

Listen to English – the school nurse

A: I'm going to ask you a few questions about your job, if that's all right. What is your job?

SN: I'm a school nurse.

A: Do you like it??

SN: I do. Yes.

A: And what does a school nurse basically do?

SN: School nurses are available to provide advice for families, children and teachers at school on all sorts of things, such as healthy eating and exercise, behavioural problems, children with special needs, children who bed wet, children who are struggling to make the transition from primary to secondary school, perhaps children who are being bullied and they can also support families to manage conditions like diabetes, epilepsy, asthma.....

A: Oh, it's quite a lot, isn't it? Are you kind of attached to one school or an area, lots of schools.....?

SN: We're based in health centres and we usually have about one secondary school and four or five primary schools that we work in.

A: I see, and how do people access your services, parents or children?

SN: They can ask the school. They'll always have contact details of the school nurse. There's usually a website that the school nurse's phone number can be found and you can make a referral sometimes by filling out a form, sometimes just by phoning up.

A: And at secondary schools, is it parents, teachers or children who want to access your services or all of them?

SN: All of them. Often when the children are older they'll come themselves and the school nurse might be based in school on a set day and the children can come and find her, but still parents can phone up and teachers can get in touch as well.

A: And how did you become a school nurse?

SN: I started off as a children's nurse on a children's ward for a few years, then I got the job as a school nurse after that.

A: And you like it.

