



To: All Headteachers

**Children, Young People and
Education Directorate**

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Dear Colleague,

If this year hasn't been strange enough, we find ourselves at work on the first Monday in May, as we'll now celebrate VE day this coming Friday. Not that bank holidays appear to count for much in respect of schools currently, with many of you continuing your efforts to maintain provision for learners who require it, even on days when you'd normally be taking a well earned break. As we wait for further updates from Government regarding possible relaxation of the lockdown, I have a number of other issues to highlight to you.

In recent weeks there have been incidents where, in response to a suspected COVID case, schools have tried to contact PHE for advice and unfortunately inaccurate advice has been given. On these occasions we think that advice has come from the national helpline. Therefore, this is simply a reminder that schools should always contact the local PHE service using the following contact details:

Kent Health Protection Team
Telephone: 0344 225 3861 (option 0 then option 1)
Out of hours advice: 0844 967 0085

Whilst on the subject of telephone support, in response to Covid-19 and with the support of the Home Office and Department for Education, Operation Encompass has launched a Teachers National Helpline. After a School's Key Adult receives an Operation Encompass call/notification the Helpline is available to offer free advice/consultation with a Child/Clinical Psychologist. The Helpline is available Mon-Fri 8-11am. Just call 0845 646 0890.

We are aware that there are a small number of schools who have yet to sign up to Operation Encompass. The Area Education Officers will send out the sign-up details to those school this week.

You will be aware of the updated guidance from Government concerning supporting vulnerable learners and in response to this, work has been ongoing to make sure risk assessments for vulnerable learners are

undertaken to ensure those, for whom it would be more appropriate to attend school, can access a place.

Last week KAH circulated a risk assessment template that had been produced by KCC and The Education People to meet the requirements of prevailing government guidance. This was produced with input from the Special Education Needs Service, Disabled Children and Young People Service, AEO's and the Education Safeguarding Service. I understand many school's will have already been proactive in carrying out their own risk assessments, but I feel this will add some consistency to the process across the county.

We have recently made some minor amendments to the template and the revised version be found here:

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/word_doc/0016/108313/EHCP-Risk-Assessment.docx

An informative newsletter has a been produced by Sally Green, Kent & Medway's Prevent Education Officer, to remind schools of some of the risks to Children and Young People that can arise from the COVID crisis. The document has been posted onto the KELSI Coronavirus page and can be accessed via the following link;

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0015/108312/Prevent-Education-Officer-May-2020-Newsletter.pdf

Due to the shortage in some areas of accessible early years provision, we are aware that a small number of schools have been asked to admit pre-school aged pupils in response to the COVID 19 crisis. To support schools who are admitting underaged pupils, colleagues in TEP have produced some helpful guidance which can be accessed here:



Schools taking
Preschool Children :

Finally, Turner Contemporary have been reviewing their approach and thinking about how they can respond as an arts organisation to the Covid-19 pandemic. The organisation is instigating new initiatives to empower the community to be creative. There are new YouTube Art Rebel Workshops for families at home delivered by artists, you can download unique resources directly from their website and join hundreds of others by taking part in a Portfolio Art Competition. There is also a list of inspirational creative resources from around the internet. All of this and more can be accessed here: <https://turnercontemporary.org/learn-and-engage-with-us-during-covid-19/>.

As always, I thank you for your continued efforts.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Dunkley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'M' and a long, horizontal tail on the 'y'.

Matt Dunkley CBE
Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education