

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

14 January 2026

Strengthening Our PEPs: Key Messages for Designated Teachers and Social Workers

High quality Personal Education Plans (PEPs) remain one of the most effective tools we have for improving the educational experiences and outcomes of children in care. Your work in preparing, contributing to, and leading these meetings ensures that every child's needs are understood, planned for, and monitored.

To support a consistent and robust approach across Kent, please keep the following in mind:

✓ **Timeliness matters**

PEPs must take place within statutory timeframes and be uploaded promptly onto Liberi. This ensures that education planning remains current and responsive.

✓ **Strong preparation leads to strong plans**

Designated Teachers should prepare attainment, progress data, attendance, SEND information, and intervention updates in advance. Social Workers should ensure care information is accurate and up to date, including recent changes or factors impacting learning.

✓ **The child's voice must be central**

Please ensure the young person's views are gathered in a way that suits them and are fully represented in the PEP. Their ambitions, worries, and ideas should shape the targets we set.

✓ **PP+ funding requires clear planning and impact tracking**

Requests should outline the rationale for interventions, expected outcomes, and how effectiveness will be measured. Regular review is essential to ensure support remains targeted and meaningful.

✓ **Use the PEP to drive collaboration**

The PEP should reflect the joined up thinking between school, social care, carers, and other professionals. It is the shared roadmap for the term ahead.

Resource to Support High Quality PEPs

We are pleased to share a new resource designed to support Designated Teachers and Social Workers in understanding a child's learning journey across EYFS, primary and secondary phases.

You can access it here:

☞ [Understanding Your Child's Learning](#)

☞ [Useful PEP Documents](#)

If you require any assistance, please contact our dedicated Kent PEP Team:

📞 03000 415353 | ✉️ VSKKentPEP@kent.gov.uk



TISUK TRAINING OFFER FROM VSK

In order to help you further develop practices within your school, we would like to offer your staff CPD opportunities to attend one of the following courses this academic year:



Senior Leads Training Trauma and Mental Health-Informed Schools

Cohort 5. 2 day online course: 26th and 27th March 2026.

Cohort 6. 2 day online course: 18th and 19th June 2026.



Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health Informed Schools and Communities (Practitioner Status)

Cohort 7. 10 days online and 1 day in person. 16th/17th March, 27th/28th April, 18th/19th June, 9th/10th July, 21st/22nd September. Assessment day (in person) 16th October 2026.

If you would like staff to attend any of the courses above, please complete the form here:

[Trauma Informed Schools Training for Kent Schools](#)

ONE DAY LIVE STREAMED TRAINING



Transforming behaviour through trauma-informed approaches

Evidence based models and a wealth of solutions

One day online training. **Cohort 4: 31st March 2026**

If you would like any of your staff to attend this course, please complete the form here: [TISUK Transforming](#)

Please note, spaces are limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact:

VSKTraining@kent.gov.uk

Reminder!

County-Wide DT Update Next Week 22.1.26

If you haven't already booked, please do so as soon as possible.

This session will cover key updates and expectations for the term ahead.

BOOK HERE



Spotlight on Creative Opportunities and Activities for our Children and Young People

Looping The Loop – Thanet Youth Theatre at The Ark, Cliftonville:



[What's On | Looping The Loop](#)

They run workshops for and with the community and a youth theatre 'Thanet Youth Theatre' for ages 7-18.

National Saturday Club

Saturday Clubs are open to 13–16-year-olds of all abilities and are free to attend.

**NATIONAL
SATURDAY
CLUB**

*"Joining the **National Saturday Club** is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, discover talents, meet new people, and find out more about further education, higher education, and rewarding careers".*

- [National Saturday Club - Explore exciting subjects on Saturday mornings for free](#) – held at three venues across Kent.
- [The Margate School - National Saturday Club](#)
- [Kent School of Fashion - National Saturday Club](#)
- [Dover Smart Project - National Saturday Club](#)

Kent School of Fashion

[Creative Lego Robotics and Engineering Club \(Ages 8-16\)](#)



KENT SCHOOL OF FASHION



2026 is the National Year of Reading!

We would love to hear what exciting activities you have planned to support this initiative and promote the love of reading for all young people. Please let us know how we can help support you and spread the word to all professionals working with children and families.



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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

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**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

22.01.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 8am, 12pm and 15:45pm online
11.03.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 venue TBC (likely to be Gravesend based)
12.03.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Update 1pm @ TBC
24.03.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Update 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary
24.04.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
12.05.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 12:30 & 15:45 online
13.05.26	County Wide Designated Teacher Update 8:00 online
30.06.26	East Kent Designated Teacher Forum 13:30
01.07.26	North Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ TBC
02.07.26	West Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:00 @ TBC
07.07.26	South Kent Designated Teacher Induction 13:30 @ Smile Centre Whitfield Primary

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 - 16plusvirtualschools@kent.gov.uk

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

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



Instagram [participation team](#)



Facebook [VSK Participation Team](#)



X [@VirtSchl Kent](#)



**VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**

[Home | Virtual School Kent \(lea.kent.sch.uk\)](#)

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