



Directorate: Public Health
Business Unit: BU10
Service: Public Health
Head of Service: Alicia Marcroft

Ref: NCMP
Date: 27TH January 2020
Enquiries to: 0-19 Public Health Nursing
E-Mail: 0-19HealthTeam@barnsley.gov.uk
Tel: 01226 774411

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). 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 care providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space supplied by the school away from other pupils.

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

- your child's age, 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 from 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

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

How the data is used

All this information is treated confidentially and held securely by us. It will not be shared with your child's school or with other children.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. We will store your child's information on their local electronic child health record on the child health information database and share it with their GP where the GP uses the same electronic health record system.

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, and NHS Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts

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.

Once measurements are completed, we will provide the school with a letter to be given to parents/carers informing how you can access your child's measurement results together with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area. Depending on the results you may receive a follow up contact from a health professional in the Public Health Nursing Service to discuss the measurement.

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 do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, please let us know you want to withdraw them by contacting our Single Point of Access team on 01226 774411 Monday to Thursday between 8.45am and 4.45pm and Friday 8.45am to 4.15pm **within 3 weeks** of the date of 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>

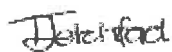
Information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Information about how Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council and Public Health Nursing Service collect and use information can be found at www.barnsley.gov.uk/privacy

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>

Yours faithfully



Tracy Letchford

Service Manager

0-19 Public Health Nursing Service



Alicia Marcroft

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Barnsley Public Health Directorate