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Dear Parent or Carer,

### **Screening Vision and Measuring height and weight of children**

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 interest to understand how many children are overweight, healthy weight or underweight. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme.

The checks are carried out by trained Health and Wellbeing Assistants who are part of the School Nursing Service. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. The results will not be visible to your child.

The programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and Gloucestershire Health and Care safety control measures. This includes robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements for the rooms and equipment used to measure your child's height and weight as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

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

Your Head Teacher has agreed that this will happen in your child's school, you can contact your school to find out when we will be visiting.

### **Vision – Reception aged children only**

It is very important for a child's eyesight to be screened when they are young so that any problems can be picked up and treated early on. This will be done during Reception year alongside the NCMP.

On the day, Health and Wellbeing Assistants from your local School Nurse team will screen your child's eyesight at school. We will inform you about the outcome of the screen and if necessary we will refer your child to a specialist. We encourage you to share your child's results with their class teacher.

**The information we collect and what it is used for is listed below:**

- your child's date of measurement, gender and date of birth are used to calculate your child's weight category
- your child's name, date of birth and NHS Number are used to link your child's measurements in Reception and Year 6. Other data sets may also be linked such as your child's dental survey results or any visits to hospital they may have had. Linking your child's information in this way helps us to understand how and why the weight status of children is changing, and how this affects children's health
- your child's ethnicity and address are used to help understand some of the reasons for the difference and changes in child weight across England
- Your address is required to send you your child's feedback letter. This will include your child's measurements together with information about healthy eating and being active.

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

All this information is treated confidentially and held securely by us. 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 Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database.

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.

*“In order to better understand the health of children in Gloucestershire, we are supporting a local research project led by PhD Student Matthew Pearce. Over the next few months you may be invited to complete a short questionnaire and we would be grateful if you could consider taking part”*

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

If you are happy for your child to have their vision screen and to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not want your child to take part in one or both of these, please let us know by completing the online form [here](#).

Alternatively please phone **0300 421 8225** within 2 weeks leaving a message clearly stating your child's name, date of birth, address and the school they currently attend and whether you would like to opt your child out of NCMP, Vision or both.

If your child is already under professional care for their vision, it is important that you notify us using the online form or on the above number to prevent unnecessary referrals.

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

### **NCMP - Receiving your child's measurement results**

We will not automatically inform you of your child's results, only if they fall into the overweight or underweight category. In these instances, you will receive a letter offering you information and support to achieve a healthy weight for your child.

If you would like to be informed of your child's results if they are not overweight or underweight, please let us know by completing the [online form](#)



Alternatively please phone **0300 421 8225**. Please leave a message clearly stating your child's name, date of birth, address, school they currently attend and your contact telephone number and that you would like to be informed of your child's measurements.

Yours faithfully,

**Bridget Davies – Service Lead for School Nursing**

This letter is available in a number of other languages. Please call 0300 421 8225 to enquire about this.

**Further information**

<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/school-nursing/screening/>

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 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>

## How your child's data is collected and processed as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

Local authorities have a legal duty to collect the NCMP data. They do this by following guidance from Public Health England. Local authorities are responsible for making decisions on how the data is collected and for making sure it is protected. Local NCMP service providers are contracted to carry this out; this might be through the school nursing team working in schools or a local healthcare provider. The team collecting the data enter it into the NCMP IT system, which is provided by NHS Digital. The data may also be entered into a local child health information system. Your local authority is responsible for sending the data to NHS Digital. NHS Digital and Public Health England are jointly responsible for the data held at a national level. Your local authority is responsible for the data held locally.

The chart below displays what happens to your child's data as part of the NCMP.

