

Visiting St George's Paediatric Dental and Orthodontic Department

Information for Parents of Children with Additional Needs

Welcome

This leaflet explains about what to expect for yourself and your child, when coming to our dental department. We have made this leaflet to cover as much information as possible, so you feel prepared for when you visit the department for the first time and for any future treatment.

We understand some children will benefit from discussing and seeing a new environment before attending for these appointments. We have broken down the information for you to be able to discuss this with your child, with images available for them to visualise our department before visiting. The leaflet is split into different sections depending on for what your child is visiting us.


1. Paediatric dental department (pages 3-6).
2. General Anaesthetic (pages 7-9).
3. Orthodontic department (pages 10-11).

We also recommend parents explore the idea of a hospital passport. This is a way in which staff members can easily understand your child's interests, ways of communicating and other important information during their visit to the hospital.

Our department can be found on Perimeter Road which encircles the main hospital. We are based in the Maxillofacial and Day Surgery building. The Day Surgery Unit is situated on the ground floor, whereas the Paediatric Dental and Orthodontic department can be found on the second floor.



What to expect when visiting the Paediatric Dental Department

Follow the steps  to find out what will happen when you visit us in the paediatric department.

Step 1

- You will enter the building and walk up the stairs to the second floor.



Step 2

- You will meet our receptionist who will ask for your name and tell you where to sit.



Step 3

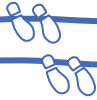
- Take a seat in our waiting room.
- You can bring some quiet entertainment to use whilst you wait, such as a book to read or your headphones and tablet.





Step 4

- Come into the dental room.
- You will meet one of our dentists and dental nurses who will introduce themselves to you.



Step 5

- Take a seat on our blue dental chair.
- We will talk with you and your parents.



Step 6

- The dentist will put on some gloves.
- You will be given some sunglasses to wear.
- The dentist may ask if they can lean you back to make it easier for them to look at your teeth.



Step 7

- We will ask you to open your mouth very wide.
- We use a dental mirror and a light to help us count your teeth.



(If visiting the orthodontic department, skip to page 9)



Step 8

- We might take some x-ray pictures of your teeth.
- We will walk you to another room for this.
- It is important to stay still whilst you have your pictures taken.
- You will then sit back in the waiting room afterwards until we call your name again.



Step 9


- You will come back to the room and see your x-ray pictures.
- We will talk about your teeth with your parents and make a plan for your teeth.



Step 10

- You will get to choose a sticker for being so good at the dentist.
- You can now go home or back to school.

What to expect when you're having a General Anaesthetic

Follow the steps  to find out what will happen when you visit the general anaesthetic department.

Step 1

- When you enter the building, you will be greeted on the ground floor by a member of the theatre team.
- They will take your name and check who has come with you.



Step 2

- You will take a seat in our waiting room.
- You can bring your tablet and headphones, a book or some colouring with you to keep you busy.



Step 3

- You will meet the dentist, the sleep doctor (anaesthetist) and the nurses, who will talk to you and your parents.



Step 4

- You will get your weight checked.
- You will have your height measured.
- You will get a bracelet with your name and birthday written on it.





Step 6

- You will get a sticker with some white cream on the back of your hands.
 - This can sometimes tingle after a little while.



Step 7

- When your name is called, we will walk with you through to the room where you go to sleep.
- Your mum or dad will come along with you.
- You will lay on the bed like you would at home.



Step 8



- The doctors will talk to you.
- To go to sleep we either use a balloon mask or we use a little plastic straw we place in your hand for medicine.
- We may read you a book to help you fall asleep.





Step 9

- You will go to sleep for a nap for about 45 minutes.
- When you wake up your parents will be with you and your dental treatment will be over.



Step 10

- You may feel tired.
- You may have a tissue in your mouth.
- You may have a slight sore throat.
- You may have a funny taste and tingly feeling in your mouth.




Step 11

- You will go home and relax.
- We like you to take the day off as well to make sure you are fully back to normal before going back to school.

What to expect when you visit the Orthodontic Department

Please read steps 1-6 of “Visiting the Paediatric Dental Department” before continuing here.

Follow the steps  to see what you might experience during your first few orthodontic appointments:

Step 7

- We use a ruler to take some measurements.
- We might talk about your teeth with another dentist.



Step 8

- We might take some x-ray pictures of your teeth.
- We talk about x-ray pictures earlier in the booklet on page 6.



Step 9

- We will take pictures of your teeth
 - We use a camera, a small mirror and some plastic cheek holders to help us get good pictures.





Step 10

- We will take a mould of your teeth.
 - We use a tray to fit in your mouth for this.
 - We use a special putty material for the mould.
 - It might feel like a big mouthful.
 - It takes about one minute to complete and then we will remove the mould.



If you come back to have braces, we might use some of the following to place your braces

- Air and water.
- Our tooth shampoo to clean your teeth.
- Different tools to help us place your brace.
- A wire to place your brace.
- Different coloured bands for your brace - you can choose.

Useful online resources to visit prior to your child's appointment

- The British Society of Paediatric Dentistry www.bspd.co.uk
 - Patients
 - Patient Info
 - Advice for parents of children with autism
- <https://widgit-health.com/easy-read-sheets/index.htm>
 - Teeth
 - Visiting the dentist
 - Arriving at the dentist
 - In the dentist's room
 - After seeing the dentist
 - My dental x-ray
 - Extra-oral
 - Small Intra-oral
 - Operations
 - My Day Case Operation
- [Parents and families \(autism.org.uk\)](http://Parents and families (autism.org.uk))
- [British Orthodontic Society > BOS Homepage](#)
 - Patient information Leaflets
 - Orthodontics and Children with Additional Needs
 - Your first visit to the Orthodontist
 - So You're Going to see the Orthodontist

To access an online version of this patient information leaflet please scan the QR code



Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact the paediatric dental team on 020 8672 1255 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.stgeorges.nhs.uk

Additional services

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm Friday between 10am and 2pm. Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times. The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough Wing.

Tel: 020 8725 2453 **Email:** pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk

NHS UK

NHS UK provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

Web: www.nhs.uk

NHS 111

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

Tel: 111

