

Dear parents,

I am writing to you to explain the situation for my special school clinics during the ongoing coronavirus situation.

Your child may be offered an appointment at the special school clinic if I have been asked to take on their community paediatric care, or, if they have already been attending this clinic.

In the past, I visited the school to do this clinic so the child did not have to miss school to attend their paediatric appointment, and also so that there could be easier liaison with the teachers if necessary. Parents/Guardians have always been expected to attend with their child for those appointments.

Unfortunately due to the coronavirus situation, many of the hospital appointments are being done virtually (by video or telephone) where possible, and there are restrictions on routine visits to the schools. Below are the following possibilities:

Option	Description	Reason for using this option
A	<p>Virtual appointment (by video)</p> <p>The doctor speaks with the parent/guardian by video call. Additional people can join by video (e.g. teacher, social worker) if requested. If the internet connection is too poor then it can be converted to telephone appointment.</p> <p>If a face-to-face appointment becomes necessary it will be arranged.</p> <p>To prepare for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If it is feasible for the child/young-person to participate please bring them out of school for this video appointment.</i>• <i>Please liaise with the school and my secretary if it would be appropriate for the child and teacher to join the video appointment from school.</i>• <i>If you have weighing-scales at home please obtain a measurement for the appointment.</i>• <i>If you have a home blood-pressure machine then please check this if your child is on ADHD medication or if they normally get their blood pressure checked at the clinic.</i>	<p>This is the default option if no specific arrangements have been given.</p>
B	<p>Virtual appointment (by telephone)</p> <p>The doctor speaks with the parent/guardian by telephone call. Additional people can join by telephone (e.g. teacher, social worker) if requested.</p> <p>If a face-to-face appointment becomes necessary it will be arranged.</p>	<p>If a telephone appointment is preferred to a video appointment. Please contact my secretary if you wish to have a telephone appointment instead of video appointment.</p>

	<p>To prepare for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If it is feasible for the child/young-person to participate please bring them out of school for this telephone appointment.</i> • <i>If you have weighing-scales at home please obtain a measurement for the appointment.</i> • <i>If you have a home blood-pressure machine then please check this if your child is on ADHD medication or if they normally get their blood pressure checked at the clinic.</i> 	
C	<p>Face to Face appointment in the Children Centre (Hospital).</p> <p>The child/young-person attends with one parent/guardian.</p> <p>Additional people (e.g. the second parent, social worker, etc) can join by video or telephone.</p> <p>If the child requires the support of two adults due to their behaviour/understanding – please discuss with the nurse-in-charge before coming to the appointment.</p> <p>The date/time of the appointment may have to be changed.</p>	<p>If the consultant requests in advance of the appointment</p> <p>If the parent/guardian requests in advance of the appointment.</p> <p>If, from the virtual appointment a physical examination is also needed, or other reason.</p>
D	<p>Appointment in the special school clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The doctor attends the school. • The clinics are all reorganised according to the social bubble in the school • The doctor speaks with the parent by video or telephone. • If necessary the doctor can include additional people by video or telephone (e.g. social worker). • If necessary the doctor sees/examines the child, accompanied by their teacher. 	<p>This option is being explored, but is not currently possible, and may only be possible in certain special schools.</p>

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