

**Paediatric Audiology**

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9<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**Year 1 children**

This letter is to inform you that one of the school screeners will be coming to your child's school this academic year to check the hearing of the children in reception and those in year 1 that have not been tested previously.

This hearing screening is vital to check if there are any permanent or temporary changes in your child's hearing ability. Significant hearing losses are still detected at this check in a number of children.

This hearing check is possibly the only one that your child will have, apart from the one at birth (depending on where they were born). All children born in the UK should have received a hearing screen shortly after birth. Even though your child may have passed this early screen, hearing can change at any point due to many factors (infection, trauma, upper respiratory tract infections, wax etc.) Even a small change in hearing can affect what your child can hear and therefore affect their communication and educational progress.

If your child does not pass the first screen at school, this will be repeated in 5/6 weeks again at school and if he/she still does not pass or is unable to condition to the test you will be directly contacted by the Paediatric Audiology Department to attend one of our clinics where a more comprehensive test will be done.

**As a local provider we are committed to working in partnership with your child's school to ensure our service is delivered safely and that the arrangements we put in place meet a range of needs within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. One area we are keen to ensure a consistent approach is in infection prevention and control measures and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). In line with national guidance and Public Health England (PHE), Whittington Health NHS Trust staff should maintain social distancing of 2 metres where possible, in addition to performing regular hygiene measures such as frequent handwashing and surface decontamination. Where social distancing is not possible (for example when needing to do close work with children) the use of face masks, gloves, visors and aprons (for staff) is recommended to further reduce the risk of transmission.**

Whittington Health NHS Trust

Chair: Baroness Julia Neuberger

Chief Executive: Siobhan Harrington



As an NHS service we fully comply with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 with regard to the storage, retention and secure destruction of personal information about your child. More information is available at:

<https://www.whittington.nhs.uk/default.asp?c=33205>

In relation to the screening results of your child, we hold the following personal details: NHS number, First and Last Name, Date of Birth, Address, Telephone contact details, GP details, School and Class and, if provided, email address.

**If you do not wish your child to have this hearing test or if they are currently under the care of Audiology or Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) department, can you please let the school know in writing as soon as possible. We will notify school of any children requiring further testing so that they can assist with releasing your child for their appointment.**

We will be asking the school for your contact details which will only be used should we need to send appointments out and text reminders. Please ensure that your school has your most up to date contact details. This information is always kept securely at all times.

Ruth Droy, Masa Klubicka-Herdic & Carol Ure

Paediatric Audiology Screeners

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