



Wiltshire College
& University Centre

E

Emotional

L

Literacy

S

Support

A

Assistant

Having an ELSA will make most difference in college when:

- Other staff know about and support the ELSA work.
- Staff give the ELSA relevant background information on the child and family.
- The ELSA liaises regularly with teachers to discuss progress and check on whether new skills are being transferred to class.
- The ELSA has regular time for planning and delivering programmes.
- ELSAs attend supervision regularly to get new ideas and develop their skills.
- They are not given too many students to work with at one time.
- They are not taken away from ELSA time to do other things.
- There is a consistent, private space in which to work, free from interruptions.
- The ELSA role is not confused with behaviour management.
- Students are helped to find their own solutions rather than ELSAs telling them what to do.

The Benefits of ELSA

Young people learn better and are happier if their emotional needs are addressed.

They learn to:

- Develop coping strategies and talk about difficulties.
- Interact more successfully with others.
- Develop greater self-awareness.
- Manage college better and feel better about themselves.
- Young people with an ELSA feel they have been listened to and supported.

Who are ELSAs?

ELSAs are specialist support assistants who have received specific additional training from educational psychologists, then continue to receive supervision following training. Their role is to support young people in college to understand and regulate their own emotions whilst also respecting the feelings of those around them.

How does ELSA work?

Most ELSA programmes will last for 6 to 12 weeks, helping the young person to learn some specific new skills or coping strategies. Clear programme aims (SMART targets) need to be set early on and each session has an objective something the ELSA wants to help the young person understand or achieve.