

PINS FAQs

Frequently asked questions for parents and families about the Kent PINS project.

What is PINS?

PINS stands for 'Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools'.

It is a project that helps schools to improve the experience of children who are neurodivergent so that they feel welcomed, supported and able to take part in all aspects of school life.

PINS is a national initiative led by the Department for Education and NHS England.

In Kent, 20 primary schools in Maidstone are taking part in the project.

How will PINS help my child?

PINS will help your child by improving their school environment and helping schools adapt the way they do things to meet your child's needs (which could include mental health, speech and language and physical and sensory) to help them learn and take part in all aspects of school life.

PINS will help all pupils in school – children don't need a formal diagnosis to benefit from this project.

How will PINS help parents?

PINS will help parents to build strong relationships and improve communication with their child's school so that they can have more confidence in how the school is supporting their child's needs.

Parents' views and experiences are a vital part of this project. Kent PACT (Parents and Carers Together – the local parent/carer forum) will hold forums like coffee mornings and other events for parents so that they can share their feedback, knowledge and ideas with other parents and their child's school.

By working together, parents/carers and schools can support each other to give children the best experiences of school.

What schools in Kent are taking part in the project?

20 schools in Maidstone are taking part in the Kent PINS project. They are:

Archbishop Courtenay Primary School, Boughton Monchelsea Primary School, Coxheath Primary School, East Farleigh Primary School, Greenfields Community Primary School, Jubilee Primary School, Langley Park Primary Academy, Leeds and Broomfield Primary School, Lenham Primary School, Madginford Primary School, North Borough Junior School, Park Way Primary School, Platts Heath Primary School, Senacre Wood Primary School, St. Paul's Infants School, The Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Tiger Primary School, Ulcombe Primary School, Valley Invicta Eastborough Primary School and West Borough Primary School.

There are also 20 schools in Medway that are taking part in the project.

What does neurodivergent mean?

A neurodivergent person's brain processes, learns, and/or behaves differently from what is considered "typical" (referred to as neurotypical) by society.



What does neurodiversity mean?

'Neurodiversity' means that humans are all different in how we think, feel, and learn. That's because all our brains process information in different ways.

If a group of people includes neurodivergent and neurotypical people, or different types of neurodivergent people, that group could be called 'neurodiverse'. So, a mainstream primary school would teach pupils who are neurodiverse.



My child is neurotypical - how will PINS affect them?

All children in the schools taking part in the PINS project will benefit from a better school environment and from more knowledgeable staff who can adapt their teaching styles to the differing needs of children.

It's important in a school community, and society in general, for everyone to understand neurodiversity, how it affects the people around us and how we can support them. Therefore, we would encourage you to engage with PINS whether your child is neurodivergent or neurotypical.

How will PINS benefit schools?

The schools that are taking part in the Kent PINS project will have access to education and health specialists and Kent PACT, the local parent carer forum, to help all school staff better understand the needs of neurodivergent children and create a school environment where all children can thrive. Parents and schools will have stronger relationships and better communication with each other.

Has this been tried anywhere before?

PINS is a national project led by the Department for Education and NHS England which started in early 2024. Around 600 primary schools across England are taking part. The project will finish in March 2025.

What happens after the PINS project has ended?

When PINS has ended, feedback from children, parents, schools and the professional teams working with them will be evaluated at both a national and local level. What we learn from the evaluation will give us an in-depth picture of what has worked well and what extra things we can do to create a better experience for children and their families.

We hope that all of the knowledge gained from the project can create a network of support within our school communities, where parents feel included and all children's needs are supported and understood.

A school that works for neurodivergent children will ultimately benefit every child.

Who do I contact for more information about the PINS project?

You can speak to your child's school, who will be happy to talk to you in more detail about the project.

You can also contact Kent PACT. They will be holding coffee mornings and other events during the project that you can attend to find out more about the project, as well as talk with other parents.

We will also provide updates in the SEND parent newsletter. To subscribe to the newsletter visit kent.gov.uk/sendnewsletter.

