



Centre of Excellence in social skills by Alex Kelly

The importance of being socially skilled cannot be over-estimated. We all need these skills to communicate effectively to listen to others, to express ourselves, to be taken seriously and to make friends. We know that social competence contributes to quality of life and has been repeatedly demonstrated to be a critical variable in predicting success in future life. However, not all children develop social competence naturally. Some people struggle with their social skills and require intervention.

Alex Kelly's Centre of Excellence approach can help you as a school to:

- **Assess social skills...** Where do you start?
- **Teach social skills...** How do you teach it & which approach will work best? How can you help students to generalize the skills?
- **Measure effectiveness...** How can you set targets & measure progress?

A bit about Alex Kelly

Alex is a speech and language therapist with over 30 years' experience of working with people with social skills difficulties. She has to date written and published 13 best-selling resources to help develop social skills, self-esteem and friendship skills in children and adults. Her Talkabout books offer a structured programme for teaching and measuring social skills and are popular in many countries across the world.

Alex now runs her own business in the UK offering training and consultancy in social skills, speech therapy and occupational therapy, and a day service for adults with autism. In 2019 Speaking Space Ltd was accredited by the National Autistic Society (NAS) with advanced status – something no other SLT company has ever achieved. She currently employs 18 staff but spends most of her time lecturing around the UK and internationally.





Is the Centre of Excellence appropriate for you?

- Do you want to be able to assess social skills in your school and set individual or group goals?
- Do you want to be able to develop social skills including groups on self-esteem, social skills and friendship skills?
- Do you want to be able to evaluate the effectiveness of what you are doing and evidence your work?

How can we help?

Alex and her team will provide you with training and support over 12 months. Each package is designed to suit your school's needs but is likely to include:

- A staff training session or whole school inset day
- Termly visits over a year (3 or 4 visits)
- Support to complete initial assessments on children
- Support to set initial targets
- Advice on setting up and running groups
- Support to evaluate the intervention using data & spreadsheets
- Advice over email and the phone in between visits
- A final report detailing the evidence from the year and recommendations for the future
- Promoting your school at training events (with your agreement)

The cost



Please talk to Alex about what you would like to achieve as the cost of this work varies depending on what you would like included. To give you an idea, it usually costs between £3,000 - £4,000 + VAT and expenses for the whole year.

Please contact Alex to find out more



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What others say...

'All in all, Alex, what a wonderful world for kids it would be if your social skills programme were in all schools across the continents'

Catherine Varapodio Longley,
Parent, Melbourne



'Alex is a vibrant, energetic presenter who had me enthralled. She is incredibly generous with her ideas and suggestions. One of the best workshops I have ever attended – and I go to lots! Thanks!'

Jenni Pearce, Clinical
Psychologist, Sydney



'I have found the course truly inspiring and look forward to putting it into practice and changing lives. Thank you!'

L Boyd, Teacher, North Wales



'Invaluable! The data will be a real pleaser. It will also be a motivator for the staff to see that they are making a difference.'

Kelly Jones, Teacher, England

