

VSK WEEKLY UPDATE

29 April 2026

ATTENTION ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY TEACHERS!

We hope you've saved the date for this year's **VSK No Limits Conference**, taking place on **7th October 2026** at the **Detling Showground, Maidstone**.

This will be a **full-day event**, and we are incredibly excited about the inspiring programme we have planned.

This amazing day will start at 09:15 and finish at 14:45 with workshops and talks all planned between 10am -2pm to allow you to plan transport for your young people.

The event is for school staff and young people (academic yr 8 -13) who are care experienced from any local authority, children who have been adopted, children who are/ have been in kinship care or are being cared for by someone other than their parents.

To help us with early planning and to get an idea of how many schools may be attending, we kindly ask that you complete the expression of interest form below.

Please include the approximate number of young people in academic yr 8 – 13 that you may wish to bring along, if any. School staff can attend with or without students.

As the event approaches, we will be in touch to confirm further details.

Please fill out the form below using the link.

Attendance at No Limits Conference and Careers Fair (2026):

Expression of Interest Form- <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/nypC72J21t>

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.

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Click here to book a place: [School and College Wellbeing Cards Webinar – Fill out form](#)

Webinar and Free Resources



School Wellbeing Cards: *understanding and overcoming children and young people's barriers to engagement in education*

Wednesday 6th May 15:30-16:30 Microsoft Teams.

Do you support children and young people (Key stage 2 – Key stage 5) who struggle to engage in their education, spend increased time outside of the classroom or have difficulties with attendance and EBSA?



Do you have students who struggle with persistent disruptive behaviour, resulting in less time spent learning, internal exclusions, suspensions and risk of exclusion?

The VSK Advisory Team and VSK Educational Psychologists invite you to a webinar introducing the **School Wellbeing Cards** (age 7+) and **College Wellbeing Cards** (age 14+). Developed by Educational Psychologist Jerrica Holder in response to research into common push and pull factors, the cards use visual prompts to help young people express barriers, strengths and resilience more freely. The resource supports professionals to enrich Breakthrough Meeting discussions and identify effective strategies to improve attendance, wellbeing and engagement in learning.

This webinar will guide education settings how to use School Wellbeing Cards to:

Explore and understand children and young people's barriers to engagement in their education and how to reduce and mitigate these barriers.

Explore and understand resilience factors and strengths and how to best utilise these to improve attendance and engagement in education.

Plan and deliver strategies to improve school engagement and attendance, for example by using the KCC Breakthrough Meeting template.

Schools and education settings attending the webinar will receive a free pack of School Wellbeing Cards (and College Wellbeing Cards for secondary schools), subject to availability. Cards will be sent after the webinar. A follow-up webinar in Term 6 will support embedding practice and provide an opportunity to discuss any issues with our Educational Psychologist.





The Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) has launched a UK-wide consultation to understand how children, young people and families can be better supported in a rapidly evolving online world. The work explores young people’s experiences across social media, gaming, emerging technologies and AI, and will inform future Government policy on online safety and digital wellbeing.

[Growing up in the online world consultation - iwill](#)



Supporting Healthy and Empowering Relationships for Young People

Salus is offering a Healthy Empowering Relationship Advisory Service for young women, girls and gender-diverse young people across Kent.

This 12-week programme can be delivered face-to-face or virtually, either 1:1 or in small groups, and aims to support young people to:

- Build confidence and emotional resilience
- Develop healthy, positive relationships
- Make informed choices about emotional and physical relationships

The service is open to young people aged 10–18 living in Kent who may benefit from additional support due to their life experiences, including exposure to unhealthy or unsafe relationships.

- Any professional can refer
- Young person consent is required prior to referral

For more information, visit:

[SALUS: Healthy Empowering Relationship Advisory Service](#)





KENT SCHOOL OF FASHION

Through weekly creative sessions, fashion shows, educational trips, and cultural experience, they give young people opportunities to learn, explore, and see the world beyond their immediate surroundings:

- [Courses for 6-16yr Olds](#)
- [FREE Creative Summer School \(8 -16 Yr Olds\) Fashion, Photography, Painting, Drawing, Robotics and Crafting.](#)

THANET YOUTH THEATRE

Thanet Youth Theatre is open to everyone, from absolute beginners to experienced young performers, offering a great way to make new friends and learn new skills:

- [Thanet Youth Theatre | Looping The Loop](#)
- [School Visits – Windmill Community Gardens Margate](#)



What do they offer?

They can offer a range of sessions for schools that fulfill curriculum objectives around growing, healthy eating and science as well as making cross-curricular connections to a whole variety of subjects, be it symmetry, descriptive language or social and emotional development through building resilience and working as a team.

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.

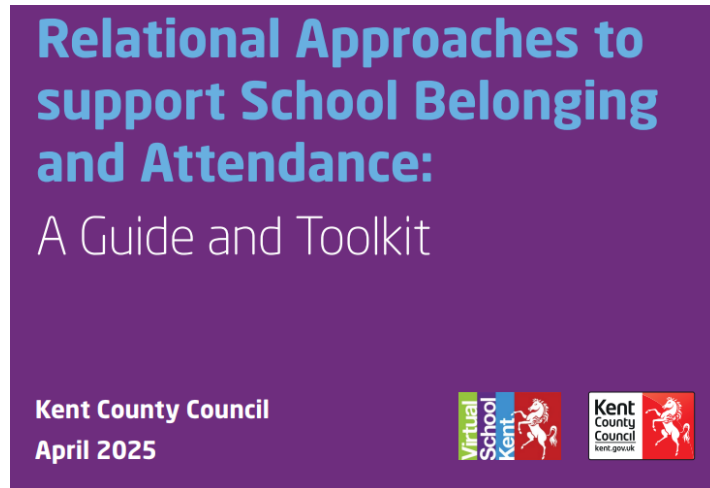
Get in touch

- 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.*

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 –

Open Days at the Colleges within the EKC group

It is recommended that anyone who is interested in attending college who has not completed an application, that this be submitted as soon as possible, in order that they can 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](#)



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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!

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

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

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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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