

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

17 June 2026

VSK Pre 16 Awards Nominations – Live!



The nomination window will remain open until Friday 3rd July at 5pm.

Please be aware that no further nominations will be accepted after this deadline.

This is your opportunity to recognise the Kent looked after students that you support up to the academic Year 11.

We're keen to celebrate a wide range of achievements and contributions, so please consider nominating someone who shines in any of the following categories:

- Outstanding or greatly improved academic achievement
- Outstanding or greatly improved engagement and/or attitude towards learning
- Outstanding contribution to education, training, or employment placement
- Outstanding contribution to the community
- Wider achievements of note

You can submit your nominations using the VSK Pre 16 Awards Nominations 2026 form:

[VSK Pre 16 Awards Nominations 2026 – Fill out form](#)



Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Auto Funding

We want to take a moment to clarify expectations around the **PP+ auto funding** you receive and how it supports strong educational planning.

What should the funding be used for?

PP+ must be used to support the agreed targets within the Personal Education Plan (PEP). These targets are reviewed three times a year, and funding should clearly align with:

- Academic progress
- Social, emotional and mental health needs
- Wider barriers to learning

It is important that spending is purposeful, evidence-informed, and directly linked to outcomes outlined in the PEP.

PEP Discussions and Evidencing Use of Funding

During PEP meetings, VSK colleagues will work with you to ensure there is a clear, shared understanding of how needs are being met and funded.

Discussions will explore:

- Where schools are already contributing funding
- Whether SEN support is in place (e.g. for pupils with a diagnosis or EHCP)
- Whether High Needs Funding (HNF) or Communities of Schools funding has been accessed
- If funding has been declined, whether the reason has been discussed and understood
- Whether the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), and how this is being used to support their needs and outcomes

This ensures PP+ is used appropriately and in addition to other available funding streams, not as a replacement. All of this should be clearly recorded in the **summary section of the PEP** to show joined-up planning and accountability.

If you have any questions, your VSK link professional is always happy to support.

What is PP+ Auto Funding?

Schools receive PP+ funding three times a year — typically in June, November and February.

Each allocation is usually around £500, meaning approximately £1,500 per year per child in care placed within your setting.

This funding is provided automatically (auto funding) to enable schools to respond quickly to need and ensure timely support for each young person.

Using Evidence-Informed Approaches

While PP+ is distinct from the school's wider Pupil Premium (PP) strategy, we expect a similarly evidence-informed approach. Schools should draw on effective practice, such as the DfE's [menu of approaches](#), while ensuring that PP+ funding is clearly targeted to the individual child's needs and PEP outcomes.

- High-quality teaching
- Targeted academic support
- Wider strategies (e.g. attendance, behaviour, wellbeing)

The Role of the Designated Teacher

[The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children](#) is key in ensuring:

- PEP targets are clear, ambitious and measurable
- PP+ funding is linked directly to provision
- Impact is reviewed consistently

Conditions of Grant

Schools must follow the: [Department for Education's Conditions of Grant](#) for pupil premium funding.

This guidance emphasises that funding should:

- Be used to improve educational outcomes
- Be targeted and evidence-informed
- Demonstrate clear impact over time

We recognise the strong commitment schools show in supporting children in care. By ensuring that PP+ funding is:

- **Clearly linked to PEP targets**
- **Used alongside (not instead of) other funding streams**
- **Carefully recorded and reviewed**

... we can work together to secure the best possible outcomes for our young people.

We are pleased to share **Kent’s Pledge to Children and Young People Looked After by Kent County Council**, which outlines our commitment to making every child’s experience of care as positive and supportive as possible. We recognise that being in care, and leaving care, can bring additional challenges, and the pledge sets out how we will stand alongside children and young people throughout their journey.



The Kent Pledge is shaped around six key themes:

- Building a sense of belonging
- Ensuring there is always a trusted adult
- Supporting access to a good education
- Creating positive memories for the future
- Preparing for adulthood
- Championing their needs and interests.

