



Jamie Johnston

Independent Special Education Advisor

📍 Newcastle, Tyne and Wear

✉ jamie.johnston@ecmslimited.co.uk

📞 07931190551

Background and experience:

My early career background was in sport, having played for Newcastle United Football Club and represented my country at international level for England Boys. I ran my own successful football coaching business, working in schools throughout the northeast of England. I then gained a degree in Applied Sports Science from Northumbria University in 2011. I graduated with a PGCE in primary education in 2012, working in a mainstream setting for the first three years of my teaching career. This gave me a solid understanding of the National Curriculum and helped me to develop a broad range of transferable skills and knowledge. I specialised in teaching phonics, developing my knowledge of literacy development, and was subject lead for Physical Education.

In 2016, I joined Thomas Bewick School, a specialist provision for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). I taught primary and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) pupils, with a range of difficulties associated with ASD. Learners in my classes had significant expressive and social language difficulties including those who were non-verbal. They had severely impaired receptive language skills and required one-to-one support. All children had Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) which gave me a solid understanding of the national curriculum framework, and the importance of accurately documenting and quantifying a child's needs in order to accurately assess progress.

During the next 10 years, I worked as a hospital teacher at the Great North Children's Hospital (Royal Victoria Infirmary) in Newcastle upon Tyne. I taught across all age ranges and abilities, particularly on the paediatric oncology unit, where teaching took place at the bedside with patients undergoing treatment after a cancer diagnosis. I have extensive experience in teaching children across all hospital settings including general paediatric wards, and respiratory and dialysis wards. I taught children who had been involved in a range of accidents that led to a broad range of injuries including acquired brain injury. I also taught on the intensive care unit with children and young people receiving palliative, end-of-life treatment.

My experience has enabled me to become an education specialist for medically vulnerable patients and their wider families. I have designed, delivered and reviewed bespoke education packages tailored to my pupils' needs. Working in a fast-paced medical environment with very unwell children has equipped me with an ability to perform in demanding, intense and stressful situations.

My relationships and collaboration with colleagues in a multidisciplinary team were vital in facilitating better outcomes for my learners. I have significant experience in liaising with hospital multidisciplinary teams, including nurses, nurse specialists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, nutritionists, pharmacists, doctors and consultants. My integrated working model alongside therapists allowed my pupils to achieve their specific learning and holistic goals. Working closely with physiotherapists and occupational therapists helped my pupils to combine learning with rehabilitation and to achieve their health outcomes prior to discharge.

I am experienced in consulting with SaLT teams to assess communicative competence and aid recovery. I have worked with many students who have suffered a stroke, and I have collaborated alongside speech and language therapists to promote hospital learning and aid pupil recovery. I also have a strong working knowledge of music and art therapies. I have taught, tutored and played guitar for many years, and feel confident incorporating this into my teaching practice.

As part of my role as a hospital teacher, I helped develop a thriving enrichment programme for the pupils within the setting, working closely alongside Cancer Research UK, Children's Cancer North, Newcastle United Foundation and Durham Cricket Foundation to provide a collaborative learning environment. Drawing upon the benefits of working with charities, I helped create a broad and extensive enrichment initiative that encouraged patients and their families to access key support and provision. I also helped to integrate and mentor charity staff into their new hospital roles.

I was part of the Cancer Research UK Right Now campaign appearing on radio and a national TV advert, showcasing my teaching in the hospital setting. I chaired and presented annual conferences at the RVI, in partnership with Young Lives Versus Cancer.

A considered and sensitive whole family teaching model is the cornerstone of my education philosophy. I have achieved an 'outstanding' portfolio of observations through many years of working with mainstream, SEND and PMLD pupils. I am passionate about providing the best education possible to those children who are most vulnerable.

I am excited to have a new challenge at ECMS and to bring my knowledge, expertise and passion to this role.

Professional Qualifications:

- PGCE in Primary Education – 2012
- BSc (Hons) in Applied Sports Science – 2011