



# Handbook

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**2024-25**

# Our Schools

## PSCN - Profound, Severe & Complex Needs



Aspen 2 @ Dover Christ Church Academy



The Beacon, Folkestone



Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone



Foreland Fields School, Ramsgate



Ifield School, Gravesend



Meadowfield School, Sittingbourne



Milestone Academy, New Ash Green



Nexus Foundation Special School, Tonbridge



Oakley School, Tunbridge Wells



St Nicholas School, Canterbury



Whitfield Aspen School, Dover



The Wyvern School, Ashford

## SEMH - Social, Emotional & Mental Health



Bower Grove School,  
Maidstone



The Elms School,  
Dover



Goldwyn School,  
Ashford



The Orchard School,  
Canterbury



**Portal House  
School**

Portal House School  
Dover



Rowhill School,  
Longfield



**St Anthony's  
SCHOOL** ● ● ●

St Anthony's School,  
Margate

## PD - Physical Disability



Valence School,  
Westerham

## C&I - Communication & Interaction



Aspire School,  
Sittingbourne



Broomhill Bank  
School, Tunbridge  
Wells



Grange Park School,  
Wrotham



Laleham Gap  
School, Ramsgate



Snowfields  
Academy, Maidstone



Stone Bay School,  
Broadstairs

Our schools are categorised by dimension, or need-type. The dimensions include:

- **C&I – Communication & Interaction Schools.** These are primarily for children and young people with ASD.
- **PSCN – Profound, Severe & Complex Need Schools.** These are for children and young people with need types ranging from profound to moderate.
- **PD – Physical Disability Schools.** These are for children and young people with physical difficulties and complex needs.
- **SEMH – Social, Emotional & Mental Health Schools.** These are for children and young people with learning disabilities as a result of long-term emotional and social difficulties.

We are made up of 26 Special Schools across all of the districts in Kent. Schools join us as Members or Partners.

#### Member Schools:

- Are foundation schools which are funded by the Local Authority but run by their own governing body. The Trust legally holds the land and buildings on behalf of the governing body
- Pay £25 per pupil (based on Jan roll figures) annual subscription

#### Partner Schools:

- Can be different types of school; fundamentally they are affiliated with KsENT but legally belong to another Trust
- Pay £15 per pupil (based on Jan roll figures) annual subscription
- Sign a Partner School Agreement annually

**Member Schools:** The Beacon, Bower Grove School, Broomhill Bank School, Elms School, Five Acre Wood School, Foreland Fields School, Goldwyn School, Grange Park School, Ifield School, Laleham Gap School, Meadowfield School, Nexus Foundation Special School, The Orchard School, Rowhill School, St Anthony's School, Stone Bay School, Valence School

**Partner Schools:** Aspen 2 (Dover Christ Church Academy), Aspire School, Milestone Academy, Oakley School, Portal House School, St Nicholas School, Snowfields Academy, The Wyvern School & Whitfield Aspen School (Aspen 1)

# What is KsENT?

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KsENT stands for Kent Special Education Needs Trust. It is a Cooperative Foundation Trust of 26 schools across Kent with the aim of improving opportunities for children and young people with SEND. As of June 2025, all of our member schools have been graded either “Good” or “Outstanding” following their most recent Ofsted inspection.



*A map of our schools across the county.*

KsENT originally consisted of KASS (Kent Association of Special Schools) and CLASS (Collaborative Learning Alliance of Special Schools). These merged in September 2017 to become the Kent Special Education Needs Trust; a legal entity with a formal commitment to work together to:

- Benefit children and young people with SEND across our schools
- Retain our autonomy as maintained schools in opposition to the Academisation agenda
- Serve as a central driver of SEND provision across Kent

# Who's Who in KsENT?

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## Co-Chairs -

*Lead the Trust Board and Executive in strategic direction of the Trust and governance.*



**Kerry Greene,**  
Principal of Goldwyn School,  
Ashford

**Maddie Arnold-Jones,**  
Headteacher at Ifield School,  
Gravesend



## Coordinator - Camilla Etheridge

*Oversees the day to day operations of the Trust.*

## Administrator - Rebecca Cluett

*Administers the Leadership Forum, Tier 2 training, ITT group, and Networking & Moderation groups.*



# The Co-operative Movement

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The Co-operative Movement began in Britain and France in the 19th century to address inequalities caused by the Industrial Revolution which threatened worker's livelihoods. Fast forward to today and the Movement has developed into a formalised Co-operative Model of seven principles that has benefited the lives of millions of people globally.

The seven principles of the Cooperative Model are:

1. A co-op is owned and controlled by its members
2. A co-op is democratic – every member has an equal say in how it's run
3. Every member contributes financially in some way
4. A co-op is an independent organisation, owned and controlled by its members
5. It offers education and training to everyone involved, so they can develop the co-op and promote the benefits of co-operation
6. It co-operates, works with and support other co-ops
7. A co-op supports the communities it works with

Source: <https://www.uk.coop/understanding-co-ops/what-co-op/co-op-values-and-principles>



# Co-operative Foundation Trusts

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KsENT is a Co-operative Foundation Trust. There are two aspects to this; the 'foundation' aspect and the 'co-operative' aspect.

