them. She is always available to help children with any difficult situations that may arise within the school day. The knowledge that someone is always available can be invaluable for some children.

Mrs Hatcliffe has recently completed Emotional Literacy Support Assistant training (ELSA-not the one from Frozen!!) and is qualified to deliver support in the following areas -

- Emotional awareness
- Anger management
- Self esteem
- Social and communication skills
- Friendship skills



Support we offer in school.

To support children develop socially and emotionally, there are times when they may work 1:1 with Mrs Hatcliffe on specific areas of need linked to personal, social and health education.

We also run several groups which may focus on developing friendships, self-esteem and managing anger. We do this through the use of fun activities and the wealth of ELSA resources that have been accessed through the training. These support sessions will often be in small groups which may involve children who do not need the social and emotional support from Mrs Hatcliffe but who are able to play a valuable role in supporting a peer. ELSA sessions are mainly play based involving craft activities. The purpose of this is to allow the children to relax so they feel comfortable in talking about their emotions, anxieties or events. During these sessions children are never pushed to answer questions or talk about things they do not wish to and any topics of conversation are initiated by the child.

If your child comes home from school talking about a session with Mrs Hatcliffe please do not worry. The sessions are carefully planned to benefit all children involved who have fun during the sessions and have benefitted greatly.

'It's good to talk and talk to who someone listens'.

'I'm more confident'.

'I like being able to share my worries and talk about them'.

'I'm better at knowing what to do when things go wrong'.

'I really love being in the group because it's so fun!'

'He comes home talking about the group and I've seen a change in his behaviour at home'.

The ELSA programme recognises that children learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are met.

If you would like to find out any further information about ELSA please talk to Mrs Hatcliffe.