

## **School Nursing Service.**

We are team of health professionals lead by a school nurse and supported by community staff nurses, nursery nurses, clinical support workers and administrative staff.

**School Nurses** are qualified nurses with specialist training in public health for children, young people and families. We are skilled in identifying health problems or concerns early, to provide early support.

### **What does the school nurse service provide?**

School nurses lead and deliver the healthy child programme for 5-19 year olds. We work with local communities, the whole family, and individual children in different settings e.g. homes, children's centres, schools, and GP surgeries

### **What is the healthy child programme?**

It is a programme for children, young people and their families which focuses on early intervention and prevention, offering research based guidance on development reviews, immunisations, screenings, and healthy choices.

**Who do we work with?** School nurses work closely with other health services, children's services and schools, to ensure that the child's

health needs are met and each and every child and young person lives in a safe environment.

**How can school nurses support you and your child 5-19 years?** The School Nurse provides a completely confidential health service. We help support the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families. We provide advice on healthy choices e.g. healthy eating, dental health, sexual health and substance misuse.

We work with other health professionals to provide specific support for families with complex needs such as diabetes and asthma, so your child can continue to enjoy their education at school.

We offer the childhood immunisation programme which ensures your child is protected against disease and infection.

We deliver the national Child measurement program and regular weigh and measure child in certain schools year.

We work with other agencies to provide support to young people who have been abused or exploited

**Health reviews.** Your child might be invited to a health review with a school nurse. Health reviews are offered to ensure your child continues to reach their full potential by promoting optimal

health and wellbeing for all children and young people.

Children and young people are invited for health reviews for a variety of reasons including

- Another professional might have made a referral to the school nursing service because you or they have concerns about your child's health. The referral should have been made after discussion with you.
- Children who being supported by other agencies e.g. as part of a child protection, child in need or early help assessment.
- Review of health information following e.g. Accident and Emergency department attendance, hospital visit or handover from the health visitor we might invite your child for a health assessment.
- If you child has recently moved into Walsall from another area.
- Routine health review for some children starting in primary school or secondary school
- You have contacted the school nursing service and requested support for your child

**What to expect at child's health review.** You will have either been sent an appointment date and time or received a letter asking you to call our service to book an appointment. We offer most of our appointments in schools or local health centres. If your appointment time is not convenient or you are unable to attend it is important you contact the service to cancel and if necessary rearrange the appointment. If you do not attend the appointment and have not contacted the service this might result in a delay in your child receiving the appropriate support.

You and your child will be seen by a school nurse who will ask you about you're the current problems and take a history of your child's health and development and also ask about your family situation. You child will be weighed and measured. The nurse will give an opportunity to talk to you one you own in case you wish to discuss private matters that t is not appropriate to talk about in front of your child. The nurse will also to ask to speak to your child on their own.

At the end of the assessment the nurse will ask you who you would like the information and outcome of the assessment to be shared with.

We routinely share information with the family GP but sometimes it is helpful if other such as your child's school have access to some information to help them provide the appropriate support. We will send you a letter after the health assessment to remind you about what we talked about and what we agreed.

As part of the outcomes of the health assessment we might offer you and your child advice to improve their health and wellbeing, make a referral to another service for support or offer you an intervention with a member of the school nursing service.

**Teenagers** who are confident and competent to make decisions about their health (Frazer Competent) can seek the advice of the school nurse without their parents/carers consent. They are entitled to confidentiality however we also seek to encourage the teenager to involve their family.

All professionals have a legal duty to keep children safe and sometimes it is necessary to share information with social services to protect a child. We will usually talk to you or the teenager if we have such concerns and explain that we need to talk with a social worker.

## Welcome to Walsall School Nursing Service



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