



VIRTUAL SCHOOL KENT NEWSLETTER

April 2022



National award for Virtual School Kent

KCC's Virtual School Kent (VSK) has become the first virtual school to be awarded the National Nurturing Virtual School Programme Award. The NurtureUK award follows the school's completion of the National Nurturing Schools Programme and recognises the high-quality whole school nurturing approach.

VSK provides co-ordinated educational services to support both children and professionals promoting the progress and educational attainment of children and young people who are or who have been in care so that they achieve educational outcomes comparable to their peers and the foundation for improving their lives.

Achieving the award is an endorsement of the extensive work VSK has undertaken to ensure that the six principals of Nurture are embedded throughout its everyday practice in how young people, partners and staff are supported.

An essential part of this development is how VSK are using the Boxall Profile, an assessment tool for social emotional and behavioural difficulties for children and young people. This has improved the understanding of young people and enhanced their work with schools, social workers and foster carers to create better outcomes for children from early years all the way to those post 16 years.

One parent said: "As an adopted parent you are your child's advocate and parent, but this can be emotional, lonely and difficult to achieve with objectivity. VSK were my advocates and problems solvers in aiding my child to reach their potential within the school environment. There are so many services out there that I did not know about until VSK became involved. Their support and friendly demeanour have been invaluable to my daughter and my own mental well-being."

Nurtureuk noted the dedication and determination of VSK to develop the National Nurturing Virtual Schools Award Programme and ensure the child's voice is at the heart of the service in the award assessment: "VSK is passionate and driven by their unwavering support for their children and Young People. This pilot [National Nurturing Virtual Schools Award Programme](#) (NNVSP), the first for a Virtual School has seen adaptations by the extended Leadership Team and the programme and its framework has evolved through reflective practice, collaboration and sheer determination. This has resulted in an inspiring version of the NNSP programme, the result of which has empowered not just the VSK's pupils and staff but also their stakeholders such as Fostering Services, Kent County Council and Social Care services. The ripple effect of VSK's hard work is tangible across the whole county of Kent and is a testament to their understanding of the power of the 6 Principles of Nurture. This pilot NNVSP was developed during a pandemic with all the extra issues and challenges that this had created and still creates. This is really most impressive and the commitment, creativity and passion involved shine through.

"One of the key factors noted when working with VSK has been the emphasis on relationships. Pupils, parents and carers, outside agencies, and designated teachers all commented on the positive regard, positive approaches and creativity within VSK. VSK work from a strengths-based perspective and have the wellbeing of their pupils, staff and partners at the heart of everything they do, recognising that the nature of their work is often challenging and sometimes in traumatic circumstances. Their desire to inspire, engage and support their pupils, often thinking "out of the box" in a creative way has resulted in successful outcomes, which are tangible and commendable."

Tony Doran, VSK Headteacher said: "Nurture plays a pivotal role in our approach to supporting children in care, previously looked after children and children with a social worker. All our young people and their networks have been through so much, but also significantly impacted during the past two years, and we find living and breathing the principles of nurture, invaluable in creating and fostering positive collaborative relationships. I am so proud of all my team who have embraced the Nurture approach to how we work, as it is them who have enabled us to become the first Virtual School in the country to receive the NNSP (or NNVSP) Award."

Post 16 Team

Supporting Mental Health & Wellbeing Week

13th May—Team Walk

FC & Kent Supporting Hosts: Workshop University Living & Student Finance

In Partnership with HE Outreach Team from Kent Universities

15th June

Post 16 and 18+ Service Awards Ceremony

21st July

If you would like further information please email

16plusvirtualschoolkent@kent.gov.uk.

East Kent Team

Speak to Life

Working with 25th January

Adhara Education - Bennie Kara

Supporting a School with work around Equity and Diversity

East Kent Forum

End of June

Venue and Date TBC

If you would like further information or to book please email EastVSK@kent.gov.uk.

