



Deputy Jennifer Whitmore, TD.
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Kildare Street
Dublin 2

13th February 2025

PQ1383/25

To ask the Minister for Health for waiting times for the school dental programme in Wicklow, including details of how frequently a child currently receives a dental check-up under the programme during their time in primary school; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Whitmore

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted for response.

Having consulted with Dr Frances O Callaghan, Principal Dental Surgeon, Dublin South and Wicklow I confirm that HSE Dental Service in Dublin South and Wicklow provides dental examinations, treatment, and orthodontic assessments for children in sixth class. Subject to available resources, all children enrolled in Special Classes or ASD units within national schools are offered an annual dental examination.

Currently, approximately 75 children from 2023-2024 sixth class in Arklow schools are awaiting their dental appointments. Arrangements are being made to offer assessment appointments to these children in the coming months. Assessments for children attending sixth class in Bray, Greystones, and Wicklow schools, for the academic year 2024-2025, have already commenced.

If a child is experiencing a dental emergency or if parents have concerns regarding their child's dental development, they are encouraged to contact their local clinic for advice. Appointments will be scheduled as needed

I trust this information is of assistance to you but should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Hammond
Interim Head of Service, Primary Care
HSE Dublin South and Wicklow