



Education
Endowment
Foundation



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EEF ANNOUNCES NEW ADDITION TO THE RESEARCH SCHOOLS NETWORK

**KENT SCHOOL APPOINTED TO SUPPORT EVIDENCE-BASED TEACHING ACROSS
THE REGION**

Kingsnorth CE Primary School in Ashford has been selected to form the Kent Associate Research School, and join the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) network of 28 Research Schools and 10 Associate Research Schools across England. Their main objective, as an Associate of Durrington Research School in West Sussex, will be to establish new partnerships with local schools and provide effective guidance by promoting and exemplifying evidence-based practice.

The appointment of a new Associate Research School will support the EEFfective Kent Project - an ambitious partnership between EEF and Kent County Council (KCC) aiming to support all Kent schools, so that they are able to access training and support based on the best available evidence. They will become part of the Research School Network, working to support schools in applying evidence-informed recommendations in their approach to improving their pupils' outcomes.

Kingsnorth CE will be co-funded by the EEF and KCC for two years to work with Durrington Research School. Together they will work to encourage other schools in the region to adopt approaches which have a proven history of improving outcomes for learners, focusing on those that have been successful in boosting the progress of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Professor Becky Francis, CEO of the Education Endowment Foundation, said:

“The EEF’s Research Schools Network aims to support collaboration and evidence-informed improvement in our education system.

“It gives practitioners the opportunity to share expertise and practical tools with a view to refining their practice and maximising their impact in the classroom.

“This new addition to the network will be a valuable source of support for others in the region as they work to support the needs of their pupils during this exceptional time.”

Christine McInnes, Director of Education for Kent County Council, said:

“We are delighted at the interest from school leaders across the county in this important school improvement initiative and a big thank you to all who submitted an application. This appointment strengthens our links with the evidence-based work of the EEF and will ensure a sharp focus on keeping Kent at the forefront of good practice.

“Strong system leadership is a key part of our work in education. This appointment adds to the rich array of school-led approaches we have in Kent. Evidence-informed practice is an important focus for all our improvement work.”

Shaun Allison, Director of Durrington Research School, said:

“As a Research School we are committed to helping busy school leaders use the best available research evidence to drive school improvement. This matters to us because we believe that all children across the southeast of England deserve the best possible education, which is shaped by what the evidence says is most likely to work.

“We are incredibly excited about the prospect of working with the brilliant staff at Kingsnorth CE Primary School, who will lead the new Kent Associate Research School. Together we will build on the great work that is already happening in schools across Kent and work tirelessly to give our young people the best possible start in life.”

Laura Howling, Director of Kent Associate Research School for Kingsnorth CE Primary School (part of AQUILA MAT), said:

“Kingsnorth School is very excited to be working with EEF and KCC as part of the EEFective Kent Project.

“As a school, we are driven by the impact of research-led practice to enhance the outcomes for all our pupils. Our ambition is to disseminate the best research-led practice to colleagues in our area, through the development of a local research network.

“We look forward to sharing the research and expertise from Durrington Research School as we begin this adventure of collaboration and partnership with schools, trusts and the local authority.”

- ENDS -

For further information, please contact Charlotte Bedford at the EEF at charlotte.bedford@eefoundation.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is a grant-making charity set up in 2011 by the Sutton Trust as lead foundation in partnership with Impetus Trust (now part of Impetus–The Private Equity Foundation), with a £125m founding grant from the Department for Education. The EEF is dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement.
2. More information about the existing Research Schools can be found here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/scaling-up-evidence/research-schools/>
3. More information about the EEFective Kent Project can be found here: EEFective Kent Project - KELSI