

Welcome to the Kent School Public Health and Immunisation Service

Dear Parent,

As your child has started school this year, we wanted to make sure you know about the free NHS support that we offer.

The service supports all school age children, including those who are fit and well. This is why we would like to know more about your child so we can make sure we offer the right support to both schools and families.

To help us, please click this link <https://kent.hapi-system.com/school-entry> and complete the **online survey before the end of October**. The survey should take around 15 minutes and you will need to enter the password where your child's school is located:

School Location	Password
Ashford, Dover, Folkestone or Hythe	South2019
Dartford, Gravesham, Sevenoaks	North2019
Maidstone, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells	West2019
Canterbury, Thanet, Swale	East2019

When completing the school admissions form for your child you gave consent for your information to be shared for health purposes. All of the information you provide is completely confidential, and will only be used to inform our school health services. We promise not to share your information with anyone else (more information can be found on our website: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/legal/> or Kent County Council website: kent.gov.uk/privacy).

Once you have completed the survey you will receive links to additional advice and guidance. Depending on your answers, a qualified School Nurse may also contact you to offer further support. Don't worry – we're here to help!

What else can you and your child expect from the Kent School Public Health and Immunisation Service during the first year of school?

Opportunity to make sure that your child is a healthy weight:

The National Childhood Measurement Programme measures the height and weight of children in Reception Year. This takes place sometime between September and January. You can opt out of the programme if you want to.

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Paul Bentley

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Opportunity to identify any visual or hearing difficulties which may make learning more difficult:

We screen each child to ensure that their eyesight and vision is OK. This takes place between January and June. You can also opt out of this programme if you want to.

Vaccination against childhood flu: Between October and December, your child will be offered a free nasal flu vaccination. This will be given in school, without you needing to make an appointment. The vaccine is given as a single spray squirted up each nostril. It is quick, painless and works even better than the injected flu vaccine. You will receive a letter asking for consent for your child to have this vaccination.

Website: A really good link for helpful advice on your child's health and wellbeing is: www.kentyouthhealth.nhs.uk

You can also get in touch with us at any time, even during the school holidays by phone on 0300 123 4496 (Monday – Friday, 8am-6pm) or you can get in touch with us via the website above.

We look forward to meeting your child next year, and we wish you and them all the best for this exciting new chapter in their lives.

From everyone at Kent School Public Health and Immunisation Service