

Integrated Children's Services
Batley Health Centre
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Academic Year 2022/23

Dear Parent or Guardian

Height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6

Every 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 a trained member of the 0-19 team. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils.

Maintaining the well-being of children in the NCMP

The wellbeing of children and families is very important. Measurements are conducted in a sensitive way, in private and away from other children. Individual results are not shared with your child or their school. The weight and height information is shared only with you in the parent or carer feedback letter. It is your choice if you share the information with your child. The emotional impact of the NCMP has been researched and 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. If you are concerned about your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns, seek further support from a school nurse or General Practitioner.

The information we collect and what it is used for

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 is 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. We will analyse the information in a way that means your child cannot be directly identified and we will publish summaries of the data at a national and local level.

Once your child has had their height and weight checked, we will send you your child's measurements, this will include information as to whether your child is deemed to be underweight, of a healthy weight, overweight or very overweight. We will also include information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area.

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.**

If you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight **please inform your child's school in writing within 7 days.**

Children will not be made to participate if they do not want to.

Should you have any concerns regarding your child's health or would like to speak to a school nurse please complete the referral form using the following link <https://www.locala.org.uk/your-healthcare/ereferrals-home/schools-ereferrals/>

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Ruttle

Thriving Kirklees 0-19 Team Leader

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 NHS Digital and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities 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>

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 the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). 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 the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities are jointly responsible for the data held at a national level. Your local authority is responsible for the data held locally.

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

