



To All Headteachers

Children, Young People and Education

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Dear Colleagues

A Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education.

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

- Children and young people with SEND in Kent feel healthy, 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. As part of this work and following on from our previous discussions, I am pleased to announce the launch of the Countywide Approach to Inclusive Education (CATIE) consultation. The CATIE focuses specifically on strategies to support inclusive practices within our education settings, as part of the wider SEND strategy.

I am keen to invite discussion and comment on the CATIE. Many of the individual activities have already had significant feedback through the development stages. Any additional comments on these are welcome however, I am keen to understand how effective the combination of the activities is in meeting the intended aims.

I would like to encourage debate through as many existing forums as possible including Early Years and School network meetings, KAH meetings, IYFA panels and Inclusion Steering Groups. If you would like a KCC Officer to attend to talk through the proposals with your group, please email: sendstrategy@kent.gov.uk

Feedback can be given through the online form [CATIE online feedback form](#) or by completing the questions set out in the guidance document and emailing: sendstrategy@kent.gov.uk

The consultation will close on the 30th April. Full details and documentation can be found at:

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/countywide-approach-to-inclusive-education-consultation>

And the direct links for the documents are:

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/119470/Countywide-Approach-to-Inclusive-Education.pdf

https://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/119471/Countywide-Approach-to-Inclusive-Education-consultation-guidance.pdf

Positive results and confirmatory PCR

As per current testing policy in England, for tests done in Asymptomatic testing sites, including at school, do not require a confirmatory test following a positive LFD result. In this situation, a positive LFD result triggers legal duty to self-isolate.

For staff and students who do their LFD test in school and return a positive LFD result, they and everyone in their household must self-isolate immediately for 10 days. The 10 days begin the day after their test date.

Now most students are moving to home testing, it is helpful to remind schools of the guidance in relation to this. For self-test at home test results a confirmatory PCR continues to be required. In the event of a positive home test:

- Staff/students must not return to school.
- They must use the PCR kit provided or go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test to book/ order PCR test immediately after receiving a positive LFD result
- **They and their household and close contacts should self-isolate immediately.** They can leave their home for the follow-up test.
- If the follow-up test is negative, the staff/ student and their household/ close contacts can stop self-isolating.
- If the follow-up test is positive, the staff/ student and their household/ close contacts will need to self-isolate for 10 days from the time of the positive test.

Further details can be found on the google drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fvleBOc5ijlXA3rTxscLYggxodDhkWGI>

Retesting following a positive test

Anyone who has had a positive PCR test should not be undertaking the twice weekly testing for 90 days after the positive test unless they have new COVID symptoms. This is because fragments of inactive virus can be persistently detected by PCR in respiratory

tract samples following infection – long after a person has completed their isolation period and is no longer infectious.

Education settings status form

The DFE collect data through the daily Education Settings Status form to help monitor the impact of COVID-19 and focus support more effectively and keep children safe. The forms need to be completed, even if the school is closed. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-complete-the-educational-setting-status-form>

Only 66% of schools in Kent are currently returning this form. Please can I remind schools of the importance of returning this form regularly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine McInnes".

Christine McInnes
Director of Education