



Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 6 Leavers' Service at Rochester Cathedral



Our wonderful Year 6 children recently celebrated their time at Cliffe Woods with a very special service at Rochester Cathedral, joining all the other Year 6s from across our Trust Schools. The ceremony was a moving occasion filled with prayers, poems, songs, and cherished memories, marking the end of their primary school journey and the exciting adventures that lie ahead. Each school also produced a unique puzzle piece to show how the children belong to both their individual school and our wider Aletheia Trust family, reminding everyone that we are all part of something bigger, together.

We wish our fabulous Year 6 pupils all the very best as they move on to their new schools. We know that they will carry their memories of our wonderful school with them, and move on to great things in their new schools.

Summer Reading Challenges at Medway Libraries



We are encouraging our children to take part in the [free Summer Reading Challenges](#), available through Medway libraries. There are challenges available for all age groups, it is free to take part and they run until Saturday the 13th of September. The children's Summer Reading Challenge is to read 6 library books before Saturday 13th September, and for every book children read they will win a prize, including stickers, bookmarks, and badges. The final prize is a certificate and special medal!

This year the theme is Story Garden, which will explore the connection between storytelling and nature.

Why take part?

The Summer Reading Challenges for children and teens help young people retain their literacy skills over the summer holidays, spend time away from screens, and encourage reading for pleasure. Reading for pleasure increases wellbeing, creativity, and empathy in all ages and is the single most important indicator of a child's future success. Research consistently shows that children who read (independently, or with an adult or older sibling) not only excel academically but also cultivate stronger family bonds, are more creative, and have improved emotional wellbeing.

If your child completes the challenge, we would love them to share their success by bringing their certificate and medal into school to show their class.



Safeguarding

There have been some important changes to the Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance, released in July 2025. Please read the attached document to familiarise yourselves with these changes.



School Street

Following a recent statutory consultation, Medway Council will be implementing six new School Streets across Medway to ensure streets outside schools are healthy and safe for children, and it has been confirmed that a school street will be implemented at Cliffe Woods Primary School

Implementation plan

This school street will be implemented in the new academic year (2025/2026 school year). This will mean that over the summer period, crews will be on site to install cameras and prepare each location.

Some members of the community, including staff members can apply for an exemption that will allow them to drive and park within a School Street location during operating times. Information about this has been included in the attached FAQ documents.

Details of this are also on the Local Authority's website.

[Check to see eligibility for an exemption and how to apply here.](#)

Location of the school Street:

Cliffe Woods Primary School, Cliffe Woods Pre-School and the City of Rochester School, Cliffe Woods

- Street: View Road
- Operational times: 8am to 9.15am, and 3pm to 4pm
- [View the School Street Plan.](#)

What happens next

Over the coming months the Local Authority will be working closely with schools, residents, local businesses and other key stakeholders as they progress towards go-live dates.

Installation work will start over the summer, including camera installation and signage at each location. However, go-live dates are still to be determined and depending on the complexity of the works. In the coming weeks letters will be sent out to residents to ensure everyone who is eligible has their exemption processed before each scheme becomes operational. In addition to this, attached is an FAQs document that we have been asked to share with our school community about the programme.

We have been asked to encourage our families, parents and carers to complete the Local Authority's monitoring survey by 28 September 2025. This survey will be run again in 12 months' time so they can understand any changes to how people are traveling to school

<https://jwa7noi0vwy.typeform.com/traveltoschool>

Further information

If anyone has any questions about the exemption process, please contact the project team via permits@medway.gov.uk.

Further information can also be found on the programme website:

[School Streets Scheme | Medway Council](#)



Staffing

We would like to thank Miss Ward for her dedication and hard work leading EYFS over the past two years. She has given our youngest children such a wonderful start to their school journey, and we are so grateful for her care and commitment. We wish her many congratulations on her forthcoming marriage and every success in her new role with the Local Authority.

We would also like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome Mr Bernard, our new Headteacher, to Cliffe Woods and our wonderful community. We hope you will join us in wishing him every success and happiness as he takes our school forward into its next exciting chapter. We know he will be made to feel as supported and valued as I have been over the years.

Sport

We usually share our sporting success in a separate letter, but we are incredibly proud to share that Cliffe Woods has emerged as the overall winner in the Trust's sports competition! With outstanding performances across all sports—including top scores in Netball, Rugby, and Athletics—Cliffe Woods earned an impressive total of 71 points, the highest among all participating schools. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the students' dedication, teamwork, and passion for sport. Congratulations to all involved, and a big thank you to Mrs Watson and Mrs Weir for leading on this—you have truly made us proud! 🏆🎉



Finally

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our children, parents and the wider community for your unwavering commitment and support. Your dedication, encouragement and partnership make Cliffe Woods the special place it is, where children can flourish, grow and create memories that last a lifetime.

