



Sussex Community
NHS Foundation Trust

Sussex 5-19 Healthy Child Programme Screening Team
Brighton General Hospital
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1st November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Every year in England, school children in Reception 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. Your child's class will take part during this academic year.

The checks are carried out by members of the 5 -19 Healthy Child Programme Team. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils and measurements are not shared with the child. The measurements will be carried out in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority'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.

In addition in West Sussex we offer year R children a hearing and distance vision screen in school. Please see a link to a film clip explaining the NCMP and screening process <https://youtu.be/PZAITerG0S4>

- Your child's **distance vision**
 - We will ask your child to read or match letters from a card at a set distance whilst wearing glasses with occluded lenses.
- Your child's **hearing**
 - We will ask your child to respond to predetermined sounds whilst wearing headphones on each ear.

If your child's results indicate that they need further follow up, we will make a referral to either the orthoptist (vision) service or the audiology (hearing) service. If this is required you will hear directly from these services with an appointment. If you do not want your child to have a direct referral, please contact us and let us know.

If you wish to discuss any of the above please contact us on the details at the top of this letter.

Opting your child out

- If you **do not** wish us to screen your child's vision and/ or hearing, please "opt" your child out by contacting us on the details above at the top of this letter by **15.11.2022**
- If you **do not want your child** to take part in the National Child Measurement Programme, please contact us on the details above at the top of this letter by **15.11.2022**

You will need to give us your child's name, address, date of birth and school they attend.

If your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight, please let us know using the contact details provided above.

If your child is seeing a specialist for either their hearing or vision, please inform us on the details above as we will not undertake the screening in school.

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

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

- Your child's date of measurement, sex 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 which will include your child's measurements. Your telephone number is required as we may contact you to discuss your child's measurements.

All 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. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or any child. If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything.

How the data is used

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by SCFT. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database and share it with their GP if their measurements indicate they are outside of the healthy weight range.

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 the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) but in a de-personalised form only. This means that the UKHSA will not be able to identify your child. UKHSA is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS Digital and UKHSA 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 UKHSA 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.

Further information

Further information about the West Sussex HCP team and how we can support you and your child is available here <https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/services/healthy-child-programme-hcp-health-visitors-and-school-nurses-0-19-service/528135>

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/](https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/)

Information about how SCFT collect and use information can be found at

<https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/downloads/services/how-we-use-your-information.pdf>

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>

Your school nurse team can also support with issues such as sleep, continence, poor school attendance, emotional health. Please contact the team Monday to Friday 9-4.30, excluding Bank holidays on 0300 303 1137 or text Parentline on 07312 277011.

Yours faithfully,

The 5-19 Healthy Child Programme
(School Nurse Team)

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

