

## **About me**

Hello, my name is Kelly Hanson and I am the Learning Mentor at The Hereford Academy.

I was born and raised in Hereford and spent my time growing up exploring the Golden Valley and its beautiful surroundings!  
I am married with 2 small children and we live locally.

I studied performing arts at The Hereford College of Art and Design. Alongside this, I volunteered at a high school taking drama sessions and putting on school productions. I then became involved in other Volunteer work including Story telling, speech therapy, artistic play and child behaviour.

I spent the last six years working as a personnel manager, heading training sessions on motivation, target setting and customer service. My job also involved a lot of mediation, counselling and anger management issues.

I decided that I wanted to work with children again and return a school setting - so here I am!

My work as a Learning Mentor is really varied and exciting! I am thrilled to be here at The Hereford Academy, working with staff, students and parents/carers to help all students achieve their potential.

## **The Aims of a Learning Mentor**

- To help pupils overcome barriers to Learning
- To raise pupil attainment, attendance and Punctuality
- Developing better social skills and relationships
- To develop pupils self confidence, motivation and self esteem
- Raising pupils expectations for achievement
- To provide a 'safe haven' and someone to talk to.
- To work with parents/carers to keep them informed and get their feedback

## **Pupils may also need help with**

Bullying  
Communication  
Difficulties at home  
Bereavement  
Frequent home/school moves  
Worries regarding transition  
Managing stress  
Confidence  
Anger

## **How does Learning Mentor Work?**

It really does depend on the individual needs of the child.

I normally meet with the child first and complete some classroom observations to access how our time would best be spent. This could be:

### **One To One:**

I will meet the pupil once or twice a week, setting the child manageable targets to work towards within a set time scale. One to one sessions are normally for a six week period - but it is not necessarily always the case.

### **Group Work**

After assessment, I believe many children benefit from group work. Here we can debate behaviours and help each other to find better ways of dealing with the issues that life throws at us. We can forge friendships and alliances and play some team work games too!

### **With The Parent/Carer**

Normally following assessment, I will make contact with the parent/carers and invite you to come for a visit. This is so that I can explain what might be happening with the child, but most importantly, to get your input and hear your thoughts – after all, you are the person that knows your child better than anyone! I will be more than happy to hear from you at anytime and will always aim to keep you informed!

## How Can A Learning Mentor Be Involved?

### **School Staff:**

Pupils will be referred by the associate Directors of progress and customised curriculum

The Learning Mentor may also refer.

### **Parent / Carer**

The Parent or carer can request that the child see the Learning Mentor

### **Pupil**

The pupil can request that they are referred

### **School Address:**

The Hereford Academy  
Stanberrow Road  
Hereford  
HR2 7NG

### **School Telephone Number**

01432 355213 ext 135

### **Email:**

khanson@theherefordacademy.org.uk

If parents/carers or the child feel that they would benefit from the learning mentors assistance, please fill in this slip. Remember to complete all areas to ensure that your query is dealt with efficiently and return it to reception or the postal address shown overleaf.

#### Learning Mentor Request

Student name:

Request made by:

Relationship to student:

Student year and form:

Why have you requested Learning Mentors help? *Continue on another page if needed.*

Is the student currently seeing another professional for this reason – i.e. councillor, social worker etc.



THE HEREFORD ACADEMY

'Enjoying life in all its fullness by achieving your personal best'

# What is a Learning Mentor?

- **A role model**
- **A good listener**
- **A motivator**
- **A supporter**
- **An encourager**
- **A professional**
- **An observer**
- **Someone that can be trusted**
- **A mediator**
- **A link between school and home**
- **Someone to talk to**
- **A 'safe haven' provider**
- **Works 'one to one' or in groups**

A learning mentor can help with anger, bullying, self esteem, transition, bereavement

**Helping students to overcome barriers to learning!**