On a personal note, as I prepare to retire, I want to express my deepest gratitude for making my years here such truly happy ones. Cliffe Woods has been a huge part of my life for over 30 years—first as a parent, then as a governor, a newly qualified teacher, and now as Head of School. It has been an absolute privilege to watch so many children learn, thrive and move on to bright futures, supported by such a caring and dedicated community.

Although my official role is coming to an end, my connection to Cliffe Woods certainly is not. I look forward to staying in touch and visiting whenever I can, as I begin this new chapter in my life. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the memories, the support and the friendship over the years—I will always be proud to be part of the Cliffe Woods family.

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Connolly
Head of School

Dates for the Diary

Please take a careful look at the following dates, all of which can be found on the Events Calendar on the school website, and make a note of any that may affect your child.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday 23 rd July	Year 6 Leavers Assembly - 10.00am Last Day of Term - Finish 2.00pm
Wednesday 3 rd September	First Day of Term
Friday 12 th September	PTA AGM -9.00am
Monday 15 th September	EYFS Parent Lunch - 11.30am
Tuesday 16 th September	Medway Test
Wednesday 17 th September	Medway Test
Tuesday 23 rd September	Parent Drop In - 3.30pm

Have Your Say Meetings:

Monday 3rd November at 9.00am

Tuesday 3rd February at 2.30pm

Friday 24th April at 9.00am

Wednesday 17th June at 2.30pm



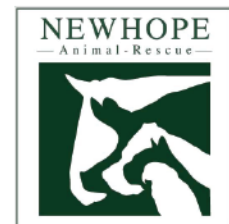
Calenders for sale!

Pre-order a calendar today and help your school for tommorow!

Enjoy monthly photos of gorgeous pets from around Aletheia Academies Trust whilst keeping up to date with some of the upcoming dates across the next academic year! This will also be supporting your child's school and additionally donating to a worthy cause of New Hope Animal Rescue.

40%
goes back to your school

30%
donated to Charity



The top 3 schools who manage to raise the most amount of money, will help us present the cheque to New Hope Animal Rescue!

Only £5.50!

Pre-order by Thursday 14th August

via your child's Arbor account

New RSHE guidance: Parent and Carer Update

July 2025



The UK government's updated Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance, released in July 2025, introduces several important changes that parents and carers should be aware of.

This update will provide you with a clear summary of what you need to know.

Why the Guidance Was Updated

Rising concerns: Children are increasingly exposed to harmful online content, including misogyny, toxic influencers, and inappropriate material.

Early exposure: Research shows that the average age of exposure to pornography is now 13, and many children as young as 7–10 have seen inappropriate images.

Safeguarding: The new guidance aims to better equip children to navigate modern challenges and promote respectful, safe relationships.

Key Points from the updated guidance

Transparency:

Parents and carers have the right to view all curriculum materials. Schools cannot use external providers that restrict parental access to content.

Right to withdraw:

Parents can request to withdraw their child from some or all of the sex education components (not relationships education, which is compulsory).

Inclusive approach:

The guidance recognises diverse family structures, including single parents, same-sex parents, and kinship carers.

[Download Guidance](#)

What Your Child Will Learn:

The approach starts early, with **primary school** children learning about positive relationships between friends and family. This builds the foundation for understanding respect and kindness in all relationships whilst making sure children know how to be safe and recognise what counts as abusive behaviour so they can ask for help if they need it.

In **secondary school**, all pupils learn about consent, and lessons focus on helping teenagers understand consent as well as kindness and respect as they're getting ready for more intimate relationships. They will learn to identify positive role models and understand how to challenge harmful attitudes they might encounter online.

How will these topics be taught?

Teachers will be supported to bring these topics to life in ways that stay with pupils as they leave the classroom - creating safe spaces where children can have meaningful discussions that have lasting impact.

The guidance sets clear safeguards to ensure teaching remains age-appropriate. This means making sure children don't get taught things they are too young for, whilst allowing teachers to sensitively and safely respond to topics children have encountered on- or off-line.

Age-appropriate: Safeguards ensure children are not taught content too early.

Safe spaces: Lessons will encourage open, respectful discussions.

Teacher training: Grants and CPD (continuing professional development) will support teachers in delivering sensitive topics confidently.

Medway Public Health provide a range of support and guidance for schools, including training and teaching resources, which enable them to plan and deliver age and stage appropriate high quality RSHE that meets the needs of their pupils.

