

MeLSA: one page profile

(Mediating Learning Support Approach)

Key features of the MeLSA role:

Individualised learning- MeLSA is flexible and designed to meet the individual needs of each child. It adapts and enables each child to succeed in the way that works best for them. It is focussed on creating a positive learning experience, which can be done in class, with small groups, when working with an individual learner and through interventions.

Focus on building key skills- The MeLSA approach focuses on supporting important skills for learning (e.g. memory), thinking skills (e.g. planning, switching attention), motivation and independence.

Working together- MeLSA involves close collaboration with children and staff, adjusting resources to meet each child's specific needs to promote successful learning experiences for all learners.



What is important for a MeLSA?

- ❑ **Child-centred practice-** Recognizing and addressing individual children's needs is the foundation of the flexible MeLSA approach. It is also important to celebrate individual strengths and for MeLSAs to champion the pupil's voice.
- ❑ **Relationships-** Developing a strong, supportive relationship with children is essential for positive outcomes. It is important MeLSAs are given time to develop these relationships.
- ❑ **Trust and respect-** Trust and respect from staff and children is essential for MeLSAs to feel supported and confident in their work.
- ❑ **Collaboration-** It is important that MeLSAs work collaboratively with other staff to support students, including sharing details about their goals. Following through on strategies and advice means interventions can be effective.
- ❑ **Process-oriented praise-** Seeing and celebrating positive change and small achievements in children's progress is important. MeLSAs praise the process not the outcome to increase growth mindset.
- ❑ **Attending supervision-** It is important that MeLSAs attend supervision termly to support their development as a MeLSA.

How MeLSAs work best

1 Understanding needs and goals- MeLSAs work best when they have a clear understanding of the young person's needs and desired outcomes of their involvement with a child. A good referral process really supports MeLSAs in this way.

2 Preparation time- Time to plan and resource is important to allow MeLSAs to work efficiently. Time to observe children in their settings also supports the MeLSA in their work.

3 Support and guidance- MeLSAs tend to work best with a balance between working independently and working collaboratively with other staff. It is important that MeLSAs feel confident in their work and receive the support which enables them to do so.

4 Physical environment- A quiet and tidy physical space supports MeLSAs to work effectively. It is also important they have space to store resources.

Strengths of a MeLSA

- **Understanding of the psychology behind learning**
- **Individualised child-centred approach**
- **Training and experience**
- **Tools and strategies**
- **Personal qualities-** MeLSAs are determined, resilient, flexible, analytical, approachable and empathetic.



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This information was created
collaboratively with MeLSAs at the
2025 conference