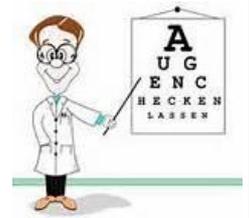


School Health Service

Throughout their time at school, a team of specialist Health Service and Education Department staff will be seeing children as part of a planned programme to make sure they benefit as much as possible from all that school has to offer, and to help them prepare for life after school. The School Health Service is part of the Midlothian Community Child Health Service and has direct links with those who carry out health checks on children before they start school.

Many different services are provided. The issue of maintaining confidentiality is taken seriously by the School Health team at all times. The staff involved make every effort to work closely with parents and with others who are caring for your child, both at school and in other branches of the Health Service. Some of the services e.g. testing of vision in Primary 1, are normally provided to all children on a routine basis to discover which children may need further tests or treatment. Parents are not necessarily notified at the time of these screening tests and any parent who does not want a child to be included should notify the school at the beginning of the session. Naturally, if treatment is thought to be required, parents will be informed and consent requested. If you have any concerns about your child's vision please contact the school nurse who will arrange to test vision or alternatively you can take your child to a local optician (optometrist).



Some of the staff concerned and the parts they play are as follows:



School Nurse:

The school nurse is the lead professional in mainstream schools in Midlothian. School nurses are involved with health promotion and education, prevention of ill-health immunisation, health surveillance and screening. The school nurse may be helped by a **health assistant** and have close working links with **community paediatricians**.

The school nurse acts as an important link between home and school. She visits the school regularly and liaises with the teaching staff. Where a teacher is concerned about a child's health, a referral may be made to the school health team only after obtaining parental permission. Separate referrals to child and family mental health services also needs parental permission. The school nurse can also link with other members of the health team, in the community or in hospital, concerned with a child's health. The health team works closely with colleagues from other children's services.

The school nurse reviews the notes of all children in Primary 1 as well as those of all new entrants. A member of the school health team measures their growth and tests vision. The school nurse will assess these measurements and results. In addition, she may review children who are referred either by parents, teachers or other health professionals at any stage in their school life. Every opportunity is taken to provide pupils with access to confidential support and advice from the school health team throughout their school career.

The School Nurse carries out regular inspections of groups of children, gives advice on health and hygiene, tests eyesight from time to time and works with the **school doctor**. Parents are not normally notified of screening tests (vision, hearing, speech) and any parent who wishes his/her child excluded should notify the school in writing at the beginning of the session. The attention of the doctor is drawn to any possible problems, and parents and the family doctor are informed if any further action is considered necessary. If you have concerns about your child's hearing the school can refer him/her to the appropriate specialist directly.