



**Dorset HealthCare
University**
NHS Foundation Trust

Children and Young People's Public Health Service

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dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk

18th March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Audiology Screening for children and young people

We wrote to all parents of reception aged children at the beginning of the academic year to inform you that your child(ren) will be seen by the School Nursing Service as part of two screening programmes offered by the local service; the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and a hearing screening test.

The School Nursing Service, in conjunction with Public Health Dorset and Dorset HealthCare, has made the decision to cease offering hearing screening for children in Reception Year with immediate effect. This decision has been made in conjunction with an independent review of the Paediatric Audiology Service nationally (NHS Lothian Report August 2021), and in light of the robust Neonatal Hearing Screening programme which your child(ren) will have received at birth. This hearing screening test will have identified any permanent moderate, severe and profound deafness and hearing impairment. Your child(ren) will continue to be seen as part of the NCMP.

If your child(ren) have not received a hearing screen this academic year and/or you have any concerns with your child(ren)s hearing, now or at any stage of their schooling, your GP or the School Nursing Service are able to refer directly to the Paediatric Audiology Service. You can contact the School Nursing Service via a School Nursing Request for Support available online at www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing or via the Parentline text messaging service (07312 263131).

If you have any concerns about the changes outlined above, please do not hesitate to contact the School Nursing Service as above.

Kind Regards

Children and Young People's Public Health Service, Dorset HealthCare

Our vision is to be better every day through excellence, compassion and expertise in all we do