

**Children & Young People 0-19 Public Health Service**

Single Point of Access (SPA)  
Universal Childrens Services  
South Parade  
Summertown  
OX2 7JN

01865 903800

Email: [CYP0-19@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:CYP0-19@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

## **Starting School: Information for parents & carers of children in reception**

From April 2024 the newly commissioned 0-19 CYP service brought together the health visiting, school nursing and family nurse teams to work with children between the ages of 0-19 and their parents/carers in Oxfordshire. There is a team of qualified school health nurses and associates to support children in school with medical needs. We provide advice on health-related issues, offer health reviews, support for families with complex needs, and assist with health promotion activities. Safeguarding children is at the heart of what we do, and we work with parents and carers as well as with partner agencies such as social and health care services.

If you would like to discuss your child's medical needs and their transition to school, you can contact us by using our ChatHealth text service.

## **Contacting the Service**

**ChatHealth -ParentLine**, is a texting service for parents and carers. You can text anytime of the day or night, and you will have a response from a member of the 0-19 CYP team the next working day, between 9am -5pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).

Parents /carers of children aged 0-4 - 07312 263081.

Parents /carers of children aged 5-11– 07312 263227.

**You can also contact us via the 0-19 CYP Single Point of Access**

**Email:** [cyp0-19@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:cyp0-19@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk)

**Tele:** 01865 903800

## **School readiness**

As part of the new service a 4-year review was introduced and may have already been offered to your child by the health visiting team. Your health visitor can give you support to ensure your child achieves their early learning goals and are the health professional responsible for your child until they are five years old. School health nurses work closely with health visitors and continue to support children who have difficulties achieving these goals e.g. nocturnal enuresis (bed wetting) support. For advice on toilet training visit [www.eric.org.uk](http://www.eric.org.uk)

If your child has ongoing health needs, your health visitor may work with you and your child until the age of eight.

You can help your child prepare for school by encouraging them to eat a varied diet, get a good night's sleep, and to be independent with dressing and toileting.

The Family Lives website has some excellent advice and tips for parents.

[Parenting and Family Support - Family Lives \(Parentline Plus\) | Family Lives](#)

There is also useful information on the Oxfordshire County council website.

[What is school readiness? | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

## **Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)**

School nurses and health visitors may contribute to the support of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities in school or consult with specialist services who are involved with the child and family. For more information visit the Local Offer on [Oxfordshire County Councils website](#).

## **Immunisation review**

Before your child starts primary school, they should have completed their primary course of immunisations and received their pre-school boosters at your GP practice. If you are unsure if your child has had all their routine immunisations, refer to your child's 'red book' or ask your GP or practice nurse.

The school based seasonal flu immunisation will be offered at school for children in reception between October and January. This is administered via a nasal spray. The

School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) will be liaising with schools and sending electronic consent forms and further information. If you have any immunisation queries, please e-mail; [immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk](mailto:immunisationteam@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk) or telephone 07920254400.

For more information review the [Full Immunisation schedule for children under 5](#)

### **Managing medicines in school**

If your child needs medication to be available in school, for use in an emergency it is important to inform your child's school of this and follow their procedures for administering medicines.

If your child needs to take medication during the school day, you will need to discuss this directly with your child's school.

As part of this procedure, you may be asked to complete a consent form giving permission for school staff to administer medicines to your child.

All prescribed medication taken into school must have a pharmacy label with the name of your child, the name of the medication, with the dose and times required. Any other medication is in accordance with school policy.

It is the parent's responsibility to ensure any medication given to school is in date. It should be replaced before it expires, and all out of date medication should be disposed of by parents.

### **Support for children with specific medical needs**

The school health nurse team offer school staff training in the management of some medical conditions which may require emergency medication. In addition to this they can support school staff in compiling specific care plans for children with complex medical needs in school.

## **Health needs assessments**

The school health nurse team will offer, when requested, health assessments to children including those who are, subject to Child Protection Planning and under Local Authority Care. We request that any referral for your child to the school nursing team has your consent, and you will be invited to any appointment we may have with them.

## **National childhood measurement programme (NCMP)**

All children in reception and year 6 will be invited to have their height and weight measured in school during the academic year. This is usually carried out between January–May. It is important that you opt out of this programme by following the instructions on the letters if you do not want your child to participate.

Support is available for families who may like to make lifestyle changes from Maximus Oxfordshire. <https://oxf.maximusuk.co.uk/beezeefamilies/>

## **Vision Screening**

During the reception year, children will be offered routine vision screening. This service is led by an orthoptist and the results will be sent to you. If your child requires further tests, then this will be discussed with you.

## **School attendance**

Absence from school is sometimes unavoidable, but frequent absences for minor illnesses may contribute to pupils getting behind with their work, finding friendships difficult to maintain and losing confidence in the classroom.

Please consider: -

- Does your child have an infectious disease ?
- Is your child well enough to manage school activities?

Encourage your child to get back to school as soon as they are well.



For more information visit- [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

## **Health education and health promotion activities**

The school nurse team may be invited by school to provide health promotion lessons and activities for pupils, to compliment teaching done by school staff and in the home environment.

The team create a termly health newsletter for parents on a range of common childhood health concerns, and resources to promote a healthy lifestyle.

This is sent to parents electronically via the school's email.

## **CYP 0-19 website**

You can find more information regarding the service on [Children & Young People \(0-19\) - Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust](#) There are a lot of useful links and resources to advise and support parents and children.

**ChatHealth** **NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

### ParentLine 0-4 years

New Health Visiting messaging service for parents and carers of children 0-4 years in Oxfordshire

**Text 07312 263081**  
to message a health visitor

Text for Health Visiting advice on issues such as:

- infant feeding
- child development
- toileting
- sleep
- support with behaviours
- childhood illness or ailments

Or scan QR code here to start a chat

We do not reply to you within our working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm, Monday-Friday excluding Bank Holidays. If you need help before you have texted, then we can contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or SMS picture messages. Text messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and cross-number messaging mobile apps). We might inform other health professionals if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your local rates.

**ChatHealth** **NHS Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust**

### ParentLine 5-11 years

New School Health Nursing messaging service for parents and carers of children 5-11 years attending a state school in Oxfordshire

**Text 07312 263227**  
to message a school health nurse

Text School Health Nurses for advice on issues such as:

- diet & healthy lifestyles
- toileting
- sleep
- bullying
- support with behaviours
- general and emotional health

Or scan QR code here to start a chat

We do not reply to you within our working day and you should get an immediate message back to confirm we have received your text. Texts will only be seen between 9am and 5pm, Monday-Friday excluding Bank Holidays. If you need help before you have texted, then we can contact your GP, nearest walk-in centre or dial 111. Our text number does not receive voice calls or SMS picture messages. Text messages are stored and can be seen by other health care staff who follow the same confidentiality rules. We support messaging from UK mobile numbers only (which does not include messages sent from landlines, international mobile numbers and cross-number messaging mobile apps). We might inform other health professionals if we were concerned about your safety, but we would usually speak to you first. To prevent the health professional from sending messages to you, text STOP to our number. Messages are charged at your local rates.