



# School Nursing Core Offer

Academic year 2025-2026

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## **1. Introduction**

The Swindon School Nursing Core Offer outlines the universal, targeted and specialist offer to school-aged children and young people (5–19 years) attending schools across the borough. Delivered by the school nursing service, this offer is underpinned by the national Healthy Child Programme and its six High Impact Areas, which identify the key priority areas where school nurses can make the greatest difference to children's health outcomes.

These High Impact Areas are:

1. Supporting resilience and wellbeing
2. Improving health behaviours and reducing risk taking
3. Supporting healthy lifestyle
4. Supporting vulnerable young people and improving health inequalities
5. Supporting complex and additional health and wellbeing needs
6. Promoting self-care and improving literacy

The Swindon School Nursing Core Offer is also aligned with the Swindon Plan, supporting the borough's ambition to ensure that all children and young people are healthy, safe, and given the best start in life. By delivering evidence-based interventions in collaboration with schools, families, and partner agencies, the school nursing team contributes to key local priorities including improving mental health, reducing health inequalities, promoting school readiness and educational engagement, and safeguarding vulnerable children.

This document provides an overview of the services available through the School Nursing Core Offer and demonstrates how these contribute to improved outcomes for children, young people, and families across Swindon.

## **2. Vision and Values of the School Nursing Service**

The vision of the Swindon School Nursing Service is to ensure that every child and young person aged 5–19 has the opportunity to achieve their full potential in health, education, and wellbeing. Our work is guided by a commitment to delivering high-quality, evidence-based public health nursing that is proactive, inclusive, and responsive to local need.

We are a compassionate and skilled team who work to protect and promote the health of children and young people in all school settings. Whether through health promotion, early intervention, safeguarding, or targeted support, we strive to make a measurable difference in the lives of those we serve.

Our values underpin our approach:

- Child and young person-centred – Listening to and empowering children and young people
- Equity and inclusion – Ensuring fair access to services for all

- Prevention and early help – Acting early to support better outcomes
- Collaboration – Working in partnership with schools, families, and professionals
- Quality and accountability – Maintaining high standards and continuous improvement

### **3. Service Overview**

The Swindon School Nursing Service forms part of the 0–19 Public Health Nursing Service and provides a universal and targeted public health offer to all school-aged children and young people across the borough.

The team is made up of:

- Professional Lead
- Team Leader
- Specialist Community Public Health Nurses (School Nurses)
- School Health Screeners

We work in a variety of settings including mainstream schools, special schools, alternative provision, and the wider community. Our service is accessible through schools and direct referrals, and we offer flexibility to meet the needs of children and young people in a way that suits them best.

### **4. Universal Offer**

Our universal offer is available to all children and young people in Swindon and includes:

- Health promotion and prevention sessions tailored to current needs (e.g. hygiene, sleep, puberty, relationships)
- Secondary school clinics offering confidential support
- National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) delivery in Reception and Year 6
- Support for emotional wellbeing and signposting to appropriate services
- Support with immunisations

We also support schools with the development of health-related concerns, staff awareness sessions, and Whole School Approaches to wellbeing.

### **5. Targeted Offer**

In addition to the universal offer, we provide targeted support for children and young people with additional or complex health and wellbeing needs. This includes:

- One-to-one interventions for issues such as anxiety, continence, risk-taking behaviour, and emotional health

- Support for children with SEND and those with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
- Input into Team Around the Family (TAF), Early Help, and multi-agency meetings
- Home visits where appropriate
- Partnership work with CAMHS, paediatrics, youth justice, and social care
- Contribution to safeguarding plans including Child in Need and Child Protection
- Support for school readiness and transition to secondary school

Referrals to the service can be made by professionals, schools, parents/carers, or by young people themselves.

## 6. Delivery of the Healthy Child Programme 6 High Impact Areas

We structure our delivery around the 6 High Impact Areas identified by the Healthy Child Programme:

<b>Supporting resilience and wellbeing</b>	<b>Improving health behaviours and reducing risk taking</b>	<b>Supporting healthy lifestyle</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School nurse clinics and 1:1 emotional wellbeing session</li> <li>- Support for issues such as anxiety, low mood, self-esteem, and peer relationships</li> <li>- Referral pathways into mental health services including CAMHS BeU Swindon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of age-appropriate health education on consent, healthy relationships, substance use, and online safety</li> <li>-completion of safeguarding health assessments and attendance at strategy meetings</li> <li>-Signposting to relevant agencies and services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Health promotion covering nutrition, physical activity, dental hygiene, sleep, internet safety</li> <li>-NCMP delivery and follow-up for families where needed</li> <li>-Advice and brief interventions around weight management and physical activity</li> </ul>
<b>Supporting vulnerable young people and improving health inequalities</b>	<b>Supporting complex and additional health and wellbeing needs</b>	<b>Promoting self-care and improving literacy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identifying and supporting health needs that may impact engagement in learning (e.g. hearing loss, continence, sleep issues)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Bespoke support for children with medical conditions, including care planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Support at key transition points (e.g. primary to secondary, school to college)</li> </ul>

