



School Nursing Service in primary schools

School nurses are part of the 0-19 Public Health Community Nursing Service and work closely with health visitors.

The school nursing service

Every state school has a named school nurse who works closely with other healthcare professionals, such as health visitors and doctors as well as children's social work services.

The service includes school nurses, who are registered nurses with an additional specialist public health qualification, school staff nurses, school health support workers and school health assistants.

What does the school nursing service do?

The school nurse makes regular visits to your child's school and offers health advice to parents/carers, children and school staff. School nurses can offer information and support on a number of health related issues including: allergies, bullying and emotional health, sleep behaviour, healthy eating and lifestyles, growth and development, bedwetting, soiling and constipation. When necessary, with your consent, they may refer your child to other NHS or partner services.

Working with you

We always consider the best interests of your child and we will consult with you regarding any concerns. We will ask you for your consent before your child is seen by a professional from the service for health screening and interviews. The service works within the Sussex Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures. Information will only be shared with other professionals in order to provide safe care or protect the safety and welfare of a child.

Screening tests

In reception year a member of the service will carry out the health screening listed below. This will be with your written consent. Parents/carers do not normally attend these sessions but we will always tell you the results.

- **Vision screen** – a basic distance vision assessment. In addition, all children up to the age of 16 years or 19 years if in full-time education are entitled to a free annual eye test at any local optician.
- **Hearing screen** – checking responses to sounds using headphones.

National childhood measurement programme

We will complete a:

- **Height and weight measurement** – for children in reception year and in year 6.

Health assessment and review

We will offer a health assessment to any child following a request from you or a referral from another professional. We will invite you to attend the assessment and any reviews. Any further referrals will be discussed with you.

Health record

SystmOne is the electronic health record database used by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) and many GPs. Your child's record will be updated with any relevant information following contact with the service. These records are not shared with the school, and are kept securely by SCFT. For information about how to access your child's health records contact your school nurse.

Vaccinations

You will have been offered the pre-school booster immunisation from your GP before your child started school. If you think your child has missed any vaccinations please contact your GP surgery. For further information visit:

www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/childhood-vaccinationschedule.aspx

Advice and support

If you would like to discuss any concerns or you have any questions about your child's health or the content of this leaflet please contact your school nurse directly or through your child's school office.

This leaflet is available in other languages and formats, including Braille, large print and audio formats. Please ask your school nurse if you require this.

PALS – our patient advice and liaison service, provides support to patients with questions, queries or complaints about SCFT services.

If you would like to make a comment, pay a compliment, express a concern or make a complaint about the care you have received, please contact the Service Experience Team (PALS).

Tel: 01273 242292

Email: sc-tr.serviceexperience@nhs.net

Web: www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/pals

For further information about Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust's children's services please visit: www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk

More information can be found at:

www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/hcp-ws