



December 2025

Dear Parent or Carer,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP) and Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)

We are writing to inform you that your child is now eligible for their routine **DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio)** booster and **Meningococcal ACWY** vaccination.

In line with the National Immunisation Programme, the Community School Aged Immunisation Service offers these vaccinations to all pupils in Year 9. It may also be offered to anyone who missed the vaccinations in year 10 and above.

Please complete the online response form as soon as possible by using the link below:

<https://midlands.schoolvaccination.uk/dtp/2025/sandwell>

If you are unable to complete an online form, please contact the school or the immunisation team so we can offer an alternative

You must respond 'Yes' or 'No' to this vaccine

Why these vaccines are important

DTP (Td/IPV) Booster

- Tetanus can enter the body through even small cuts and can cause muscle spasms, breathing difficulties, and life-threatening complications.
- Diphtheria affects the throat and airways and can lead to serious breathing problems.
- Polio is a viral infection that can cause lifelong paralysis. Although rare in the UK, cases still occur globally.
- The booster helps provide long-lasting protection through adolescence and adulthood.

Meningitis ACWY

- Protects against four types of meningococcal bacteria: A, C, W, and Y.
- Meningitis and septicaemia (blood poisoning) can develop very quickly and can be life-threatening.
- Strains W and Y have increased in the UK, making this vaccine especially important.
- Vaccinating your child helps reduce the spread of these bacteria within the community.
- Free through school programme.
- Required for some travel destinations and university application.

For further information about vaccines, [click here](#)

Please make sure on the day of immunisations your child is fit and well and encourage them to eat breakfast.



Response Form

It's important that you discuss and complete the consent form with your child. If we do not receive a completed electronic consent form, each young person will be assessed individually under the Gillick Competency Framework. They may be invited to self-consent if they can show they understand the vaccinations offered.

Ultimately, if a young person is assessed as competent, the decision to consent or refuse is theirs.

Please note, if your child has received the vaccine elsewhere, it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to inform the vaccination team so we can update our system.

Measles / Mumps / Rubella (MMR)

A reminder that children should have **2 doses of MMR**. If you're unsure whether your child is fully immunised, please contact your GP or Practice Nurse for advice.

If you would like to discuss the vaccines, potential side effects, or whether they are suitable for your child, please contact:

West Midlands - Sandwell Team

Phone: **01215 921 110**

Email: **sandwell@v-uk.co.uk**