

## Working with Medical Professionals

We work with a range of different Medical Professionals at Rachel Madocks School in order to support the variety of medical needs of our students. The different medical professionals we work with are as follows:

### **Nurses:**

The Special School Nursing Service use their clinical judgement and public health expertise to identify health needs early, determining risk and providing early intervention to prevent issues escalating. They offer training to staff in order to support the medical needs of students and support families with medical appointments. They create all the medical care plans for our students in conjunction with the students' Paediatrician and other clinical professionals. They quality control medication administration and complete competency checks for all staff.

### **Speech and Language Therapists**

Speech and Language Therapists (SALT) help students of all ages with speech, language and communication problems. They can also support students with dysphagia (eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties). They provide eating, drinking and oral hygiene plans following safe IDDSI guidance. They provide training for staff on dysphagia as well as communication approaches.

### **Physiotherapists**

Physiotherapists at Rachel Madocks support students with additional physical needs through bespoke physiotherapy plans, positioning and postural management plans and education advice. They assess and provide equipment for students independent mobility including standing frames and walkers and liaise with other medical professionals including Orthopaedic Consultants, Paediatricians, Occupational Therapists and Orthotics.



## Occupational Therapists

Our occupational therapists work with us to find practical solutions that can help to maintain, regain, or improve independence and participation in daily activities. These solutions might involve changing environments, or using different techniques and new equipment. They provide advice and support on specialised seating in school.

### Sensory Occupational therapists

The Sensory Occupational Therapy team works with students whose sensory needs make day-to-day tasks more difficult. They work closely with education and health to make sure the adults working with our students have the skills they need to recognise their sensory needs. They work alongside other professionals to adapt environments and put strategies in place to meet sensory needs. This helps to support a calm environment, encourage attention, participation self-regulation and independence.

### CAMHS

Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) are a NHS specialist service that aims to help young people aged 5 -18 years and their families who are finding it hard to manage their emotional and psychological health, and who are suffering with acute, chronic and severe mental health problems. **MHST**, the Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is a Hampshire CAMHS early help service designed to improve access to psychological therapies for young people, while also assisting schools to develop a whole-school approach to positive mental health and wellbeing.

### Orthotics

Orthotic services provide prescription insoles, braces, splints, footwear, and helmets which help people recover from or avoid injury, or live with lifelong conditions.



## Immunisation Team

The immunisation team offer vaccinations in schools. Vaccinations take place within the school and there are catch up appointments for any missed vaccinations.

### Paediatricians

A paediatrician is a doctor who treats new-borns, children and adolescents and young adults. Paediatricians play an important role in health and wellbeing of children. They have a wide range of responsibilities from conducting regular check-ups to diagnosing and treating illnesses, injuries and other health conditions. The community Paediatricians hold regular clinics within the school supported by the SSNS. Students are then familiar with the setting and can engage with the appointments in a more positive way.

### Dentist

Dentists are the frontline of good oral health. They work with communities to prevent and treat dental/oral disease, correct dental irregularities and treat dental/facial injuries. There is a local specialist dentist for students with additional needs to whom the SSNS can refer students.

### Optician

An Optician helps people get the right vision-correcting tools for their needs. Their duties include giving eyewear advice, fitting spectacles and repairing glasses. Many of our students cannot access a high street optician so the local NHS Ophthalmology team come into school on an annual basis to review those students who cannot access another service or have more complex visual needs.