-Partnership working with schools and SEND teams  -Attendance at multi-agency meetings to support educational outcomes	-School Staff Medical Awareness sessions  -Liaison with GPs, community paediatrics, and other health professionals	-Preparing young people to independently manage their health
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## **7. Safeguarding and Statutory Responsibilities**

Safeguarding is a core function of the school nursing service. All team members are trained to appropriate safeguarding levels and attend regular 1:1 and group safeguarding supervision. We contribute to:

- Child in Need and Child Protection plans
- Strategy meetings and case conferences
- Multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, including MASH
- Early Help assessments, TAFs and Plans

Our role includes health assessments, timely information sharing, and advocating for the voice of the child in all safeguarding activity.

## **8. Data, Evaluation, and Quality Improvement**

We are a data-informed service that uses routine feedback, audits, and performance metrics to drive continuous improvement. Key performance indicators (KPIs) are based on:

- National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)
- Secondary School Clinics
- Outcome Stars (Intervention and assessment tool)
- Mental Health Screening
- Health Care Plans
- Referrals to School Nursing

We participate in service reviews, internal audits, and board meetings to demonstrate value and impact.

## **9. Partnership Working**

We work closely with:

- Schools and academies
- Social care and safeguarding teams

- CAMHS and other NHS services
- Early Help and youth services
- Voluntary and community sector organisations

This integrated approach ensures children and families receive joined-up support that meets their individual needs.

## 10. Service Access and Referral Pathways

Referrals can be made by:

- Schools
- Parents/carers
- Children and young people themselves
- All professionals (e.g., GPs, Early Help, social workers)

The service can be accessed:

Email: [SwindonSchoolNurseTeam@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:SwindonSchoolNurseTeam@swindon.gov.uk)

Phone: 0-19 Duty line – 01793 465452

All referrals are triaged by trained staff to ensure timely and appropriate response.

## 11. Future Priorities and Service Development

Looking ahead, the Swindon School Nursing Service is committed to continuous improvement and innovation to meet the evolving needs of children, young people, and families. Our future priorities are informed by local intelligence, national guidance, and feedback from service users and partners. Key areas of development include:

- **Embedding the Family Hub Model** - We will continue to strengthen our contribution to Swindon's developing Family Hub model, promoting integrated, place-based working that ensures children and families receive coordinated support.
- **Strengthening Emotional Wellbeing Support** - In response to rising mental health needs among young people, we will be developing more targeted support pathways, embedding mental health screening tools, and offering early intervention as part of school-based clinics.
- **Pilot of Primary School Transition Support** - In the coming year, we will pilot a transition support programme in three primary schools. This initiative will provide targeted input to support children moving from Year 6 to secondary education, helping to build resilience, promote emotional wellbeing, and reduce anxiety. Learning from the pilot will inform future rollout and integration into our core offer.

- **Launch of School Nurse Forums** - We are developing a new series of school nurse-led forums that will:
  - Showcase best practice and work undertaken within our School Nursing Champion Areas (e.g. emotional health, health promotion, SEND, safeguarding)
  - Offer guidance to schools and professionals on accessing and engaging with the service
  - Provide an open space for sharing feedback, co-producing solutions, and identifying areas for improvement
  - Strengthen the visibility and accessibility of the school nursing service across Swindon
- **Responding to Emerging Health Priorities** - We remain alert to emerging health issues such as vaping, sleep difficulties, eating disorders, and post-pandemic recovery needs, and will adapt our interventions and messaging accordingly.

These priorities reflect our commitment to delivering a modern, inclusive, and high-impact public health nursing service in line with the Swindon Plan, Healthy Child Programme, and the principles of equity and early intervention.

## **12. Summary of our school nurse core offer 2025-2026**

- Named School Nurse for each primary and secondary school
- Weekly School Nurse Clinic in every secondary school, including a wellbeing and triage clinic to meet the personalised in response criteria in the HCP
- Support for continence needs via our care pathway
- Additional support for Children Looked After, Young Carers, and children with SEND
- Development and review of care plans for severe allergy and epilepsy
- Medical needs training for school staff (allergy, epilepsy, asthma, medication), offered through booked online sessions
- Delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) in Reception and Year 6
- Vision screening in Reception
- Support for children and families around health concerns and health promotion
- Transition and resilience support for pupils moving from primary to secondary
- Quarterly school nurse forums for schools and partners to share updates, showcase work, and strengthen collaboration



- Safeguarding and support for vulnerable children and young people, including identification of emerging needs and input during school holidays
- Support with the immunisation programme