

April 2017

Dear Parent or Carer

As your son or daughter is now entering a new school we would like to take this opportunity to introduce the school & college health nursing service in secondary schools and colleges in Oxfordshire. The service is commissioned by Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council and provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. School Health Nurses are based in schools and colleges, and work in partnership with teaching and pastoral school staff to provide support and guidance to students, to help them make healthy lifestyle choices.

School Health Nurses

School Health Nurses have undertaken specialist training to care for young people in a school setting and deliver the best evidence based practice, to help young people make healthy choices and keep them safe. School health nurses have full access to support services and adhere to the professional standards outlined in the Nursing, Midwifery Council (NMC) Code of Conduct; further information is available at www.nmc.org.uk

Medical Conditions

It is important that school is aware of any medical conditions your child may have **prior** to starting. This includes conditions that may be under control and managed purely at home. Your child's new school will ask you to complete a Health Review Questionnaire and return it. This will enable school staff and the school health nurse to identify young people with health needs.

Medicines in schools

If your child needs medication to be available in school, for example, adrenaline (Epipen) for a severe allergy or an inhaler for asthma, it is important to know the procedures for administering medicines. If your child needs to take medication during the school day, you will need to discuss this with your child's school and complete a consent form giving permission for school staff to administer medicines to your child. All medications taken into school must have a pharmacy label with the name of your child, the medicine with the dose and times the medicine is required. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure any medication given to school is in date and that it is replaced before it has expired. Your child's new school will provide information regarding its procedures.

Health review

During the Autumn Term there will be an opportunity for the school health nurse to offer your child a health review if required. Parents/carers are not routinely asked to attend for the health review; however, you may of course attend if you wish. If in the future you identify a health concern please contact the school health nurse, details overleaf. The school staff or school health nurse will also contact you if they are concerned about the health of your child. The school health nurse offers a weekly 'drop in' session in school usually over lunchtime for students, so if they have a health concern they are able to 'drop in' and see the school health nurse. If you would you like the opportunity to discuss your son/daughter's health review with the school health nurse please contact her at the number below within the first term of your child starting school.

School based immunisation programme

The school health service delivers the UK immunisation programme in all secondary schools:

Year 8 Human Papillion Virus (HPV) - this protects against cancer of the cervix for girls only

Year 9 Tetanus, diphtheria and polio (TdP) - this immunisation completes the course of 5 immunisations started in infancy and gives lifelong protection.

Year 9 Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) - this immunisation is given at the same time as TdP and offers protection against 4 strains of Meningitis.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) catch up - by the time your child reaches secondary school they should have already received 2 immunisations which gives lifetime protection.

This is a good time to check if your child has received all their immunisations, or if you have followed the schedule in another country to ensure none have been missed, contact your practice nurse and book in any outstanding immunisations. For further information, please visit NHS choices website

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/vaccination-schedule-age-checklist.aspx>

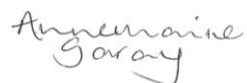
Confidentiality, safe guarding and record keeping

The service provided by the school health nurse is independent from the school, and school health nurses can offer a confidential service to students. If there are concerns that the child or other young people are at risk of harm this information will be shared to ensure the safety of the child. School health nurses maintain confidential health records on all children and young people using the services of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust.

These health records will be held securely and strictly in accordance with Caldicott Guidance.

Further information can be found at: <http://systems.hscic.gov.uk/infogov/igfaqs/quickreferencef.doc>

Yours sincerely



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Useful health information:

Free Eye Tests

Eye tests for children are essential health checks and are free for every child under 16 and every young person under 19 if they are in full-time education. They are easy to arrange by phoning your local optician to book an appointment.

NHS Dentists

For help with finding an NHS dentist please phone the Oxford Health Dental Helpline on: 08000 113 824 or 01865 337 267. For general enquiries email: dental@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Does your child live in a smoke-free home?

Free friendly support to quit smoking is available from Quit4Life on 0845 602 4663 or visit <http://www.quit4life.nhs.uk/>

Healthy Lifestyle

Join Change 4 Life for free easy tips on maintaining a healthy lifestyle for all the family <https://registration.change4life.co.uk/>

NHS Choices

This is the recommended website for all health queries, as this is maintained by the NHS and will be up to date and evidence-based.

<http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>

Your child at school

Very useful information on topics relating to life in school.

<http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/yourchildatschool/Pages/Yourchildatschoolhome.aspx>

NHS Behind the Headlines

This website is particularly useful if you would like to find out more information on a current news story on a health topic. <http://www.nhs.uk/news/Pages/NewsIndex.aspx>

School Health Nurses Website

More information regarding the role of the school or college health nurse can be found on the following website <http://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/children-and-young-people/oxon/school-health-nursing/>