



The Postgraduate Diploma Team

Meet the staff who have a wealth of experience in the field of children's mental health and wellbeing leading our Postgraduate Diploma programme.

Kelli Swain-Cowper (MA, HCPC registered Art Therapist, MBACP)
Programme Leader

In 2008 Kelli co-founded the Postgraduate Diploma for Counselling Children in Schools as a development of Place2Be's qualifications pathway with the current Clinical Director. She has continued to lecture, deliver and develop Place2Be's qualifying courses and Senior Mental Health Lead training in schools across the country. She received her MA at NYU in New York City and specialised in working with children and adolescents at St. Luke's Roosevelt Child and Family Institute. In New York, she supervised, worked in and developed arts therapies programmes in schools, clinics, emergency refuges and inpatient hospitals for children. Moving to London in 2001, she continued her therapeutic work in schools and has been project managing, supervising and training for Place2Be for over 21 years. In addition to overseeing the clinical and academic running and development of Place2Be's Postgraduate Diploma programme, she maintains a private supervision and clinical practice.



Priscillia Makazu (MSc)
Programme Coordinator

Priscillia studied languages and business management. She started to work in client-facing roles for healthcare organisations before moving onto working in the fintech industry. With a great commercial awareness and a desire to see change in the lives of children and young people, Priscillia is looking to apply her social skills for the Post-graduate Diploma Programme at Place2Be. She has a particular interest in helping young people overcome mental health challenges so they can develop their full potential. Volunteering as a youth worker for the local community, Priscillia is also eager to make a difference in their life journey by providing a non-judgemental environment and mentoring.



Emma Starr (MA)
Programme Manager

Emma's academic background is in Sociology and Childhood Studies with a particular interest in children's agency. They've worked in a variety of front-line educational and administrative roles in both national and international charities before joining the training team at Place2Be in 2019. As Programme Manager, Emma oversees the non-clinical running of the Postgraduate Diploma programme and overall development of Place2Be's professional qualifications courses. Having completed a Level 3 Certificate in Counselling Skills Emma hopes to work therapeutically with children and young people in the future.



Carleen Kirk (PGDIP, MBACP)
PGDip Tutor

Having completed a university degree in the Netherlands, Carleen moved to the UK 20 years ago. After completing a degree in the fundamentals of counselling and psychotherapy at the CCPE, she provided one to one teaching support for children with learning difficulties whilst also doing Psychoanalytical Observational Studies at the Tavistock. Carleen has experience working with young victims of serious crimes and piloted a restorative justice programme with the Sutton Youth Offending Team. She subsequently completed the Postgraduate Diploma at Place2Be and has gone on to work in both primary and secondary schools. She currently works as a school counsellor in a large primary school and has been developing their mental health service as a whole school approach. Most recently, she joined the Place2Be as a trainer on the Postgraduate Diploma course and continues to be passionate about children's voices within systems and has a particular interest in the mind-body connection.



Jo Mundy (PGDIP, MBACP)
PGDip Tutor

Jo worked in a range of allied health professional roles for Social Services, the NHS and a consortium of charities before retraining as a Child and Adolescent Counsellor. She was as a Place2Be Counsellor on Placement for over 4 years and completed the Postgraduate Diploma for Counselling Children in Schools with Place2Be in 2016. She has worked in both primary and secondary schools, setting up counselling services and providing support for children, families and staff in schools. Jo worked for Place2Be as a School Project Manager for several years and recently set up a new project as a Mental Health Practitioner in a busy inner-city secondary school. Jo particularly enjoys supporting supervisees and students in developing their clinical skills.



Ama Dankwa (PGDIP, MBACP)
PGDip Tutor

Ama wears several hats: she has an undergraduate degree in counselling psychology and decided to specialise as a children and young people's counsellor with Place2Be. Her passion for mental health and well-being has inspired her to set up her own practice that offers a range of therapy services (e.g. play therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy, psychodynamic) to support clients with anxiety, depression and other mental-health related issues. Ultimately, Ama has a heart to respond to the mental health needs of others by helping them achieve self-empowerment, so they can believe in their full potential and value. She now applies her knowledge and experience as a Tutor for Place2Be's Postgraduate Diploma students.



Sachiko Kishi (MA, Dip Psy, Dip Couns, Dip Supervision, BA, MBACP and UKCP registered)
Experiential Group Facilitator

Sachiko trained in group and individual Gestalt psychotherapy and in creative supervision. Her background is in the arts and in mental health; both in the community - where she has worked for over 20 years with young people and with adults and in higher education where she has worked 1-1 and with groups. Sachiko provides individual and group supervision for Third sector organisations and for NHS staff specialising in trauma work and has a private practice. She runs experiential workshops and is also a member of the teaching faculty at the Gestalt Centre.



Rachel Gould
Child Observation Tutor (Year 1)

Rachel trained at the University of Sussex before completing an additional training in Psychoanalytic Observational Studies at the Tavistock. She has worked as a counsellor and counselling manager within schools and colleges since 2001 and is a Senior/Specialist (Children and Young People) BACP accredited Counsellor. In addition to teaching Young Child Observation, Rachel works on the Senior Mental Health Leads programme at Place2Be. She is Head of Counselling and Wellbeing at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Senior tutor on the MSc in Counselling and Psychotherapy at Birkbeck, University of London.



Outside Speakers and the team includes:

- Matthew Audley
- Alison Siddiqui
- Esther Pozzani
- Kali Turabi
- Billy Lansdell
- Eleni Vambouli
- Rebecca Lunn