

December 2021

Enquiries to: School Nursing Team

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## **National Child Measurement Programme and School Entry Screening**

Dear Parent or Carer

### **Conducting height, weight and vision screening for children in Reception Year**

During Reception Year, your child will have the opportunity to be weighed, measured and have their vision screened by your local School Nurse Team, as part of the Healthy Child Programme. This is offered to all children when they start school and the results will be sent home to you with your child. A health questionnaire will be sent home with your child for you to complete and return via school. This will help the School Nurse Team pick up any concerns you may have and see if we can help. A hearing test will be conducted if you raise a concern on the questionnaire. 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).

### **Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme**

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything. If you would prefer your child not to take part, please inform the School Nursing Team in writing or by email within 10 working days of receipt of this letter. Our contact details can be found at the top of this letter.

Public Health England needs to have a good understanding of how children are growing so that the best possible health services can be provided for them. Height and weight measurements are used to calculate weight status. We collect this information because it is in the public's interest to understand how many children are overweight, a healthy weight or underweight. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme. Children are measured fully clothed except for their coats and shoes, in a private area in your child's school. The programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures. This includes robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements for the rooms and equipment used as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

The information collected by us includes your child's name, date of birth, gender, home address and postcode, NHS number and ethnicity. This information is needed because their age, gender, ethnicity and the place they live are known to affect their height and weight. Their name, date of birth and NHS number is needed to link your child's measurement to other information relating to your child.

All the data collected is also used for improving health, care and services through research and planning.

If your child falls out of the healthy weight range, you will receive a letter by post. This letter will contain information about healthy eating and being active. Parents or carers may be contacted by telephone to discuss these results.

All this information is treated confidentially and held securely. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children.

### **How the data is used:**

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us to NHS Digital. NHS Digital is responsible for collecting data and information about health and care so that this can be used to monitor and improve the care provided to people across England.

The information collected about your child will also be shared by NHS Digital with Public Health England but in a de-personalised form only. This means Public Health England will not be able to identify your child. Public Health England is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS Digital and Public Health England will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI). This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme may also be shared by NHS Digital with other organisations, such as universities. This is to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. This information cannot be used to identify your child, and NHS Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.

### **Further information**

Further information about the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme>

Information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Information about how Achieving for Children (RBWM) School Nursing collect and use information can be found at <https://www.achievingforchildren.org.uk/health-visiting-and-school-nursing-service-privacy-notice/>

Information about how NHS Digital and Public Health England collect and use information can be found at <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information>

Information about the organisations NHS Digital has shared information from the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme>

Yours faithfully

School Nursing Team