To support understanding, the [Kent Pledge Video](#) offers a short, engaging animation that brings these commitments to life, alongside a [Kent Pledge Flipbook](#) which children and young people can explore to better understand what they can expect from those supporting

Book Your Place Today!

WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2026
09.15- 2.45pm – with workshops between 10am and 2pm

GUEST SPEAKER: ALFIE WATTS – Winner of Race Across the World and ambassador for Young Minds.

Interesting and interactive, with workshops, opportunities to speak to universities and explore career options for young people and interventions and ideas for school staff.

This event is for all Designated Teachers, Senior Leadership Teams and the young people they support

NO LIMITS
Virtual School Kent Conference
DETLING SHOWGROUND, MAIDSTONE

Scan the QR code or go to <https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t> to register your interest

This is an **unmissable opportunity** for Designated Teachers and Senior Leaders and the young people they support in Years 8 to 13.

We are asking every school to sign up to ensure your staff and the young people you support benefit from this unique experience.

Secure your place now via the QR code or booking link – don't let your school miss out.

<https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t>



PEP reminder:

Please ensure upcoming and overdue PEPs are prioritised and completed within statutory deadlines. Timely PEPs are essential to securing the right educational support for our children and young people.

Virtual School Kent Advisory Team

Strategically championing the educational needs of children with a social worker, those previously in care and children in kinship care.



Did you know VSK has an Advisory Team?

The VSK Advisory Team provides advice, guidance and signposting for education settings regarding three vulnerable groups of children and young people:

- **Ever6 Children with a Social Worker:** Children currently or previously subject to CIN, CP or assessment in the last 6 years, including those who have returned home from care.
- **Previously Looked After Children (PLAC):** Children who were in care and left via Adoption, Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order (CAO).
- **Children in Formal Kinship Care:** Children living with relatives under a formal court order (SGO or CAO) who were not previously looked after.

What do we offer?

Although children in these cohorts do not have an allocated VSK officer, the Advisory Team is available when needed to discuss concerns about individual children or groups, and to help plan next steps and solutions to support their education and wider outcomes. Parental consent is required to discuss a named child or share personal information. Cohort or anonymised discussions can take place without consent.

Get in touch

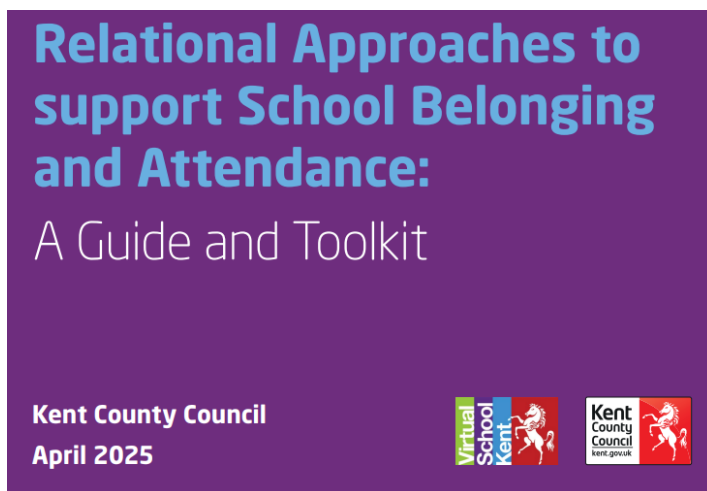
- To find out more, visit the VSKAT section of our website: [VSKAT Introduction | Virtual School Kent](#)
- To discuss a child or cohort, complete the contact form (remember to obtain consent if required) [VSK Advisory Team - Request Advice](#)

We also welcome examples of good practice, strategies, and success stories. Understanding what works well across the county helps us provide the best possible advice to schools, families and professionals supporting the VSK Advisory Team cohorts.



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.

[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](#)



Book Your Place Today!

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

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 – Fill out form
07.10.26	VSK No limits Conference @ Detling showground for Primary/Secondary and College staff. Sign Up form https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t

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!

<https://forms.office.com/e/nypC72J21t>

Who To Contact



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Instagram [participation team](#)



Facebook [VSK Participation Team](#)



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