



Blackpool Teaching Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Special School Nursing Service
Children's Community Nursing Team
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Dear Parent / Guardian

We recognise the last few months have been a difficult time and that there have been so many disruptions and changes to your child's Education and attendance at school as a result of Covid 19 Pandemic .

As we approach the official end of the academic school year we would like to reassure you of School Nursing's continued support to your child on their return in the September term .We acknowledge the date your child will return will be confirmed by Head Teacher and in agreement with parent /guardian and may not be the first day of term for all .

In advance of the new September 2020 intake , the Nursing Team would like to take this opportunity to outline the role of the Children's Community Nursing Team within your child's school.

We hope this will give you a clear understanding of how the health team will continue to support children within the school.

Currently there is the same model of support in special schools in Blackpool and Fylde and Wyre where we provide a service:

- High Furlong
- Pear Tree
- Red Marsh
- Woodlands

Each school has a Registered Nurse (RN) and an Assistant Practitioner (AP) allocated to the individual school .

The RN and AP within the school are there to support the education staff to meet the health needs of all the children on roll in the school fully and safely. All three work closely together as a team.

Chairman: Pearse Butler

Chief Executive: Kevin McGee (Interim)

RESEARCH MATTERS AND SAVES LIVES - TODAY'S RESEARCH IS TOMORROW'S CARE

Blackpool Teaching Hospitals is a Centre of Clinical and Research Excellence providing quality up to date care. We are actively involved in undertaking research to improve treatment of our patients. A member of the healthcare team may discuss current clinical trials with you.



Each school has a designated room where the AP and RN are based when on duty in school. Please note that the RN and AP are not in school all the time as this is dependent on the level of health need of the children within each individual school. This varies and there is not always an RN or AP on site for all or part of a school day .

The RN is not school based, but part of the Children's Community Nursing Team (CCN). The RN can be contacted any school day to offer health advices or support on the telephone .

The CCN team support children in different settings i.e. school, home, hospice, respite. Your child may receive a visit from the CCN at home as well as receive support in school if appropriate.

The role of the RN in school is to make sure the children's health needs are met in full within each individual school. This might include

- ensuring the health needs of your child are met by Education staff and the AP to a high standard
- delivering training to school staff either in theory or practice (or both) about individual children's health needs
- delivering whole school awareness sessions about health issues
- developing safe health care plans to support your child within school or on school trips
- undertaking risk assessments about your child's health
- offering support and advice regarding medical conditions to parents and staff
- attending meetings with other professionals about your child i.e. medical reviews, Child In Need meetings, safeguarding meetings
- ensuring safeguarding processes and policies are in place and followed
- developing policies and guidance to ensure safe practice
- advising and promoting health education and support in school
- training individual school staff in a variety of clinical skills your child may depend upon
- supporting education staff and families to find the right health professional to go to when they have a health problem or query and to follow up on their behalf where necessary
- providing health advice for education, health care plans (EHCPs) and where necessary attend review meetings

The AP works with the RN and is trained to a high level to undertake health care duties where required . These clinical skills are those such as gastrostomy feeding, the giving of routine medications, the delivery of rescue medications, managing tracheostomies for example.

The role of the AP in school is to work closely with school staff to support them to meet the health needs of the children by being at times directly involved in care on occasion or supporting staff with training and advice. Although the RN and AP work for Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, they are very much part of the school team. The AP is at times based within the school setting, but if school staff are fully trained to meet all the children's need adequately there may be times when the AP is not in school.

It is important that school staff are fully trained in order your child can access the whole school curriculum, including school trips etc.

The School/ Education staff are fully trained and competent to meet your child's health needs where appropriate and would not undertake the role of feeding and the giving of medications and responding in an emergency if they were not fully trained and competent to do so.

We hope this explains the health team's role and the support the team offers in school.

Please contact us should you have any queries or concerns about any of your child's health needs, we are happy to help and support you and your child to achieve the best possible outcomes .

Yours sincerely

Children's Community Nursing Team

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