Virtual School Advisory Team

Trauma Aware Sensory Inclusion Training

Dates to be Confirmed

School Based Reviews for Children with a Social Worker – 30 Mins

consultation with KEPS, VSK and School/SW)

19th May 9am to 1 pm

15th June 9am to 1 pm

7th July 1pm to 5 pm

School Based Reviews for Previously Looked After Children – 30 Mins

consultation with KEPS, VSK and School)

23rd May 2pm – 5pm

25th May 9.30am – 12.30pm

4th July 2pm – 5pm

6th July 9.30am – 12.30pm

Adoption Drop Ins – parents only

28th January

24th February

30th March

Please visit our website for all online, free of charge, courses that we offer [Online Training Opportunities:Virtual School Kent \(lea.kent.sch.uk\)](https://www.lea.kent.sch.uk) ABSA Training is currently available, free of charge, via CPD Online at The Education People website. We are recommending this to schools, social workers and Early Help workers currently supporting young people who maybe struggling with attendance.

We will be contacting schools throughout Terms 5 and 6 to arrange Partnership meetings with your Designated Safeguarding Leads to discuss

South Kent Team

Paired reading

Feb - May

Contact Julia.griggs@kent.gov.uk

Launch of partnership with Trauma Informed Schools UK,

website www.traumainformedschools.co.uk

School senior leadership days 8th and 11th

July. for further information please contact

carole.bailey@kent.gov.uk

New to role of designated teacher for 22 - 23
Webinar on Tuesday 5th July 3.45 pm

If you would like further information or make contact with our East Kent Team please email

SouthVSK@kent.gov.uk

Out of County Team

Out of County Foster Carers Coffee Morning

Dates to be confirmed

If you would like further information or make contact with our OOC Team please email

VSKAdmin.brook@kent.gov.uk

West Kent Team

Sensory Integration Training

6th May

Designated Teacher Drop In and Support Session

18th May 2022

Designated Teacher Update and Training

5th July

If you would like further information or make contact with our East Kent Team please email WestVSK@kent.gov.uk

North Kent Team

Count on Us Training

Terms 5 and 6

Dates still to be confirmed

Designated Teacher Drop-In Q & A

On line

18th May

Every Day Magic

Training Foster Carers

17th May

Designated Teacher Training

Face to Face

5th July

Book Club

Term 5 19th May

Term 6 30th June

If you would like further information or to book please email NorthVSK@kent.gov.uk.



Participation and Engagement Team

There are still spaces available on the following activities in the Easter Holidays:

- Activity Box Art in Herne Bay for Adopted Children on Monday 4th April
- Kingswood Activity Day in Ashford for Children in Care on Tuesday 5th April
- Wellbeing Workshop at The Malling School for all on Friday 8th April
- Activity Box Art in Herne Bay for Children in Care on Tuesday 12th April

Young People's Council Groups

These groups will be meeting and doing roller skating after the meetings:

- East Kent Super Council & OCYPC on Thursday 7th April
- The Adoptables on Thursday 7th April
- Children WHO Care on Tuesday 12th April
- West Kent Super Council & OCYPC on Thursday 14th April

Preschool Groups for Adoptive Parents

Whitstable — 1st Wednesday of every month

Tunbridge Wells — 1st Thursday of every month

If you would like more information about our activities or council groups for Children in Care and the Sons & Daughters of Foster Carers, please email: VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk

Alternatively, if you would like more information for activities and the Adoptables group for previously looked after children or the Pre-school Group, please email: VSK_AdoptionParticipation@kent.gov.uk

Finally, please be aware that we are seeking expressions of interest for an apprentice at Brook House so please share with professionals and any older young people that you work with. Please get in touch with us for more details.

If you would like further information or make contact with our P & E please email VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk
VSKAdmin.brook@kent.gov.uk

VSK CONFERENCE

Hold the date: 14th October at Kent County Show Ground Detling