



To all Headteachers

**Children, Young People and
Education Directorate**

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Dear Colleague

Inclusion in our Schools – A countywide discussion, 15th September – 31st October.

Our vision for children and young people with SEND in Kent is that: -

- Children and young people with SEND in Kent feel happy, safe, supported and as healthy as they can be while they learn and grow.
- Families can reach the right people at the right time to support their children.
- Services will work with families to improve outcomes and achievements for children and young people with SEND.

To achieve these ambitions requires strong collaboration between all partners. Work is on-going to develop the new SEND Strategy which will encompass all areas of SEND systems and processes. As part of this work we are launching a countywide discussion on Inclusion in our schools. In this discussion, we are keen to understand the specific strategies which support inclusive practices within our schools and how KCC and schools might work together to develop a shared understanding of the improvements that are needed and the necessary support that is required to achieve them is in place.

A discussion paper, with appendices and feedback pathways can be found at:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/news/primary/sen-inclusion-discussion-paper>

The paper invites thoughts and comment on several interrelated items:

- Statement of Inclusion
- Inclusion Framework
- Mainstream Core Standards (MCS)
- System Leadership of Inclusion
- Inclusion Dashboard
- Parent Voice

- Characteristics of an Inclusive School

Each of these conversations and proposals are in the early stages of development and are presented to gather your views and comments. In the paper, each section includes '*pathway of proposals*' which outlines where the topics have been formulated and discussed or shared previously. We would like to encourage debate through as many existing forums as possible including Headteacher networks, KAH meetings, IYFA panels, Inclusion Steering Groups. If you would like a KCC Officer to attend to talk through the proposals with your group please email Julie Hawkins. Julie.hawkins@kent.gov.uk. We will also be hosting 4 virtual discussion workshops at the beginning of October; full details can be found in the paper.

Wellbeing for Education Return

In late August the Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social care wrote to local authorities outlining funding for the Wellbeing for Education Return project namely funding and resources to train and support education settings in response to the wellbeing and mental health needs of pupils and students.

Kent County Council are working with The Education People as well as local partners and providers to ensure that this programme of training is delivered to all state funded schools and colleges during this autumn term. Schools and Colleges will be notified through various networks when the training sessions are set up. They will be able to book places for nominated staff in their educational setting who will then cascade the messages. We are planning for the training to commence this October giving schools time to understand more about the project and its intended outcomes. Click here for further information about the project

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8m-programme-to-boost-pupil-and-teacher-wellbeing>

Holding Governing Board Meetings and Governors/Trustees visiting schools

Following the government announcing that the number of people allowed to meet socially is being reduced from 30 to six in England, amid a rise in coronavirus cases, we would like to take this opportunity to remind governing boards of the current NGA and Department for Education (DfE) position on governing boards holding face-to-face meetings and governors/trustees visiting schools at this time.

The National Governance Association position is that “**governing boards should continue to meet and govern remotely** in order to support the considerable efforts that schools are making to maintain effective control measures and remain open amid the rise in daily cases and confirmed local outbreaks. Whilst acknowledging that the eight elements of effective governance do require some face-to-face interaction, we believe that the safety considerations must take priority at this challenging time. We also recognise that governing boards and their clerks have, for the most part, transferred to virtual governance, speedily and effectively.”

The DfE advice remains as it was in the July Governance Update. Governing boards (chairs) should speak with the school leaders, and work out a pragmatic solution which

takes into consideration the school's risk assessment, and how the health and safety of any visitors, alongside staff and pupils, will be protected.

Governor Services at The Education People will continue to offer all Governor training via virtual platforms and endorses the NGA's position that boards should continue to meet and govern remotely, ensuring we support our school leaders in maintaining the safety of all school staff and pupils.

Update from GOV.UK – Coronavirus (COVID-19): kits for schools and FE providers

Schools and FE providers should order additional test kits if they have run out or are running out of test kits.

From 16 September, you can [order additional tests kits online](#). Kits will be supplied in boxes of 10. You will be able to make a new order for test kits 21 days after you receive a delivery confirmation email telling you that your previous supply of test kits has been sent.

Schools and FE providers will need a Unique Organisation Number (UON) to place orders for test kits. This will be emailed to you by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) on or before 16 September. After this date, please call the Test and Trace helpdesk on 119 if you have not received your UON.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Adams', with a horizontal line underneath.

David Adams
Interim Director Education
Children, Young People and Education