

Book Your Place Today!

TISCUK Training — [Training for Education Settings | Virtual School Kent:](#)

- Senior Leads Training 26th and 27th March OR 18th and 19th June
- Transforming Behaviour Through Trauma-Informed Approaches 31st March
- Diploma in Trauma-Informed Mental Health Schools 11 days starts 16th March

Click. Book. Secure. *Don't miss out.*

11.03.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Riverside Community Centre VSK - Designated Teacher 11th March 2026 Term 4 – Fill in form
12.03.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Update 1pm @ Homewood School VSK WK Designated Teacher Update 12/03/2026 – Fill in form
20.03.26	Kent Designated Teacher Network Update @ Riverside Church, Whitstable Kent Designated Teacher Network Update - Friday 20th March 2026 9.30am - 3.30pm – Fill out form
30.04.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum @ Venue TBC in Thanet East Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form 30th April 2026
12.05.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 12:30 & 15:45 Online Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form
13.05.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 8:00 Online Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form
30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30 @ Whitstable Youth Hub East Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form 30th June 2026
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ North Team - Virtual DT briefing - 01 July 2026 -Term 6 – Fill in form
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 Online Countywide Virtual Designated Teacher Updates – Fill in form
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Update / Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary South Kent Designated Teachers Forum - Booking Form Tuesday 7th July 2026 –

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

11 February 2026

VSK Kent Designated Teacher Network Update

Date: Friday 20th March 2026

Venue: Riverside Church, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3JQ

Join us for a day of insight, collaboration, and practical strategies to support Kent's children in care.

This Network Update brings Designated Teachers from across Kent together to share best practice, deepen understanding, and strengthen networks. Funded by PP+, the event offers expert input and real-world approaches to trauma-informed education.

Programme for the Day

09:00 Arrival and refreshments

09:30 Welcome and introduction – Carole Bailey – Assistant Head VSK South Kent

09:45 Keynote: Small Shifts, Meaningful Impact: Supporting Children in Care – Dr Karen Treisman, MBE

11:30 Coffee break

11:50 Table-top discussions: Sharing your Trauma-Informed journey

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Understanding Sexual Abuse from a Child or Teenager's Point of View - and What Can Often Be Missed – Jeremy Indika

15:00 Panel discussion: How can schools best support our most vulnerable children?

15:30 Plenary and close – Simon Fosse-Collins – Assistant Head VSK East Kent

Why attend?

- Gain practical strategies for supporting children with complex needs
- Network with fellow Designated Teachers across Kent
- Access expert knowledge from leading professionals in trauma and safeguarding

Reserve your place today via Microsoft Forms: [BOOK HERE](#)

Spaces are limited – don't miss this opportunity to strengthen your school's approach to supporting children in care.

Continues on the next page...



THE ADOPTABLES



CONTINUED...**VSK Kent Designated Teacher Network Update****Date: Friday 20th March 2026****Venue: Riverside Church, Thanet Way, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3JQ**

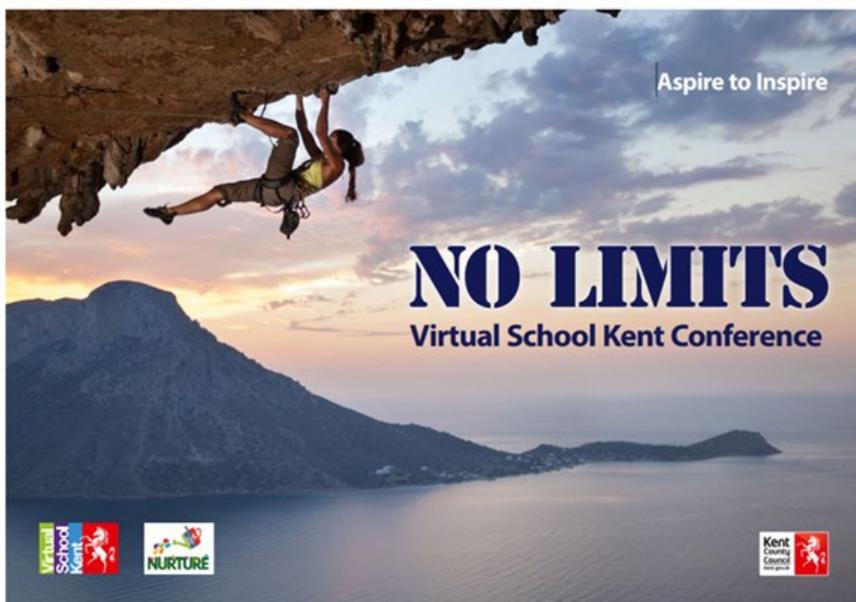
Dr Karen Treisman, MBE, is an award-winning Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist, organizational consultant, trainer, author, and trauma specialist.

