School-Aged Vaccinations:   
A Quick Guide for Schools

Supporting schools in working with School Aged Immunisation Services (SAIS) to deliver NHS vaccination programmes efficiently and in line with legal and ethical standards.

**Key Responsibilities of Schools**

* Collaborate with SAIS to plan and deliver vaccination sessions.
* Nominate a contact for coordination with SAIS.
* Provide class lists and parent/carer contact details to SAIS teams (as per UKHSA guidance).
* Facilitate access to pupils, **including those without returned consent forms.**
* Support Gillick assessments by allowing SAIS teams to assess competency where needed.

**Legal Framework**

* Vaccination is a statutory duty under the NHS Act 2006.
* Data sharing is lawful under UK GDPR for public health purposes:
  + No need for prior consent to share pupil data with SAIS.
  + Schools must include this in their privacy notices.

**Rights of the Child (UN Convention)**

* **Article 3**: Best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.
* **Article 6**: Every child has the right to life, survival, and development.
* Schools must support access to vaccinations as part of upholding these rights.

**Gillick Competency and Consent**

* Children aged 16–17 can consent to vaccination; parents cannot override.
* **Gillick-competent children under 16** can also consent independently; parents cannot override.
* SAIS teams use clinical judgment to assess competency.
* **Schools must not obstruct these assessments.**

**Escalation Pathways**

If schools obstruct vaccination delivery:

* SAIS will escalate to NHSE Regional Public Health and Local Authority.
* Record as an incident if children are left unprotected.
* Notify NHSE and raise with ICB if unresolved.