

Andover and Winchester School Nurses  
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Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to introduce the 0-19 years Public Health Nursing Service (Health Visiting/School Nursing) and outline the service that you and your child will be offered in school. These services are provided by Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Starting school can be an exciting time, but it can bring on mixed feelings. School readiness is about teaching your child the skills that they will need, at their pace in order for them to cope independently and feel happy, safe and relaxed within the school environment.

You can access information regarding School Readiness as below -



Please scan with the camera on your phone or visit:

[www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/pre-schoolers](http://www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/pre-schoolers)

During the first year of school we offer a school entrant health review for your child; this is part of the Healthy Child Programme and consists of vision screening, height and weight measurements. Further details of these contacts are included below along with additional information about our service that we hope you will find useful.

### **School Entrant Health Review**

The vision screen is specifically designed for children to help detect early vision problems; it is not a full examination. It involves your child naming and matching letters or pictures to check whether they can see from a set distance. If your child has difficulty seeing the letters or pictures, their eyes will need to be checked by an optician or orthoptist [eye specialist] for a further assessment. The school nurse team will inform you of the results and contact you should a possible concern be identified. The results of this examination will be recorded on your child's electronic health record.

We will need your consent for the vision screen to take place; you will be given the consent form once your child starts school. If you feel this is not required for your child, this may be because they already see an orthoptist at the eye hospital or they wear glasses, please indicate this on the consent form.

A separate letter will be sent to you with information regarding the height and weight measurements as this is carried out as part of the National Child Measurement Programme.

The school entry hearing screening is no longer offered in Hampshire. If you have concerns about your child's hearing such as, they frequently ask you to repeat yourself, respond inappropriately to questions,

turn up the volume of the TV very high, please see <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/hearing-loss/symptoms/> for more information on what to look out for and when to see your GP.

If your child has any health concerns or they are taking any regular medication, and this is required during a school day you are advised to inform the school of this at your earliest opportunity.

### **The School Age Immunisation Programme**

The School Age Immunisation team will offer the nasal flu vaccine in school as part of the childhood flu programme. You will be contacted nearer the time with details which will include completing an electronic consent form.

Your child should have received their 2<sup>nd</sup> MMR and preschool booster before starting school. If these vaccines are still outstanding please contact your GP to arrange an appointment at your earliest opportunity.

To find out what immunisation your child requires please access the link [NHS vaccinations and when to have them - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/)

### **How to contact your School Nurse**

Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust offer a text messaging service for parents called ChatHealth. Parents and carers can text their query to a dedicated number, which a health professional will respond to within one working day. The support that we offer may include signposting you to other services, as necessary.

For parents and carers of school aged children: Text **07507 332417**.

Text messages sent to the ChatHealth number will be charged at your normal call rate. The service is available from 9 am - 4:30 pm Monday -Thursday and 9 am - 4 pm Friday (Inclusive of school holidays excluding bank holidays.)

Further health information can also be found via our Hampshire Healthy Families website: <http://www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/>

Yours faithfully

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