Small Shifts, Meaningful Impact: Supporting Children in Care

Supporting children in care in education can raise complex questions, and there are rarely simple solutions. This keynote offers a focused overview of why children who have experienced relational and developmental trauma may struggle in school. Rather than offering quick fixes, the session shares selected insights, illustrative examples and a flavour of practical tools and approaches. The emphasis is on how small, intentional shifts in understanding, relationships and everyday practice can make a meaningful difference over time. And recognising the vital role school plays in children's lives. <https://safehandsthinkingminds.co.uk/>



Jeremy Indika is a speaker, podcast host, and the founder of Something to Say. A former McLaren design engineer, he left his career in 2018 to dedicate his work to preventing the sexual abuse of children and teenagers, both offline and online. Drawing on lived experience and nearly a decade of focused work in this field, Jeremy has developed clear and engaging ways of communicating this subject to children, teenagers, parents, and professionals. His work centres on breaking silence, building confidence, and helping communities create safer environments for everyone involved. <https://jeremyindika.com/>



SAVE THE DATE
Wednesday
7th October
2026
10am til 2pm

DETLING SHOWGROUND
GUEST SPEAKER: ALFIE WATTS –
Winner of Race Across the World
This event is for Designated
Teachers, Senior Leadership
Teams and the young people they
support



Join Us at the “No Limits” Virtual School Kent Conference!

We’re excited to announce this year’s *No Limits* Virtual School Kent Conference on **Wednesday 7th October 2026**, from **10am to 2pm**, at **Detling Showground**.

This inspiring event is designed for **Designated Teachers, Senior Leadership Teams, and the young people they support in Years 8 to 13**. Together, we’ll explore ambition, resilience, and what it truly means to aspire without limits.

We’re also thrilled to welcome our guest speaker, **Alfie Watts – Winner of Race Across the World**, who will be sharing his remarkable journey and the lessons he learned along the way.

Please save the date and start planning which young people you’d like to bring—this is an event they won’t want to miss!



Dear Designated Teacher

We are delighted to let you know that VSK are funding a set number of places on the 2-day CPD course offered by Dandelion Time (West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NY)

Enabling Learning in Children with Poor Attachment/ Trauma:

This two-day course offers an in-depth approach to deepening understanding about the impact of poor attachment and trauma, specifically focusing on a child or children you have worked with. This course, which is spread over a two-week period, allows for an in-depth study of factors which affect children and their ability to learn. The course is intended for all those working with vulnerable children, for example, teachers, family liaison officers, special educational needs officers and early help workers.

There are two sets of dates available:

Monday 27th April 2026 and Monday 11th May 2026 9.15am – 3.30pm

Monday 15th June 2026 and Monday 29th June 2026 9.15am - 3.30pm

For more information please review their [Course training pack](#) If you would like to participate in this course, then please fill out the booking form using the link below:

[Dandelion Time CPD Booking Form](#)

Dandelion Time will confirm your place upon receipt of the booking form. Places allocated on a first come first serve basis.



Academic Mentoring for Adoptive Parents and Special Guardians

Adoptive Parents only - Friday 27th February 2026. 10-11.30am.

Online and free to attend for all parents of adopted children.

Special Guardians only - Friday 6th March or Friday 20th March 2026.

