



GREAT ROLLRIGHT CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Church End, Great Rollright, Oxon, OX7 5SA 01608 737202

Head Teacher – Miss Michelle Hastings



Listening support – ‘Talk time’

At Rollright we want to ensure that every child feels safe and happy in school, but sometimes there are reasons as to why children may find this difficult. Because of this, we provide ‘Talk time’ sessions in which children can explore these reasons with a dedicated member of staff and receive extra support where needed. It is unusual for a school the size of Great Rollright to have an adult regularly employed as a ‘listening ear’ but we feel the role is necessary as safe and happy children are our priority. Our ‘Talk time’ leader is an experienced teaching assistant who trained originally as an Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) and now acts as a ‘listening ear’ for our children several afternoons per week. Every child is unique and will therefore need support in different ways, however the main principles of this time stay the same and are as follows:

- To understand that all behaviour is communication
- To understand the importance of transition in children’s lives
- To build self-esteem and confidence
- To build skills for classroom learning
- To offer a safe base
- To offer lots of opportunities for speaking and listening activities

Likewise, there are many reasons why a child may be invited to a ‘Talk time’ session. These are as follows:

- Friendship difficulties
- They are very quiet, shy or withdrawn
- They find it hard to listen to others
- They find it hard to join in with others
- They are disruptive towards others
- They find it hard losing a game
- They find it hard to share or take turns
- Low self esteem
- Bereavement
- Family illness or break up
- To build resilience

‘Talk time’ can boost confidence and self-esteem and provide children with the extra help needed to improve social skills and independence, meaning that they reach their full potential in the classroom and beyond. The aim is to help children manage situations and increase their skills to become more successful learners. Through communication between teachers, parents and the child themselves we tailor sequences of sessions to support children. Nurture activities aim to be fun and are centred around mutually respectful and warm relationships between adults and children.

Parents may request ‘Talk time’ sessions by speaking with the class teacher or SENDco. It will then be decided if this is the most appropriate support. Alternatively, it may a teacher who suggests that ‘Talk time’ would be beneficial. Parents are always informed and will be asked to complete some paperwork before the sessions begin. Generally, the content of the meetings is not shared unless it is considered important for the wellbeing and safety of the child.

The value of LOVE is visible in every area of school life, and our strong inclusive community is strengthened by our other Christian Values of COURAGE, RESPECT and TRUTH.

