

NATIONAL CHILD MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME (NCMP) - MEASURING THE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT OF RECEPTION AND YEAR 6 CHILDREN

Dear Parent / Carer,

Your child in Reception/Year 6 will be part of this year's National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) unless you choose for your child not to participate.

What is the National Child Measurement Programme?

It is important to have a good understanding of how children are growing, so that the best possible advice and support can be provided for them and their families. Helping children to achieve a healthy weight is both a national and local priority. Children in England in reception year and year 6 have their height and weight measured each year through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and your child's class will take part in this year's measurement programme.

The measurements will be taken by trained health professionals from Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust School Nursing Service. Children are fully dressed except for their coats and shoes and the measurements will be taken in a private area.

Routine data, such as your child's name, sex, address, postcode, ethnicity and date of birth, will also be collected. This information will then be used within the local authority and NHS to help plan interventions and services to help local children and their families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. The information may be stored on your child's health record. **No child's height or weight measurements will be given to school staff or other children.**

The records of children's heights and weights will be submitted for analysis by Public Health England in a way that means individual children cannot be directly identified. National and local level summaries of the data will be published. This helps with the planning of services to support healthy life styles in your area. All information and results will be treated confidentially and stored securely.

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 may 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.

Once your child has had their height and weight checked, Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust will send your child's results through the post, together with general advice on healthy eating and being active. In addition to this, you may be contacted by the Local Authority Healthy Families Team who can offer your family an opportunity to access a more targeted service.

If you would like to discuss your child being measured or if your child has a medical condition that you think may affect their measurements, please do not hesitate to contact the NCMP advice line on **01952 309012** to speak with a member of the School Nursing service.

Opting your child out of the 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 to take part, please contact the School Nurse service no later than **Friday 12th October 2018** using the NCMP advice line number 01952 309012 or email shropcom.ncmptelford@nhs.net and your child will not be measured. **Please include your child's name, date of birth, and school attended.** Children will not be made to participate if they do not want to.

Yours faithfully,



Kit Pool

0-19 Manager Telford and Wrekin and School Nurse Professional lead