

# Kent County Council Media Call

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xx November 2009

## Children's council tackles burning issues

**Date** Tuesday 24th November  
**Time:** 9.30am until 2pm, main debate at 10.30am  
**Location:** Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ  
**Details:**

Pint-sized politicians from across the county will be taking control of their future at the Kent Primary Schools Children's Council.

Year five children will be discussing some of the important issues which affect them, including bullying, e-safety and sex, drugs and alcohol education in schools.

Pupils will enjoy a day of events celebrating and exploring politics and democracy before taking part in a debate about the big issues and children's rights.

Young people will be forming a journalist group to report on the day, and an animation company will be making a *Creature Comforts* style DVD. Members from Kent Youth County Council will also be helping to organise the day.

The event will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and Krishna Maroo, from the UN Youth Team, will be making a presentation to the children.

The Minister for Children's Rights and Participation, Baroness Delyth Morgan, has written to each children taking part.

In her letter she said:

*"As minister responsible for children's rights, I am very aware of the value of giving children a say and the importance of children's views in shaping services for children and young people in their local community."*

KCC deputy cabinet member for Children, Families and Education Jenny Whittle said:

*"Politics affects everyone and I am pleased to see children this young getting involved in politics and understanding democracy. There are some big issues up for debate, and it is important that children have the chance to be part of this."*

*"There is a huge amount of value in giving children the right to talk about things which affect them, and it is equally important to listen to those views."*

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