

**Private and confidential**

**Kent School Health**

Maidstone Studios  
Vinters Business Park  
New Cut Road  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 5NZ

**Phone:** 0300 123 5205

**Email:** [kentchft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net)

**Web:** [www.kentcht.nhs.uk](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk)

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Hearing screening**

A hearing screen is offered to all reception-aged children by the NHS School Health Team.

This screening can help identify if your child has any hearing problems, that if unidentified, could affect your child's speech and language development, social skills and impact on their learning.

Your child can have a hearing screening in school whether you have concerns or not about their hearing. You can book a screening using the details at the top of this letter by **31 January 2023**.

**If your child is already under the care of, or has been referred to a hearing specialist, please do not opt into this screening programme.**

Your child's hearing will be tested using a simple listening game using headphones.

The key issues for you to consider and to support you in deciding whether you are concerned about your child's hearing are if they:

- don't speak clearly
- don't reply when you call them
- talk very loudly
- ask you to repeat yourself or respond inappropriately to questions
- turn up the volume of the TV very high.

We would also recommend that your child has the screening if they did not have hearing screening when they were a newborn. This may be the case if your child was born outside of the UK.

Other children may be at an increased risk, this include children who have had a neonatal illness, mumps or meningitis. Children from Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Irish Traveller and Gypsy Roma Traveller ethnicity, may

**Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick**

**Trust HQ** The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

also have an increased risk. If your child is in a group with an increased risk, we would suggest you request your child has the hearing test.

If your child does not pass the screen we will see them again in school 12 weeks later. If they fail the second screen they will be invited to an appointment with hearing specialists. You will receive a letter at each stage about your child's results. Screening tests are not 100% accurate; some children will fail the screening tests who do not have a permanent issue with their hearing, for example they have a cold when tested. The hearing specialists will identify where a child has a permanent hearing loss or requires additional investigations.

If you have any immediate concerns about your child's hearing, then please do seek advice from your GP to ensure that no concerns go undetected.

If you have any questions relating to this letter or wish to discuss any health concerns which could impact on your child's education, please contact the School Health Team using the details at the top of this letter.

If you require more information regarding the Kent Community Health NHS Trust School Health services please visit [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/school-health)

Information about how Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust collect and use information can be found at [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/legal/](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/legal/)

Yours Sincerely

Kent School Health Service  
Public Health and Prevention Directorate

#### **Do you have feedback about our health services?**

**Phone:** 0800 030 4550

8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

**Text:** 07899 903499

**Email:** [kentchft.pals@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.pals@nhs.net)

**Web:** [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS)

**If you need to speak to someone about your appointment, please contact the service directly using the details at the top of page one.**



#### **Patient Advice and Liaison**

**Service (PALS)** Kent Community Health NHS

Foundation Trust Unit J, Concept Court Shearway Business Park

Folkestone Kent CT19 4RG