

# Book Your Place Today!

## Designated Teacher Training & Network Dates 2026

Have you secured your place on VSK's Designated Teacher training and network dates for 2026?

These sessions are essential for staying up to date with key developments affecting our children and young people, and they provide valuable opportunities to ask questions, share good practice, and offer feedback to Virtual School Kent.

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

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

# VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

21 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](mailto:VSKKentPEP@kent.gov.uk)

## Webinars and Training Opportunities for Schools working with Adopted Children and Young People

'Adopted in School' - Understanding the Needs of Adopted Young People.

- Produced by PAC-UK to watch [Click here](#).
- [Voices of Adopted Teens](#) video that was created by PAC-UK Voices



**PAC-UK**  
Adoption and Permanency Support



Adoption Partnership South East's [Adoption Support Core Offer booklet](#) is now available on our website. Along with this 30 minute video that goes in to more detail about our support [Introduction to Adoption Support](#). Please pass this booklet on to any adoptive parents with children in your schools.

## Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Education Training

[Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Training | Adoption England](#)



### FREE CPD OFFER FROM THE KENT UNIVERSITY OUTREACH TEAM

**University of Kent**

[Opening Doors CPD For Professionals: Supporting Care-experienced Students into](#)

[University, February 2026](#)

This free training opportunity is for key staff involved in supporting children in care and care leavers, including advocates, social workers, virtual school staff etc. to learn more about supporting young people into and through Higher Education. We will explore pathways to higher education and opportunities for young people after they complete compulsory education, and we will help to demystify university and higher education.

### Young Minds: Support Line for Parents and Carers

There is a dedicated support line for parent's/carers run by the Young Minds foundation.

This is a place where carers can find support for them whilst they support a Young Person with mental health issues as this can be tough on carers too.

[The Young Minds website](#) also contains lots of useful mental health information that they can access:

# YOUNGMINDS



## Celebrate those who support our young people

Please take five minutes to recognise the incredible teachers who make a real difference in the lives of our children and young people.

Simply scan the QR code or use the link below to submit a nomination for the **Kent Education Awards 2026**.

### Kent Education Awards 2026 Nomination Form



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!



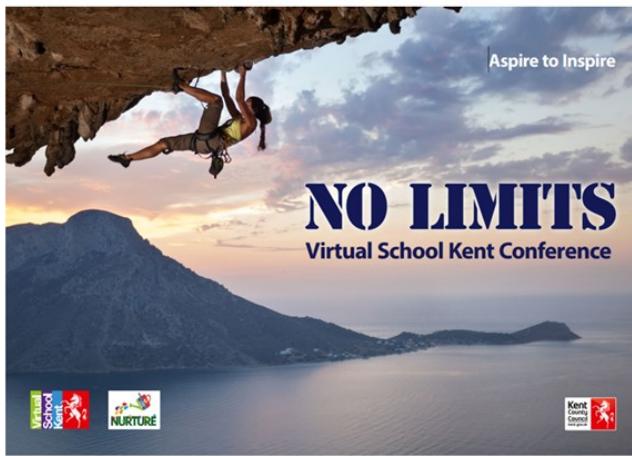
How have VSK supported you or your team recently? Please take a moment to let us know by clicking the link below:

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



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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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



# 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>