

Dental Specialty Fellowship Examinations

Paediatric Dentistry Exam Syllabus

The exam syllabus is drafted based upon the curriculum [published by the GDC](#) as well as the [training syllabi](#) drafted by the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) which includes elements for the exam as well as elements being covered in the workplace-based assessments.

The curriculum is drafted by the Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) and the GDC for use from September 2024.

On application to sit the examination, candidates will be asked to self-certify that have sufficient knowledge of the learning outcomes noted in this syllabus to attempt the examination.

1. Assessment of the Child and Young Person		Curriculum REF D5.1	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
1.1	Demonstrate understanding of consent in relation to children and young people.	X	X
1.2	Demonstrate understanding the concept of “Parental Rights” and how they are managed in law.	X	X
1.3	Demonstrate understanding of confidentiality in relation to children and young people.	X	X
1.4	Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the process and principles underpinning obtaining a comprehensive history.	X	X
1.5	Discuss a range of appropriate communication styles and strategies dependant on the needs and development stage of children and young people.	X	X
1.6	Discuss equality, diversity and inclusion in health messaging.		X
1.7	Order and interpret clinically appropriate radiographic imaging, including CBCT.	X	X

2. Children in Society		Curriculum REF D5.2	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
2.1	Demonstrate and apply an understanding of relevant legalisation that defines the rights of children.	X	X
2.2	Apply current legislation regarding consent to treatment, including the right to refuse treatment, especially for children with complex social needs and those under different care arrangements (e.g., looked after children, informal fostering).	X	X
2.3	Demonstrate sensitivity and awareness of the diverse nature of family units.	X	X
2.4	Demonstrate and apply understanding of the impact of family composition, socio-economic factors, and poverty on child health and oral health.	X	
2.5	Demonstrate familiarity with local and national oral health promotion initiatives and guidance for children and young people.	X	
2.6	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of screening and surveillance programs related to child oral health, including their strengths and limitations, and the ability to analyse and evaluate their results.	X	
2.7	Discuss the importance of effective collaboration with allied health and non-health professionals involved in the care of young people.	X	X
2.8	Demonstrate understanding of the role of dental public health in shaping oral health services for children.	X	
2.9	Demonstrate understanding of the process of transition to adult medical and dental services.	X	X
2.1	Demonstrate awareness of UK immunisation programmes and schedules.	X	X

3. Behavioural Science		Curriculum REF D5.3	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
3.1	Recognise signs of medical/ dental anxiety in children and young people and management options.	X	X

3.2	Demonstrate understanding of non-pharmacological behaviour management techniques in children and young people.	X	X
3.3	Demonstrate understanding of pharmacological behaviour management techniques in children and young people.	X	X
3.4	Demonstrate knowledge and discuss skills used in dental general anaesthesia (GA) including gaining consent for GA.	X	X

4. Medical		Curriculum REF D5.4	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
4.1	Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the process and principles underpinning obtaining a comprehensive medical history including social history.		X
4.2	Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of medical conditions on both oral health and the provision of oral health care including an appreciation of caries risk and how it may be affected by oral and systemic conditions.	X	X
4.3	Demonstrate an understanding of normal physical growth in children and young people, recognise abnormal growth, the possible implications of abnormality and appropriate referral pathways for such children and young people.	X	X
4.4	Demonstrate an understanding of appropriate preventive, restorative, and surgical treatment for the child with complex medical conditions.	X	X
4.5	Recognise specific issues that may complicate the provision of oral health care for the child and young person with additional needs including for treatment under local anaesthetic, general anaesthetic and inhalation sedation.	X	X
4.6	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the genetic basis, transmission, clinical features and diagnosis of common syndromes with significant oral, dental and facial features.	X	X
4.7	Discuss effective reasonable adjustments for children with complex needs.	X	X
4.8	Demonstrate effective multidisciplinary communication and planning by liaising with and referring to medical specialities.	X	X
4.9	Demonstrate an understanding of the guidelines and evidence-based practice in relation to treatment planning for medically complex children.	X	X

4.10	Demonstrate an understanding of the implications of general health on oral health and the delivery of key health messages such as obesity, smoking, vaping, mental health issues, substance abuse, where appropriate.	X	X
4.11	Demonstrate understanding of the role of genetic testing in paediatric dentistry; be able to consent families for such testing and be able to deliver simple genetic test results.	X	X
4.12	Demonstrate an understanding of the cleft service in the United Kingdom.	X	X
4.13	Recognise and respond appropriately to paediatric medical emergencies that may occur in the dental setting.	X	X

5. Oral Medicine and Oral Surgery		Curriculum REF D5.5	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
5.1	Recognise, assess, investigate and suggest appropriate management for localised disease of the oral soft tissues in children and young people.	X	X
5.2	Recognise when oral disease may be a manifestation of systemic disease.	X	X
5.3	Demonstrate knowledge of the common therapeutic approaches for relevant pathology.	X	X
5.4	Suggest appropriate referrals to other dental, medical or surgical specialities if their input required.	X	X
5.5	Demonstrate knowledge of medications which may result in an oral manifestation.	X	X
5.6	Discuss the general principles of good surgical technique (raising appropriate design of intraoral flaps, debridement and suturing).	X	X
5.7	Demonstrate knowledge of surgical techniques for the management of impacted, ectopic and supernumerary teeth, auto transplantation, retained roots and cystic lesions.	X	X

