

A parent's guide to

Important information for your child's admission



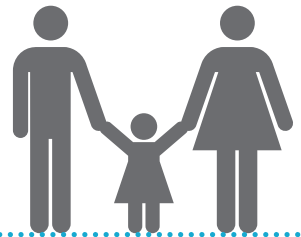
Medication

Please ensure that you bring your child's medication with you on admission. You will be given this back when you go home but it enables us to continue any medication your child has throughout their admission if it is a drug we do not have in the hospital. You may be asked to take your child's medications home once it has been reviewed. You will be advised of this by the ward pharmacist.

If your child is on any medication prior to admission please ensure that you arrange a repeat prescription before you come in.

Immunisations

Your child should continue with their immunisation schedule as planned. If your child is having a flu vaccine this should not be given in the week before surgery.

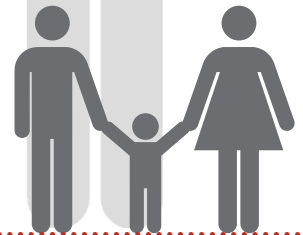


Parental responsibility

You may not be aware but only someone with parental responsibility for a child can sign the consent form for your child. Not all parents have parental responsibility. The following people do have parental responsibility:

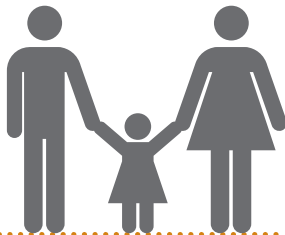
- All biological mothers
- Fathers who were married to the mother at the time of the child's birth
- Fathers who have been registered on the child's birth certificate (for births after the 1st December 2003)
- Any one given parental responsibility by a court of law.

Please ensure that someone with parental responsibility attends with your child. If you have any concerns with this, please contact Paediatric Preadmission on **020 8909 5630**.



Red book

Please bring your child's red book (health visiting book) with you so we can ensure it is updated.



Ward environment

Unless otherwise requested the Children and Teenage unit offers mixed sex accommodation.

For many children and young people, clinical need, age and stage of development may take precedence over gender consideration. There is evidence that many young people find great comfort from sharing with others of their own age and that often outweighs their concerns about mixed sex rooms. Flexibility and exceptions on this may be considered for reasons such as religion. We recognise that privacy and dignity is an important aspect of care for children and young people. The child/young person's preference will be sought, recorded and where possible respected.

Parent accommodation

For young children and babies one parent may stay on the ward – pull out beds are available for some bed spaces.

The ward has a kitchen/sitting room available for parents to use, containing a kettle, microwave, toaster, fridge and freezer (please note: there is no cooker). Tea, coffee, milk and bread are supplied though we do request a donation towards this. This is for parents use only, no patient food to be cooked there or for visitor use please. There is a canteen on site.

We have accommodation opposite the ward which allows one parent/carer to stay with bathroom and kitchen facilities which we encourage you to use as it enables you to get a good night's rest and be available to support your child during their waking hours. For more information contact the Accommodation Department between 09.00 and 16.00 (Monday to Friday) on **020 8909 5872**.

Visiting

Parents are welcome throughout the day. We ask you to arrange other visitors to come after school hours and for the comfort of your child and other patients we request no more than two visitors at any one time.

Visiting for all non-parents ends at 20:00.



What to bring with you

Nightclothes, dressing gown, slippers, tracksuits, underwear and other loose fitting clothes are most suitable. Don't forget toiletries and toothbrushes! Please bring in nappies and formula milk for babies as we do not provide these.

You are welcome to bring in your own small games console, I-pods and mobile phones for use with headphones. Please keep your phones on silent/vibrate at all times for the consideration of other patients. Please be aware that the hospital does not take responsibility for the loss or damage of any valuables you bring with you.

School and play

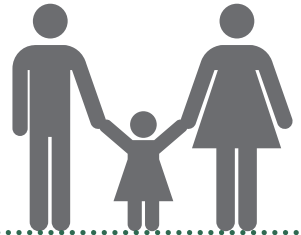
We have a ward-based tuition unit which aims to provide schooling for all children over the age of 8 who are admitted for more than two nights. The school teachers are experienced in providing an enriching and enjoyable experience for all our pupils that aims to ensure normality through education and help prevent anxiety about school work whilst absent from school.

Many schools will provide work for the child to undertake which our school teachers are happy to help with. Please speak to your child's teacher regarding this.

We have a free Wi-Fi service on site. To access the service, connect

to the "RNOH-FREE-WIFI" network on your device and sign up for a free account. Please don't stream or download large files as this can cause the service to crash.

We have a hospital play team who work with all age groups including teenagers, providing play activities as well as helping to prepare children and young people for procedures or surgery.



Preparing your child for admission

When you arrive on the unit there may not be a bed available immediately. If this is the case you will be asked to wait in the day room until one becomes available.

We believe and research has shown that being truthful with your child whatever their age benefits them throughout their hospital stay. We advise that you discuss the admission with your child prior to arrival at the RNOH. If they have fears or worries we are happy for you to ring to arrange a visit to the ward before admission and/or spend some time with our Play Team.

Fasting instructions

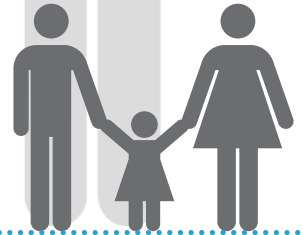
To make anaesthesia and surgery safe, your child will not be allowed to eat or drink before the operation.

- Do not give any food, formula, or milk containing products after 02:00 on the day of surgery
- Do not give any breast milk after 04:00 on the day of surgery
- Encourage your child to have a drink of water before 06:00
- Do not give any water after 06:00 on the day of surgery.

If you are unsure what you can or cannot give, please contact the Pre-Admission Department or Ward, on the numbers given below,

Pre-Admission Clinic
0208 909 5630

Children & Teenage Unit
0208 909 5488 / 5487



Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

Notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 12 horizontal dotted lines.



If you would like this leaflet translated into another language/large print, please contact the Quality Team on 020 8909 5439.

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