

# "We Live Our Lives Like Jesus"

## ELSA Provision at Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School



At our school, we are proud to offer ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) provision to support pupils who may need help with social and emotional aspects of their development.

### What is ELSA?

ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Our ELSA, Miss Heather, is a specialist teaching assistant who has received specific, high-quality training from educational psychologists. She is skilled in supporting children to understand and manage their feelings, build confidence, and develop resilience. As an ELSA, Miss Heather continues to receive ongoing supervision and guidance to ensure she provides the highest standard of care and support.

### Aims of ELSA

The ELSA programme is designed to help children with:

- Recognising and understanding emotions
- Building self-esteem
- Developing social and friendship skills
- Managing anxiety
- Anger management
- Coping with loss and bereavement
- Developing a growth mindset
- Understanding social situations (using social stories)
- Learning strategies for emotional regulation

### How does ELSA work?

Children are referred for ELSA support by school staff, such as their class teacher, a member of the senior leadership team, or the SENDCo. ELSA is not a service that parents can directly request. Instead, each child's needs are carefully considered to ensure that ELSA is the most appropriate form of support.

When a child is referred, they work with our ELSA in a safe and welcoming environment — in our dedicated ELSA room with Miss Heather. They receive a bespoke programme tailored to their needs, typically running for 6–12 weeks with weekly sessions.

It is important to understand that ELSA is a short-term intervention rather than a long-term solution. While ELSAs provide valuable emotional support and strategies, they are not there to "fix" problems. Sometimes, other forms of support may be more suitable depending on the child's individual circumstances.

Our aim is to empower children with the skills and confidence to understand and manage their feelings, helping them to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.