

Dear Parent/Carer

Height and weight checks for children in Reception

Every year in England, school children in reception and year 6 have their height and weight checked at school. This is called the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The checks are carried out by the School Health Team. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes. You can watch the [NCMP process animation](#). The animation explains the process of the NCMP and why it is important. It will guide you through what it involves, how your child's data is collected and processed and what it will be used for.

Why do we need to measure children?

Children's height and weight measurements are collected to build an understanding of how children are growing. The information from the NCMP is used by local councils and the NHS to plan the provision of health and leisure services for families to promote healthier growth in children.

Your child will also have the opportunity to have their vision screened by your local School Health Team. A health questionnaire will be sent home with your child for you to complete and return via school prior to the screening. This will help the School Health Team pick up any concerns you may have and see if we can help. A hearing test will be conducted if you have any worries about this and mention it on the questionnaire. Results will be sent home with your child.

If the questionnaire is not returned, we will still see your child for the screening unless you withdraw him or her (please see option to withdraw below).

What information is collected and why?

Your child's height, weight, age, sex, and date of birth are collected to calculate their weight category (also known as child body mass index).

Your child's ethnicity and address are collected to monitor differences in child growth and weight between ethnic groups, where children live and their backgrounds.

Your child's name, date of birth and NHS number are collected to link their measurements from reception and year 6 to other information from health and education records held by NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education, where it is legal to do so.

Information about how personal information and data is collected and stored

You can read more about how the Department of Health and Social Care collects, stores and uses your child's information and data in the [National Child Measurement Programme privacy notice](#).

You can read more about how NHS England collects, stores and uses your child's information and data at [National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\): GDPR information](#).

[At the NHS England National Child Measurement Programme webpage](#) you can read more about:

- taking part in the programme
- how your data is collected
- how your data is used

You can read more about how RBWM collects, stores and uses your child's information [here](#) and the privacy policy is available [here](#)

How you can withdraw your child from participating in the NCMP

If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not want your child's height and weight to be measured, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight, please let us know using the contact details provided above.

Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

How is a child's mental health and wellbeing considered in the NCMP

The wellbeing of children and families is very important to the programme. Measurements are conducted in a sensitive way. Individual feedback is not shared with your child or their school.

The weight and height information is shared only with you, through a parent feedback letter if the weight falls outside of the healthy weight range. It is your choice to share or not share the information with your child.

If you are concerned about your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns, seek further support from a school nurse or GP.

Further information

You can find information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy at the NHS Better Health: healthier families webpage [Easy ways to eat well and move more](#).

Another way to help maintain a balanced diet and physical activity for your family is the NHS Healthy Steps email programme. Sign up for the 8-week Healthy Steps emails and you will be sent lots of low-cost easy tips, fun games, healthy swaps and tasty recipes on a budget. You can sign up to NHS [Healthy Steps - step this way](#).

You can find further information about the NCMP at [The National Child Measurement Programme](#) NHS webpage.

Regards

School Nursing Team

Email: school.nursing@achievingforchildren.org.uk