

A Learning Mentor is...

An active listener

A positive role model

A guide

An encourager *

Approachable

A source of information

A non-judgemental supporter

An observer

A professional friend

Hi, my name is Kay Dyson. I have worked as a Learning Mentor since 2003, first training in Greenwich with the Excellence in Cities Programme. I am also a qualified counsellor and a member of the BACP accredited register.

What is a Learning Mentor?

A Learning Mentor helps to support children in the school to overcome any issues that might be stopping them from engaging in school and with their learning. They work with children to help them realise their potential and raise their achievement, as well as supporting children with social and emotional challenges and being someone that children can talk to if they need to. Learning Mentors can also support children's parents and carers with any issues that are affecting the family's home life or in supporting their children.

What does a Learning Mentor do?

As the Learning Mentor, I work across the school with children from Reception to Year 6, supporting children with their emotional, social and behavioural learning. I provide 1:1 sessions, group sessions, support during break and lunch times and also work with children in class. I work with children for different reasons and so the help I offer depends on the need of the child, but includes:

- Listening to children and discussing anything that is worrying them.
- Increasing motivation
- Developing emotional literacy
- Developing coping strategies, emotions and anger management
- Building resilience
- Encouraging children to do their best in school and setting targets
- Helping to raise a child's confidence and self-esteem
- Developing social skills and helping to manage friendship

I have information on a range of issues, agencies and support services as well as referring to other agencies that can offer more specialised support if requested. I am available to chat about any issues or concerns that are affecting family life.