10-11.30am.

Online and free to attend for all Special Guardians.

These funded online webinars are designed to help parents and guardians support their children as they prepare for their exams—whether they are end-of-year tests, GCSEs, or post 16 qualifications.

We'll explore simple, practical strategies that parents/guardians can use together with their children, straight away. These include:

- effective revision methods
- useful study habits, and
- practical ways in which parents/guardians can be involved.

Together building their motivation and confidence.

Our aim is to help parents/guardians feel equipped to guide their children through the exam period, working *with* them to feel supported, encouraged, and ready to do their best!

If you have any young people whose parents/guardians may benefit from these webinars, please email VSKAdvisoryTeam@Kent.gov.uk for the flyer which you can then send to them. Please note, each session will be tailored to the specific needs of the cohort (i.e. adoptive parents or special guardians) so therefore must be booked accordingly.

Open Days at the Colleges within the EKC group

Anyone interested in attending college who has not yet completed an application is encouraged to submit it as soon as possible to secure a place for September: [Register](#)

Canterbury College – 6th May 4:00-7:00pm [Open Day | Wednesday 6 May - Canterbury College](#)

Broadstairs College – 12th May 4:00-7:00pm [May Open Day 2026 - Broadstairs College](#)

Dover College - 5th May 4:00-7:00pm [May Open Day - Dover College](#)

Folkestone College - 14th May 4:00-7:00pm [May Open Day 2026 - Folkestone College](#)

Ashford College- 13th May 4:00-7:00pm [May Open Day 2026 - Ashford College](#)

CREATIVE COMPETITION FROM THE UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

[YouCreate Competition | University for the Creative Arts](#) – a competition open to students, teachers and support staff who work with Young People in Schools and Colleges

From fashion and film to music, painting, photography, or writing, this is your opportunity to showcase your creative voice and have your work recognised by the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) and the Kent & Medway Collaborative Outreach Programme (KaMCOP).

Competition categories:

This year's competition features three exciting categories:

Years 7–10: For students in Years 7, 8, 9, or 10 (born between 01/09/2010 and 31/08/2014).

Years 11–13 and FE equivalent: For students in Years 11, 12, or 13, and FE equivalents (born between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2010).

School and college staff: For teachers and support staff working in schools or colleges that teach students in Years 7–13 or FE (students must be born between 01/09/2007 and 31/08/2014).

New for this year: the staff category – giving teachers and support staff the chance to share their creativity alongside their students.

Deadline for entries is 31 May 2026.





This guide and toolkit was initially developed by the Virtual School Kent and the Kent Educational Psychology Service. Its aim is to support schools in their understanding of the importance of promoting relational approaches to create a sense of connection, school belonging and with trauma informed practices supporting all vulnerable children, particularly those who may struggle to attend school.

Relational Approaches to support School Belonging and Attendance:
A Guide and Toolkit

Kent County Council
April 2025



[Click here](#)



National Careers Week
NCW

SAVE THE DATE
FOR #NCW2026

We'd love to hear from you!



How have VSK supported you or your team recently? Please take a moment to let us know by clicking the link below:

[Feedback Form: Share how VSK supported you](#)



Who To Contact



North Kent Assistant Head: Jo Hayes - northvsk@kent.gov.uk

West Kent Assistant Head: Jen Kemp - westvsk@kent.gov.uk

South Kent Assistant Head: Carole Bailey - southvsk@kent.gov.uk

East Kent Assistant Head: Simon Fosse-Collins - eastvsk@kent.gov.uk

Advisory Team Assistant Head: Emma Wills - vskadvisoryteam@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 Assistant Head: Catherine Thompson - 16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk

Post 16 NEET Team Lead: Samantha Perrin - 16plusvirtualschoolskent@kent.gov.uk

Out of County Team Lead: Amanda Ormond - virtualsschoolkentocc@kent.gov.uk



Instagram [participation team](#)



Facebook [VSK Participation Team](#)



X [@VirtSchl_Kent](#)



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<http://kentcarestown.lea.kent.sch.uk>