



# Gaelscoil na Mara

*Doras Feasa Fiafraí*

Uimhir Rolla: 20530R

Baile Uisce  
Domhnach Bat  
Co Átha Cliath  
K36 WT02

28/01/2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The HSE's school health programme is part of Ireland's free universal programme of clinical care for all children.

It includes:

- eyesight and hearing screening
- vaccines
- dental checks

Gaelscoil na Mara has facilitated the programme for a number of years through the:

- distribution of consent forms for participation
- use of the school premises by the HSE team

## **New legislation**

Every school has obligations under GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

As part of this, I want to share a recent update to legislation. This update is about the sharing of pupil data with the HSE. The Minister for Health has signed two new statutory regulations. . These are the:

1. Infectious Diseases (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 2024
2. Health (Provision of Information for Health Examination and Treatment Service) Regulations 2024

## **Information request to the school**

A HSE school health team will contact the school when planning their visits. They will ask for information about children who are eligible for the programme. Under the regulations, the school must provide the following information:



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- the name, address, date of birth and sex of the pupil
- the mother's birth surname
- contact details (including the name, phone number and email address of their parent/guardian)
- the pupil's PPSN (if any)
- the name of the school which the pupil attends and the school roll number

The school has a legal obligation to provide the data to the HSE within 10 days of a request from them.

## **Why the information is needed**

The nurse uses these details to send in consent forms and any other relevant information to the school. The data also helps to make sure the programme reaches as many children as possible. It allows the nurse to follow up with families who do not return the consent form, providing additional information to make sure children do not miss out on the service.

## **You will continue to have the choice to consent to your child taking part in the services offered by the programme.**

I have attached a note to parents/guardians from the HSE. This will give you more information about the school health programme.

Le dea-mhéin,

Orflaith Ní Mhaicín

Príomhoide



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## **About the HSE's school health programme**

The HSE's National Healthy Childhood Programme is Ireland's universal programme of clinical care for all children. The service is free to all children in Ireland.

The programme helps to:

- create the best outcomes for children
- build the foundations for health over their lifetime

We offer routine health interventions to children. This aims to help children to stay well and to identify those who may need early intervention or other support.

A core component of this service is the school health programme in primary and post-primary schools.

### **What it includes**

The school health programme includes:

- eyesight and hearing screening
- vaccines
- school dental programme

### **When it happens**

Screening and vaccines are usually offered in junior infants. (In Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal, the vaccines are given by your GP).

Additional vaccines are also offered in first year of post-primary school.

The school dental programme currently offers dental check-ups to children in certain classes in primary school.

### **How it works**

A HSE school health team will contact your child's school to arrange a visit.

### **Information needed**

By law, schools will be asked to share the following information with the HSE:

- your child's name, address, date of birth and sex
- mother's birth surname
- contact details for parent/guardian (including name, phone number and email address)
- the child's personal public service (PPS) number, if any
- the school's name and roll number

This information allows school public health nurses to plan their visit to the school. They can also follow up with families who do not return consent forms, providing additional support and information to make sure children do not miss out. This helps to make sure the programme reaches as many children as possible.

### **Information and consent forms**

The school health team will provide information about screening and vaccine visits. They will give a consent form before any visits. Your child will usually carry these home in their school bag.

When you get the documents:

1. read the information
2. complete the consent form – these will usually ask if you do or do not consent
3. send the consent form back to the school – please return regardless of consent option chosen

The school team will check the consent forms. They will contact you if they have any questions.

We strongly recommend all children avail of the services provided by the school health programme. Parents and guardians have the choice to consent or not to consent to these services.

### **More information**

For more information about the school health programme, click [here](#).



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