



MeLSA

**3+ x per week for 10
minutes**

A Mediating Learning Support Assistant (MeLSA) is a trained, school-based learning support assistant. Their role is to support pupils' learning. They're trained by a team of educational psychologists and get ongoing group supervision.

MeLSAs are trained in how to help a child or young person become an independent learner. MeLSAs learn mediating learning skills to help them work with children and young people.

Who MeLSAs work with

MeLSAs may work:

- individually with a child or young person on a specific learning skill
- in small groups where children or young people share a similar learning need, or where the input of one child or young person may help the others
- with most of the class, giving the teacher time to work with children or young people who need more help

MeLSA training

MeLSAs have 6 days of initial training which covers:

- mindset
- memory
- thinking about thinking
- recall
- maths
- literacy

Following the training, MeLSAs work with children in liaison with their line manager to ensure that the interventions are well matched to the child and lead to good progress being made. They will also continue to access supervision meetings with their trainers so that they can ask questions and continue to develop their practice.

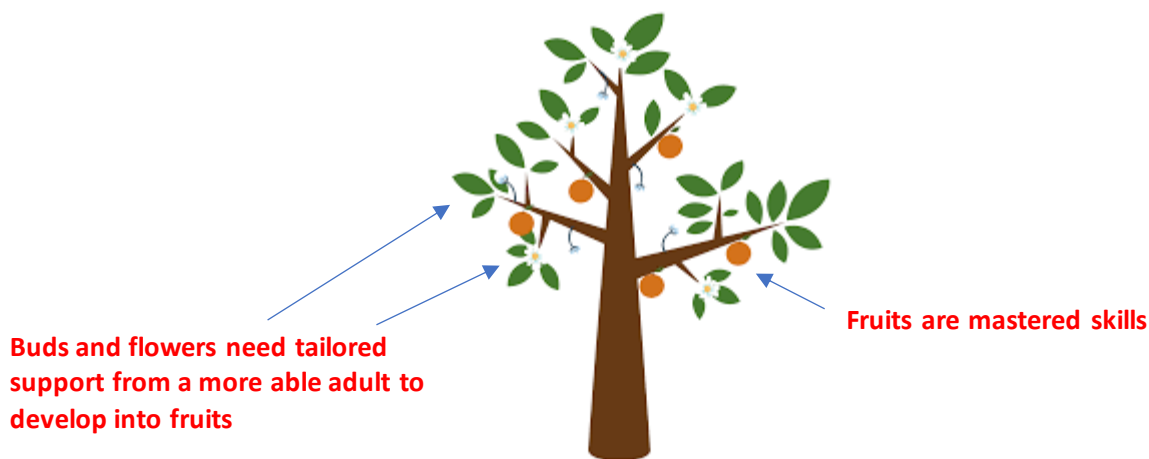
What are some of the benefits of having a MeLSA in your child's school?

Feedback from school's senior leadership teams suggests that MeLSAs:

- Provide a clear, concise, and personalised approach to assessments and interventions related to learning.
- Provide evidence-based and evidence-informed approaches to supporting learning in schools, such as making use of the guidance from the Education Endowment Foundation.

- Start by considering the learning needs of the learner and then tailors learning interventions accordingly rather than fitting the learner into a specific intervention.
- Can be an effective way to support the learning needs of specific groups of learners
- Can use their skills, language, and tools to support other TAs/LSAs or teachers with learning.
- Provides TAs/LSAs with a meaningful and valuable role that builds expertise, respect, and self-worth.

The fruit tree is used as an analogy to help understand where in the process of learning a MeLSA coach will focus their work.



MeLSAs use mediating skills to help the child develop skills (buds and flowers) for independent learning (fruits).

A learner is independent when they are skilled in a task. We can think of this as the ‘fruits’ of their learning: they are able to apply previously learnt skills in a different situation on their own.

We want to support a learner’s development so that there are many fruits available for when they are a young adult.

When a learner has mastered a skill, they can apply the skill wherever it is needed, with flexibility and accuracy.

It is important to understand the difference between mediating and teaching. When someone teaches there is often a transmission of knowledge and skills. When someone is mediating there is an intentional interaction with the learner, to help the learner apply their learning to broader contexts.