



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

County Hall
Sessions House
Maidstone
ME14 1XQ

Phone: 03000 414989
Ask for: David Adams
Email:
David.adams@kent.gov.uk
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Dear Colleague

I hope the half term break has afforded you a well-earned break in preparation for what proves to be another unusual term. The Prime Minister's confirmation this evening that all schools will begin readmitting pupils from 8th March is of little surprise. We will be looking at the guidance and providing more detail in my next letter.

Kent Children's Portal update

Many thanks for your patience and support over the past 2 weeks during which we have faced some challenges with our IT systems. Whilst most of these are now resolved, the children's portal is still not available for use whilst further work is undertaken to ensure its ongoing stability.

You are still able to refer for support at levels 3 and 4 by accessing the Kelsi and KSCMP sites where you will be directed to an alternative version of the request for support form via the portal holding page. This form can be uploaded using the firmstep tool link which you will find at the end of the form. We hope that the portal will be available for use by mid-March and will advise you when it comes back online.

Attendance of CIN and CP

We have contacted your attendance officers or central offices today regarding CIN and CP attendance data. We are keen to understand the extent to which children and young people open to us on Child in Need and Child Protection plans are being seen regularly in school. Please could you respond to these with data from this week.

COVID risk assessment – Pregnant Staff

You requested that we update the risk assessment for staff that are pregnant. Schools' Personnel Service have completed this and the updated version can be found on the Coronavirus section on Kelsi, and our usual health and safety pages:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/policies-and-guidance/health-and-safety-guidance/health-safety-and-welfare-assessments>

Supporting from the Kent Resilience Hub

As we move towards the reopening of schools, HeadStart Kent would like to share with you what the Kent Resilience Hub can offer to support you, your students, and their families at this time. You are invited to attend a **30-minute webinar** to familiarise yourself with key resources freely available to you on both its website and on MoodSpark, a site co-produced for young people in Kent, by young people in Kent to enable your students to navigate their way to support needed to build their resilience and support their own emotional wellbeing.

The webinar will share resources covering themes such as implementing a whole school approach to wellbeing, using tools with students to have resilience conversations, and grants available to support them. You will also have the opportunity to explore the COVID-19 return to school pages and associated resources through free Google Drives. These have been developed by mental health professionals, the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service and Educational Psychologists within Kent and will provide you with information, resources, and support services for both primary and secondary aged students, with a particular focus on students with SEND, those who are vulnerable, highly anxious and those who have experienced loss and bereavement. We will also share with you what the Kent Resilience Hub has to offer to support staff wellbeing, and the resources available to share with parents and carers to support their own wellbeing and that of their children.

To register for this webinar, please click [here](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the event.

SEND Actions

Whilst my letters are focused on COVID response, activity towards progressing our wider SEND agenda continues. Moving forward, a separate communication for the SEND agenda will be coming out to you, however in the meantime I would be grateful if you could note the following activity:

Nurture Approach Survey

We are currently exploring an opportunity to commission a programme of training for schools in adopting whole-school approaches to Nurture in mainstream schools. This is an exciting opportunity with the potential to establish a countywide offer that can

complement the wider multi-agency work around emotional wellbeing and resilience in schools. We would really like your help to inform the approach please.

We are conscious that there is much experience and expertise in Kent around supporting children, young people and schools with emotional wellbeing and resilience, and we want to make sure that any potential service adds value to schools, is attainable, and most importantly is sustainable.

We have put together two short surveys - one for school staff, and one for partners and practitioners - to seek your views about this opportunity and how we could best ensure that it works well in schools and complements the wider delivery in this area. We would be grateful if you could complete the survey and share it with any teams and colleagues who support schools. The survey will remain open until the **3rd March**. Contact details are included within the survey for anyone who would like to get in touch to share their experiences in more detail.

School Survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DaJTMjXH_kuotz5qs39fkB_xvr9hGARBiNSL7u-FF0VUNzlaMkFYnk1MSjc3RzdJNEhIMjRONzdGRS4u.

External providers/practitioners survey:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DaJTMjXH_kuotz5qs39fkB_xvr9hGARBiNSL7u-FF0VUNE03Q1VMNERCMU5OWDq3Uk5UR1REQkdMTC4u

Mainstream Core Standards Training

The second round of free Mainstream Core Standards training is available to book online. This roll out of awareness training is part of our action to support the inclusion of SEND across the county. 160 schools attended the first round. It is hoped that all schools will avail themselves of the opportunity to send at least one representative. This is a repeat of the training in the first round, however, following feedback we have made it bespoke to the audience. Schools who attended the first round are, therefore, welcome to book on to these courses also or send other staff members. There are 2 times to chose from for each group:

Providing a Context for the Mainstream Core Standards (MCS) for Headteachers	SCH 21/562	24/02/2021- 09:00-10:30	Zoom course
Providing a Context for the Mainstream Core Standards (MCS) for Headteachers	SCH 21/563	24/02/2021- 16:00-17:30	Zoom course
Providing a Context for the Mainstream Core Standards (MCS) for SENCOs	SCH 21/564	03/03/2021- 08:00-09:30	Zoom course
Providing a Context for the Mainstream Core Standards (MCS) for SENCOs	SCH 21/565	03/03/2021- 16:00-17:30	Zoom course
Providing a Context for the Mainstream	SCH 21/566	17/03/2021- 08:00-09:30	Zoom course

Core Standards (MCS) for Wider School Staff			
Providing a Context for the Mainstream Core Standards (MCS) for Wider School Staff	SCH 21/567	17/03/2021- 16:00-17:30	Zoom course

SENCO – SEND Updates

A reminder that the termly SEND Updates for SENCO's resumed last October. This is a free update session for all SENCOs. This terms dates and times are:

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Updates	SCH 21/458	25/03/2021 08:00-09:00	Zoom course
Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Updates	SCH 21/447	25/03/2021 16:15-17:15	Zoom course

Yours sincerely



David Adams
Interim Director of Education