

2022/23 National Child Measurement Programme

Academic Year: 2022/2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Height and weight checks for children in Reception and 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 (NCMP). Your child's class will take part in this year's programme.

More information about the programme is included in the attached leaflet "School Height and Weight Measurements".

Delivery of the programme

The measurements are carried out by Hampshire's Public Health School Nursing Service in a sensitive way. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. They will not have to participate if they do not wish to on the day. Individual results are not shared with your child or their school. Current national and local infection control guidance will be referred to in order to inform the planning and delivery of NCMP measurements.

Once completed, you will receive your child's measurements in a letter with further information. It is your choice if you share the information with your child. Studies show that body image, self-esteem, weight-related teasing, and restrictive eating behaviours do not change as a result of being measured or receiving feedback.

The Public Health School Nursing Service is available for advice and support about your child's result and can also help if you would like to discuss your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns. You can search for your local school nurse team using the following link: <https://www.healthforkids.co.uk/hampshire/school-nurses/>.

Director of Adults' Health and Care
Graham Allen

Chief Executive
Carolyn Williamson

More information is available at <https://www.hampshirehealthyfamilies.org.uk/>.

How information is used

Helping children to achieve a healthy weight is both a national and local priority and this programme of weighing and measuring can help to identify where additional support could be offered to families.

All information is treated confidentially and held securely by the Public Health School Nursing Service, the Child Health Information Service (both provided by Southern Health Foundation Trust) and Hampshire County Council. It will not be shared with your child, their school, school staff or with other children.

The information collected includes your child's height and weight measurements together with their name, date of birth, gender, home address and postcode, NHS number and ethnicity. This information is needed to ensure the record is correct and can help to explain demographic factors affecting a healthy weight.

All the information collected about your child will be sent securely by Hampshire County Council to NHS Digital. NHS Digital is responsible for collecting health and care information to monitor NHS and social care services to improve the care provided to people across England. If your child is now in Year 6 and was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme in Reception, NHS Digital may link your child's current and previous height and weight measurements. NHS Digital may also link their measurements with other information it holds about your child such as any medical conditions, social care, mental health or reasons for any hospital visits or GP appointments. Linking your child's information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing over time.

NHS Digital will then anonymise the information and share it with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS Digital and OHID will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme to understand trends in child growth and weight. This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or OHID that identifies your child.

Anonymised information from the NCMP 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.

Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme

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

Director of Adults' Health and Care
Graham Allen

If you do not want your child's height and weight to be measured, or your child has a medical condition (or is on any treatment) that affects their height or weight, and you would prefer they were not measured, please let us know by writing a letter to your child's Head Teacher within two weeks of receiving this letter.

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

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/healthier-families/>

Information about how Public Health at Hampshire County Council collect and use information can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/dataprotection>

Information about how the Public Health School Nursing Service collect and use information can be found at <https://www.southernhealth.nhs.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/department-of-health-and-social-care/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>

Yours sincerely,



Simon Bryant
Director of Public Health
Hampshire County Council



Steve Crocker
Director of Children's Services
Hampshire County Council

Date of signature: 2 September 2022

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