



Academic Year 2021-2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

Measuring Height and Weight of Children in Reception and Year 6

All children in Reception and Year 6 will have their height and weight measured this year as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). It is important to understand how children are growing, so that the best possible advice and support can be provided for them and their families.

The measurements will be taken by the School Nursing Service and carried out in a private area away from other pupils. Children are fully dressed, except for their coat and shoes, and no child's measurements will be given to school staff or other children. The programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and the school nursing service's 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.

The measurements will be combined with routine information including your child's name, date of birth, sex, address, postcode and ethnicity, which is gathered from the School Census. The information will be submitted for national analysis and published in a way that individual children cannot be identified. All information and results will be treated confidentially. Further details on how we process your child's personal information are provided in the enclosed information sheet.

What Happens after Children are Weighed and Measured?

Following your child's measurement all parents/ carers will receive a letter from the School Nursing Service with your child's height and weight.

If your child's weight is above or below the expected range for their age and height, you will **also** receive a letter from your local Public Health team, with information on how to get advice and support.

Next Steps - What do Parents / Carers need to do?

<p>If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured.</p>	<p>You do not need to do anything. <i>(No child will be made to participate if they do not want to)</i></p>
<p>If you do NOT want your child to take part.</p>	<p>Please let your child's school office know <u>in writing immediately.</u></p>

Whatever your child's individual measurement, taking opportunities to help them be active and eat a healthy diet is good for their future health and happiness.

For more information on healthy lifestyle choices visit the Change4Life website at:
<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Yours sincerely

Vicky Head
Director of Public Health
Bedford Borough Council

Sue Harrison
Director of Children's Services
Central Bedfordshire Council



Additional information regarding the height and weight checks and how the information that is collected will be used

The information collected by us 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 about your child 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 are needed to link your child's measurements to other information about your child. 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 Bedford Borough Council. 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 health and care of 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 behaviours 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 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.

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 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>

Guidance regarding the National Child Measurement Programme and the General Data Protection Regulation can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-operational-guidance>

Information about how the school nursing service and local authority collect and use information can be found at: <http://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/about-us/priorities-and-how-we-are-doing/performance/information-governance/privacy-notice> and

<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/data-protection-foi-eir/gdpr-privacy-statements/>