Will I know what my child is learning?

Yes. The guidance makes clear that parents should be able to view all curriculum materials on request. Schools cannot agree to any contractual restrictions with external providers that would prevent parents from seeing content their school plans to use.

This transparency ensures you can stay informed about what your child is learning and have conversations at home to support their understanding.

Medway RSHE schemes of work have always been available to parents and carers, either through their child's school or by request via the Child Health Team.

Further Support

Please get in touch if you would like to access any of the Medway RSHE materials or any further information on our parent and carer resources.

Email: childhealth@medway.gov.uk



SCHOOL STREETS: FAQs FOR SCHOOLS

What is a School Street?

A School Street is a pedestrian and cycle zone that operates at set times during the school term. Vehicles must not enter the zone unless they have an exemption.

Restrictions only apply at drop-off and pick-up times on school days and are not in place during school holidays or weekends.

What are the benefits of a School Street?

- Create a safer and more pleasant environment for students to walk, wheel and cycle to and from school.
- Reduce traffic and congestion.
- Less cars help to improve air quality outside of schools gates.

When did Medway Council's School Streets start?

The first seven School Streets were introduced in Medway on 11 March 2024. We are now proposing to introduce a further nine across Medway.

How are School Streets enforced?

School Streets are enforced by ANPR cameras located at the entry to the School Street zones.

There will be a 6-month warning period at the beginning of the programme, so road users have time to get used to the new system.

The first time a driver enters a School Street without an exemption, they will receive warning notice. After receiving the first notice or once the 6-month warning period is over, drivers who do not follow the rules will receive a Penalty Charge Notice (PCN).

A School Street has been approved for my school. When will it become operational?

Over the coming months we'll be working closely with schools residents, local businesses and other key stakeholders as we progress towards go-live dates.

Installation work will start over the summer, including camera installation and signage at each location. However, go-live dates are still to be determined and depending on the complexity of the works.

Once a go-live date is confirmed, we will notify the community well in advance.

What do I need to do before the School Street becomes operational?

Check if you are eligible for an exemption.

If you are a staff member, parent or carer please complete the travel to school survey here: <https://jwa7noi0vwy.typeform.com/traveltoschool>

This survey is an important part of our monitoring programme for the scheme. While not a requirement, it helps us measure the success of the scheme and gather feedback from school communities.

Feedback from residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be gathered using different methods.

EXEMPTIONS

Who is eligible for an exemption?

You can apply for an exemption if you:

- live in a restricted street
- work at a business in a restricted street
- work at a school in a restricted street
- you or your child are a Blue Badge holder and need access to a restricted street
- are a carer of vulnerable residents who live in a restricted street.

We will also consider other exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

How do I apply for an exemption?

To apply for an exemption if you are eligible, visit medway.gov.uk/schoolstreets.

What documents do I need to apply for an exemption?

- Resident: proof of address such as a utility bill (dated within the last three months, and not vehicle related)
- Business employee: a letter from the business you work for to prove you're an employee
- School employee: proof you work at a school such as a letter from your manager on headed paper
- Blue Badge holder: a photo of the front and back of your Blue Badge. You'll also need to describe why you need access to a School Street during operating times
- Child with disability: a letter from a health professional to confirm your child is unable to walk or finds it very difficult to walk

- Professional, a carer or medical practitioner: a company letter to prove you're an employee and need an exemption.

You will also need to prove you own a vehicle or drive a company vehicle. We will accept either:

- your vehicle registration document (logbook or V5C)
- insurance certificate
- Motability lease
- a letter from your employer with details of the company vehicle you drive.

How long does it take to apply for an exemption?

We aim to respond to your application within 10 working days. If your application is approved, we'll send you an email and add your vehicle registration to our list for the School Street you have an exemption for. If your application is rejected, or we need more information, we'll email you to let you know why.

How long do exemptions last for?

Exemptions expire after 2 years. You'll receive an email reminder 30 days before the exemption expires. You'll then need to apply again online.

If I have two cars, how many exemptions do I need?

You need an exemption for each car that you own.

Can I park on the street while the School Street is in operation?

Yes, the School Street does not impact parked cars, as long as you have already parked when the timed restriction begins.

If my car is already parked in the School Street, can I drive out of the zone while it is operating?

Yes. The School Street only prevents motorists from driving into the zone during operating hours.

Can residents park on a School Street?

Resident parking areas can be accessed by vehicles with an exemption. Anyone living within the School Street zone is eligible for an exemption.

How do I request a School Street?

If you would like us to consider introducing a School Street in your community, please email us at transportinitiatives@medway.gov.uk.