



To: All Headteachers

**Children, Young People and
Education Directorate**

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Date: 26th November 2020

Dear Colleague

Just a short update from me this week following the Government announcement that Kent and Medway will move into tier three when the national lockdown ends next Wednesday. I know how hard you and your teams are working to keep open for your children and young people and the toll that this is taking, particularly for those of you in areas with high infection rates and at a time of the year when energy levels flag on the run up to the end of term. Thank you for all you are doing.

Tier 3 guidance:

Although there is no specific tier 3 education guidance that has been published so far, the general restrictions for tier 3 are likely to have an impact on those schools that had been hoping to host live Christmas and nativity performances. Under tier three, schools should not host performances with an audience. You may wish to consider alternatives such as live streaming or recording performances subject to the usual safeguarding considerations and parental permission. If schools are planning to livestream or record Christmas festivities and plays etc, advice can be sought from the Education Safeguarding Service.

Additionally, you may find the following published general guidance helpful:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/safe-remote-learning/online-performances/>
<https://safefblog.lgfl.net/2020/11/what-goes-on-in-nativity-stays-in-nativity/>

The general tier three guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know#very-high-alert>



Inclusion in Kent Schools – Feedback

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all participants for giving their time and input into the inclusive education discussion that took place last term. This is such an important and valuable piece of work on our journey to further improve the outcomes and life chances for the children and young people of Kent.

It is clear, through the responses, that there is a high level of support for the vision, priorities and key activities but that this is tempered by a lack of belief that there will be the funding, resources and commitment from all parties to deliver on these. As such, we are moving forward to co-produce a 'A Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education' (CAIE) delivery plan, which, with your support, will focus on how we take those key values through to implemented action and how we ensure measurable impact.

The feedback from these discussions is embedded below and can be found on Kelsi at:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/news/primary/inclusion-in-kent-schools-feedback>

The feedback includes, the immediate actions we will be now taking, the longer term plans and includes guidance on how you can get involved in shaping specific areas of this work or sharing good practice for roll out. The expression of interest form is included in the documentation. For ease the direct link is:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DaJTMjXH_kuotz5qs39fkPDv4-hste1HsSI_XW3Q1a9UNVkJ1WFJEN0s3Tk9PWE1aVzJYSDJMWFMxMi4u

Documents:


Inclusion in our
Schools - Discussion f


Appendix 1 - Survey
feedback 031120.pdf


Appendix 2 - Kent
Inclusion statement 1:


Appendix 3 - A
countywide approach t

Essential Update re Attendance Information for Kent Children in Care

For those schools with Kent Children in Care, I and colleagues in VSK would like to express thanks to you all for the support we have received from Attendance Officers and Schools since the introduction of the VSK Attendance Monitoring System at the start of this academic year.

We are pleased to announce that nearly 90% of schools are routinely returning the statutory data to us each week, which is excellent and reflects well on all the work we do together in re-integrating our children and young people.



Please find a link to further information from VSK which will also be sent direct to your designated leads:

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/115743/Attendance-Information-for-Kent-Children-in-Care.pdf

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Matt Dunkley', is positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely,'.

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