A Foundation Trust is defined by the following traits:

- It is made up of foundation (i.e. local authority maintained) schools
- This means that although the school is funded by the local authority, its governing body employs staff and is responsible for setting the school's admissions policy
- The foundation schools are supported by a charitable foundation (Trust) which consists of a number of partners
- The Trust holds the land and buildings for the school on behalf of its governing body

A Co-operative Foundation Trust is a type of Foundation Trust which includes the Schools Co-operative Society as a member as well as its other partners. It also includes a stakeholder forum which involves parents, pupils, staff and other stakeholders so they can be involved in the Trust and have a say in how it is run.

# Trust Structure

As a Cooperative Foundation Trust, we operate on a democratic basis so all of our decisions are voted on by our Trustees; there is no one person “in charge”! Our Trustees are made up of the Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of our schools as well as representatives from our Partners. We also have an Executive which steers the direction of the Trust but ultimately answers to the Trust Board. This is made up of 10 members including Headteachers, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Trust and a representative from the Leadership Forum.

Group	Members
Trust Board	Trustees; Headteachers and Chairs of Governors of our schools and a representative from the Coop Schools Trust
Executive	Select Headteachers, Chair & Vice-Chair of the Trust, Leadership Forum lead(s)
Governor’s Forum	Governors of all KsENT schools
Strategic Forum	Headteachers
Dimension Groups	Headteachers from the same dimension or need-type
Leadership Forum	Senior Leadership
Networking Groups	Subject lead teachers
School Business Manager’s Group	School Business Managers and HR staff (includes HR sub-group)

Group	Purpose
Trust Board	Independent control over, and legal responsibility for, the Trust's management and administration.
Executive	Steering group for Trust Board.
Governor's Forum	Networking & support.
Strategic Forum	Steering group for the Executive.
Dimension Groups	Networking & support.
Leadership Forum	Networking & support.
Networking Groups	Moderation & networking.
School Business Manager's Group	Networking & support.

### **What You Can Expect From Your Trust:**

- Strategic guidance – clear objectives that the Trust is working towards
- CPD – opportunities to develop your skills and experience
- Administrative and Governance support – from the KsENT Admin Team

### **What We Can Expect From Our Members & Partners:**

- Understanding of the Trust – what a Cooperative Trust is and what we stand for
- Engagement – Attendance and input at meetings
- Embracing Cooperative Values – working collaboratively with other KsENT schools

# Trust Vision

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Embracing Kent's diverse educational landscape, our collaborative vision is dedicated to fostering inclusive values. We strive to support the strategic advancement of special education, promoting innovation for lifelong impact. Through strong partnerships, we ensure inclusive educational journeys, empowering children and young people to thrive and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

KsENT is a Cooperative Foundation Trust of Special Schools in Kent. As a Cooperative Trust we embrace the values of the Cooperative movement; self-help, self-responsibility, equality, equity, democracy, solidarity and supporting community. KsENT works in partnership with a range of partners within Kent.



# Trust Offer

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- A strong voice – we are the largest group of Special Schools in Kent which gives us a strong platform to work collaboratively with the local authority and other key partners to deliver the best provision for our children and young people with SEND in Kent.
- Support network & sharing best practice – we have a range of Forums and groups which provide support and CPD opportunities for our stakeholders.
- Pooling resources – we offer opportunities for schools who opt in to pool resources and enjoy discounts on services which can benefit their provision.

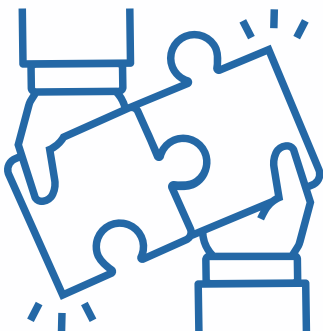


# KsENT Support: Leadership Forum & Networking Groups

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Our Leadership Forum is made up of Senior Leadership staff across all of our schools. They meet termly to share updates on their schools and good practice. The group splits into dimension groups for further discussion and problem-solving opportunities. The Leadership Forum also work collaboratively to offer Tier 2 training at no cost to Trust members and partners.

Our Networking & Moderation groups cover the full range of subjects and allow our subject specialists and leads to come together to work collaboratively and build on the excellent quality of teaching which our pupils receive. Below is a full list of groups and their leads.



Group	Group Lead & School	Email Address
English	Joe Sumner, Bower Grove	jsumner@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk
Maths	Andy Croft, Snowfields Academy	andrew.croft@snowfieldsacademy.org.uk
Science	Tracey Sheehan, Goldwyn School & Janine Hart, Bower Grove School	tracey.sheehan@goldwyn.kent.sch.uk; jhart@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk
Art, Design & Technology	Pete Rowe, Bower Grove School & George Taylor, Meadowfield School	prowe@bower-grove.kent.sch.uk; george.taylor@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk
Behaviour	Ana Job, The Beacon	ana.job@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk
Computing	Kirsty McIntosh, Valence School	kmcintosh@valence.kent.sch.uk
EYFS	Rebecca Fagg & Catherine Arnott, The Wyvern School	rfagg@wyvern.kent.sch.uk; carnott@wyvern.kent.sch.uk
14 - 19	Jaime Cronk, Five Acre Wood School	jcronk@five-acre.kent.sch.uk
Humanities	Alison Harley, The Beacon	alison.harley@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk
PE	Ian Harman, Meadowfield School	ian.harman@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk
Performing Arts	Hannah Stevens, Ifield School	hstevens@ifield.kent.sch.uk
PMLD	Donna Wickens, The Beacon	donna.wickens@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk
PSHE	Jessica Street, Milestone Academy	jessica.street@milestoneacademy.org.uk



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[www.ksent.org](http://www.ksent.org)