

Association of British Paediatric Nurses Position Statement on School Nursing

Purpose

This position statement affirms the beliefs and values of the Association of British Paediatric Nurses. It has been produced by officers and members of the Association in line with our role to promote the development of children's nursing through evidence-based information about practice and education¹.

Background

Qualified school nurses have completed a post-registration Specialist Community and Public Health Nursing education programme². The school nursing team can include a range of staff, including other registered nurses and health care support workers.

School nurses

- provide universal, specialist and targeted services
- work across education and health
- link school, home and the wider community.

They are able to:

- identify health needs amongst school-aged children and young people
- support holistic assessment of children and young people's mental health and wellbeing needs
- offer individual support to children, young people and families³
- provide early interventions to
 - reduce health inequalities
 - support emotional wellbeing and mental health
 - encourage healthy weight
 - promote positive health information
 - support children to recognise and report bullying, including cyber bullying
 - support schools to deal with serious youth violence
- deliver childhood immunisations
- support and advise schools and colleges to protect children and young people from the spread of infectious disease, incidents, outbreaks and non-infectious environmental hazards
- contribute to safeguarding children and young people in conjunction with others

Some nurses are employed directly by a school⁴ or college, and are generally responsible for influencing the health provision across the school or college, working with head teachers, teachers, governors, and parents to promote the health and wellbeing of the children and young people.

The ABPN believes that

- Services for children and young people should be age appropriate and meet their specific needs
- The voices of children and young people should be heard and inform the development and planning/ commissioning of services for them
- Children and young people should have access to nurses that have the child specific and specialist knowledge, skills and competencies, and be able to do so in their own home, schools, colleges and wider community settings

The ABPN calls on the UK Government and the devolved nations to:

- place children and young people at the heart of all policy-making decisions
- invest in school nursing services as part of an integrated children's public health and community children's nursing service to enable children, young people and families to access a school nurse
- develop a workforce strategy for school nursing and action plan to ensure a sustainable future workforce

Terms

The term child refers to infants, children, young people and young adults up to 25 years of age.

About the ABPN

The ABPN is a network of children's nurses with a wide membership of experts in clinical practice, education, leadership and research. It is the oldest children's nursing association in the world, established in 1938.

The ABPN recognises that primary and community services, as well as child public health and mental health services, including school nurses and health visitors also have a key role in supporting children, young people and families.

www.abpn-uk.com

X (formerly Twitter): @ABPN_ChildNurse

Facebook: Association of British Paediatric Nurses

Tik Tok: @ABPN_ChildNurse

YouTube: @ABPN_ChildNurse

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References

¹ The ABPN recognises that primary and community services, as well as child public health and mental health services, including school nurses and health visitors also have a key role in supporting children, young people and families.

² Nursing and Midwifery Council Standards of Proficiency for Specialist Community Public Health Nurses
<https://www.nmc.org.uk/standards/standards-for-post-registration/standards-of-proficiency-for-specialist-community-public-health-nurses2/>

³ This includes enabling children not in education to access school nursing services

⁴ Including independent and boarding schools