

LEARNING MENTOR ROLES

The IMPACT Zone Learning Mentor aims to :

- Promote the personal and academic development of each pupil.
- Identify barriers to learning and strategies to address these barriers.
- Help pupils move towards reaching their full potential.

What are Barriers to Learning?

The Learning Mentor can work with pupils to help address barriers to learning under the following criteria:

- Emotional Growth / Self-Esteem
- Relationships with Peers / Others
- Home – School Links
- Task Orientation / Progression

Examples of Projects

Learning Mentors have been working together to put the play back into the playground at Allanson Street Primary School.

Paula Brooks, St Helens EAZ and Alex Gregory, Allanson Street, have consulted Midday Assistants and pupils on the School Council about ways in which playtimes can be improved. The staff and pupils came up with some excellent ideas and a number of exciting changes have already happened.

Midday Supervisors are delivering play activities to help pupils develop their social skills. Pupils are receiving rewards for good behaviour at playtime and notice boards have been set informing Midday Supervisors and pupils what activities are taking place each day. The plans will continue when selected pupils from Year 5 will be trained as Activity Leaders in April 2005 and equipment will be available for indoor and outdoor play.

The pupils commented, "We are learning how to play sensibly, share and have fun with our friends." Not only are these measures impacting on pupils' social skills and self-esteem but also on their learning in the classroom because pupils are settled and ready to learn after playtime. Mr Chris Maloney, Headteacher said, "This project is having a dramatic effect on the way children play and enjoy their time at school. It is a wonderful opportunity for staff and pupils to work together and make real life decisions which improve lunchtimes for everyone."

More Projects

The Learning Mentor has organised a number of activities to stimulate parents' involvement in their children's education.

These include a Healthy Living Workshop at Ashurst Primary School delivered by Family Learning and creative Christmas activities at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School.