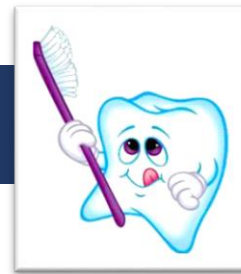


What we do to keep teeth healthy



- ❖ We see eligible children for routine check-ups – go to ‘Who We See’ on the gov.gg/childrensdentalservice homepage for further information on our criteria
- ❖ For children referred in by their dentist, we will complete a course of treatment which will typically consist of;
 - An Initial assessment and, if indicated, X-rays
 - A Dental Nurse appointment for prevention advice and possibly Fluoride Varnish application
 - Fissure sealants if needed (see below)
 - Managing any teeth with decay



Our **Specialist Dental Nurses** run their own clinics where they will ask about your toothbrushing and eating habits so they can offer advice to help you keep teeth and gums healthy. They may use **disclosing solution** to check for spots you might have missed with the toothbrush!

- ❖ The department has two orthodontists who work alongside a visiting orthodontic consultant to provide braces for children with certain **severe malocclusions** (i.e. issues with the bite or tooth position). Please ask your dentist if you have concerns about the position of your children's teeth to see if they fulfil the criteria
- ❖ After the course of treatment is finished, we will discharge your child back to your family dentist and send a letter and any X-rays so they know what we have done

Preventing dental decay is very important

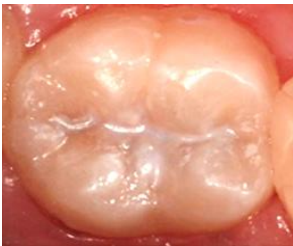
- ❖ It is much easier to prevent cavities than to treat them, especially in young children
- ❖ Baby teeth have thinner enamel than adult teeth, so decay can spread quickly and lead to pain or infection. Some children as old as 11 or 12yrs can still have baby teeth, and if they get infected it can cause damage to the adult tooth growing underneath
- ❖ If a back baby tooth is taken out early because of infection, the adult teeth growing underneath or behind it may drift forward, making it more likely that a child have crowding and need braces in the future

- ❖ As well as prevention advice, we also offer interventions to all children who it will benefit;

We apply **Fluoride Varnish** to children's teeth at least every 3-6 months depending on their risk of developing decay. It is essentially a special toothpaste with a high concentration of fluoride.

You will need to avoid eating or drinking for 30 minutes after application

Children with severe asthma or certain allergies may not be able to have Fluoride Varnish. We will ask about these conditions before offering it to you.



Fissure Sealants are used as a preventative measure and typically we place them on the biting surface of the adult molars. Sealing teeth is a simple treatment that can be done any time after the tooth is question has fully erupted; often we coat the first molars which erupt at around 6-7yrs. They reduce the risk of decay by coating hard-to-reach grooves in these back teeth.

They can also be used to seal over staining or very early decay in these grooves. This treatment can also be done in younger children for their baby teeth.

Fissure sealants may need topping up from time to time, and should be assessed at your check-ups for signs of damage.

If you have any questions about treatment of decay, please see the information sheet 'Treatment at the Children's Dental Service' or contact the department for advice.