

# The Kent Community Network

## Benefits for Primary and Special Schools



Today, virtually all Kent Primary and Special schools are connected by the Kent Community Network (KCN). This massive investment by KCC has created a broadband network that reaches all parts of urban, rural and coastal Kent. The inventive and effective ways that teachers are finding to use the Internet is resulting in new learning benefits.

### DCSF requirements

- All primary and special schools must have a symmetric Internet connection at a minimum of 2Mbps with a direct connection to the National Education Network.
- Broadband must be purchased by the LA to ensure best value and to ensure the safety and security of pupils.

### The Kent Community Network (KCN)

- High capacity, reliable and expandable broadband access for every school.
- Websense filtering approved by Becta.
- Excellent Internet and National Education Network connections.
- A multiple-ring backbone to ensure that a broken fibre affects few schools.

### How will broadband benefit our school?

- Fast access to on-line materials from museums, commercial and school providers.
- An elegant school website using EISITE; easy to use and free with KCN.
- KCN Broadband Help Desk with staff who understand schools' needs.
- Curriculum support from the Advisory Service for Kent (ASK).

# KCN Broadband – Bandwidth Options from April 2008

## Primary, Special Schools and PRUs

KCN will supply the DCSF recommended bandwidth of 2 Mbps without a school contribution from April 2008. The table below applies to primary schools, special schools and PRUs. Schools may purchase higher bandwidths at subsidised rates. Installation is free.

Schools that take the responsibility of hosting a 'Broadband Cluster' to share a fibre feed will be provided with additional bandwidth. All schools in a cluster have an entitlement to the full 2 Mbps without charge, and may also purchase additional bandwidth if they require. If the total bandwidth requires, we will install a 100 Mbps feed to the host school.

Please note:

- ADSL is not recommended for any school and cannot be subsidised. ADSL will now be considerably more expensive than full KCN broadband.
- Schools with ADSL connections should order 'Full Broadband' immediately. Installation will take three months, but any unused RM charge can be reclaimed.

<b>KCN School Contributions from April 2008</b>			
	<b>Individual school connection</b>	<b>Cluster 'Child'</b>	<b>Cluster 'Host'</b>
2 Mbps	FOC	FOC	FOC
4 Mbps	£1500 pa	£1500 pa	FOC
10 Mbps	£3000 pa	£3000 pa	£3000 pa

Notes:

- 'Individual' means that the school has its own fibre connection. Fibre is expensive, but is a highly reliable method of delivery.
- Wireless provides an excellent alternative where fibre is too expensive.
- 2 Mbps, the DCSF minimum bandwidth, is sufficient for many smaller primary and special schools. KCN supplies 2 Mbps over a 10 Mbps fibre to reduce the school contribution.
- 4 Mbps doubles the bandwidth at about half last year's contribution for many schools.
- 10 Mbps provides five times the bandwidth for the same contribution as many schools before April 2008. Many large primary schools will upgrade to 10 Mbps during 2008.

## Espresso

Since August 2006, schools have benefited from reduced prices from Espresso, negotiated by KCN and ASK. To enable these reductions, KCN installed a local server. For these schools an addition of £1 per pupil continues to be charged for a two-year period to recover part of this capital cost. From March 2008, all new contracts should be made directly with Espresso which will arrange with EIS to install an Espresso server.

## Further Information

- ASK - curriculum use of broadband: [www.kented.org.uk/ngfl](http://www.kented.org.uk/ngfl)
- KCN documents: [www.eiskent.co.uk](http://www.eiskent.co.uk) (Broadband pages)
- KCN details: [www.kenttrustweb.org.uk?broadband](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk?broadband)