

Enquiries to: School Nursing Team

Phone: 01628 682979

Email: school.nursing@achievingforchildren.org.uk

18th September 2018

School Nursing Team National Child Measurement Programme

Dear Parent or Carer

Height and weight checks for children Year 6

Each year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. 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 checks are carried out by trained staff from your local School Nursing Team.

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.

If your child falls out of the healthy weight range, you will receive their measurements by post together with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities. Parents or carers may be contacted by telephone to discuss these results.

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The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially.

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us to NHS Digital. NHS Digital is responsible for collecting health and care information to check how the NHS and social care services are doing, and to use this to 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.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital may link your child's current and previous height and weight measurements. It may also link their measurements with other information it holds about your child such as their dental survey results or the reasons for any visits they have made to hospital. Linking your child's information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing.

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.

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Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme

If you are happy for your child to participate in this programme, 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.

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 School Nursing Team collect and use information can be found at www.achievingforchildren.org.uk/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> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/about/personal-information-charter>

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>

Information about what Public Health can offer locally can be found at: <https://www3.rbwm.gov.uk/publichealth/>

Yours faithfully

School Nursing Team