6. Dento-alveolar Trauma		Curriculum REF D5.6	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
6.1	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of aetiology and prevalence of primary and permanent dento-alveolar injuries, intraoral/perioral soft tissue injuries and maxillofacial injuries in children and young people.	X	X
6.2	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of presentation, investigation and management of primary and permanent dento-alveolar injuries, intraoral/perioral soft tissue injuries and maxillofacial injuries in children and young people.	X	X
6.3	Diagnose and suggest appropriate management for dento-alveolar and intraoral/perioral soft tissue injuries in childhood and adolescence.	X	X

6.4	Identify injured teeth of poor prognosis in the intermediate- and long-term.	X	X
6.5	Demonstrate and apply an understanding of the biological response to oral and dental trauma and its application to management in children and young people.	X	X
6.6	Demonstrate an understanding of the impact that dental maturity and age have on management of traumatic dental injuries and its complications.	X	X
6.7	Demonstrate an understanding of the psychological impact of trauma on the child and young person and their families.	X	X
6.8	Engage in effective multidisciplinary communication and planning where appropriate and liaise with, or refer to appropriate specialties	X	X
7. Development and Anomalies		Curriculum REF D5.7	
<i>ES code</i>	<i>Trainees should be able to:</i>	SBA	SO
7.1	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of normal dental, alveolar complex and craniofacial growth and development	X	X
7.2	Identify abnormalities and their aetiology.	X	X
7.3	Demonstrate an understanding of the anatomical differences between the paediatric and adult patient and their impact upon management.	X	X
7.4	Diagnose and suggest appropriate management for developmental defects and anomalies of the dental hard tissues and their long-term complications such as, but not limited to, amelogenesis imperfecta, dentinogenesis imperfecta and molar incisor hypomineralisation.	X	X
7.5	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the genetic basis, clinical features and diagnosis of genetically determined defects of dental hard tissues and tooth form, size and number.	X	X
7.6	Demonstrate understanding of and suggest appropriate management for disturbances of eruption and exfoliation, abnormalities of tooth size, form, number and structure.	X	X
7.7	Demonstrate and apply an understanding of interceptive orthodontics in preventing and managing dental malocclusions.	X	X
7.8	Prescribe and design simple orthodontic appliances and space-maintainers in the developing dentition.	X	X

7.9	Demonstrate an understanding of the limitations and scope of orthodontic interventions within Paediatric Dentistry and understand when an orthodontic opinion should be sought, or referral made.	X	X
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8. Management and Prevention of Oral Disease		Curriculum REF D5.8	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
8.1	Demonstrate an understanding of the prevention of and complexity of the caries process and how variables may interact to render children and young people caries prone including dental anomalies and dental trauma.	X	X
8.2	Demonstrate an understanding of current diagnostic techniques for dental caries and their advantages and limitations.	X	X
8.3	Construct holistic, effective and appropriate preventive, restorative (including endodontic) and surgical treatment plans for children/adolescents with dental caries.	X	X
8.4	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the selection, application, delivery and limitations of contemporary intra-coronal restorations, extra-coronal restorations, endodontics, fixed and removable prosthodontic techniques in primary and permanent teeth.	X	X
8.5	Demonstrate understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of different techniques to manage aesthetic concerns in the child and young person.	X	X
8.6	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of the selection, application, delivery, merits and limitations of dental materials used in the treatment of the paediatric patient.	X	X
8.7	Identify, diagnose and suggest appropriate management of periodontal disease in children and young people and apply appropriate preventive strategies.	X	X
8.8	Recognise when periodontal disease may be related to systemic disease and refer appropriately for additional specialist opinion and management.	X	X
8.9	Accurately diagnose and suggest appropriate management for non-carious TSL in children and young people.	X	X
8.10	Suggest appropriate management of the acute oral facial condition in a child/young person.	X	X

9. Safeguarding		Curriculum REF D5.9	
ES code	Trainees should be able to:	SBA	SO
9.1	Identify general and oral signs and symptoms of child maltreatment including, but not limited to, physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect, fabricated or induced illness, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, grooming and radicalisation, female genital mutilation, modern slavery, gang and electronic media abuse.	X	X
9.2	Recognise signs of dental neglect, demonstrate understanding of its impact and devise a dental management plan for children with dental neglect.	X	X
9.3	Discuss appropriate management of children who are or may be at risk of child maltreatment.		X
9.4	Demonstrate understanding of the full range of professionals and support services for safeguarding children.	X	X
9.5	Demonstrate leadership of oral health teams involved in specific child safeguarding cases.	X	X
9.6	Demonstrate and apply knowledge of local and national safeguarding processes and guidelines.	X	X

Version control

Version	Date	Changes made
1.0	9 November 2025	Document approved for publication
1.1	16 March 2026	Preface text added including noting source material for the syllabus.
1.2	8 April 2026	Minor formatting and branding updates, no content changes.