

Date: Academic Year 2023/24

Children's Community Health Hub

Children's Services

Woburn Court

2 Railton Road

Kempston

MK42 7PN

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: National Child Measurement Programme

The School Nursing Service routinely visits schools as part of the Healthy Child Programme and to deliver the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). All children in Reception and Year 6 will have their height and weight measured this year as part of the 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 carried out in a private area away from other pupils. Children are fully dressed, except for their coat and shoes. No child will be made to participate if they do not want to. Information about your child's weight status will not be shared with your child and no child's measurements will be given to school staff or other children.

The measurements will be combined with routine information including your child's name, date of birth, sex, address, postcode, and ethnicity. 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?

Your child's measurement will be recorded on their electronic health records, which can be seen by your GP and other health professionals.

Following your child's measurement you will be able to view their results on the *School Screener Parent Portal*. Please allow 24 hours for the results to be available.

If your child's weight is **above or below** the expected range for their age and height, you will have access to information on how to get advice and support via the *School Screener Parent Portal*.

If your child's weight is **above** the expected range, your details will also be shared with More Life who deliver healthy lifestyle programmes on behalf of the local authority. More Life will contact you by telephone to offer further support.

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

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured.	<p>Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to view your child's results.</p> <p>Details on how to sign up to the School Health Parent Portal are attached.</p> <p>If you do not have digital access and would like your child to be measured please contact the Children's Community Health Hub and ask to speak to a member of the NCMP team and a paper copy of the results letter can be sent home.</p>
If you do NOT want your child to take part you must opt out.	<p>Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to opt out of the programme. Details on how to sign up to the School Screener Parent Portal and opt out are attached.</p> <p>If you do not have digital access and wish to opt your child out you must inform the school in writing that you do not wish us to measure your child.</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 Healthier Families website at: [Healthier Families - Home - NHS](#)

If you're finding it difficult to feed your family as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, then you can find help and support:

Bedford Borough residents- <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/grants-and-funding/help-cost-living>

Central Bedfordshire residents -

https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/165/support_with_the_cost_of_living

Please check whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals and the Holiday Activity and Food Programme by visiting this website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> and contact your school directly to apply.

If you would like further information, please contact the Children's Community Health Hub on 0300 555 0606, who will ask for your child's name, date of birth and the school they attend so you can be directed to the school nurse team in your area.

Yours faithfully

School Nurse Team

Register with the School Screener Parent Portal

The School Nursing Service are now using the *School Screener Parent Portal*, an electronic method to communicate health information and results letters. To view your child's results, you will firstly need to register for a parent portal account.

If you do not want your child to be screened there will be an opportunity for you to opt out once registered on the portal, otherwise we will assume you are happy for your child to be screened.

Please take a few minutes to read through the information provided. This will give you a clearer understanding of what it is we aim to deliver.

To register on the Portal:

1. Click the link below, this will take you to the registration landing page
 2. Register for a school health parent portal account, using just an email
 3. Check your email inbox to create a password. It's important that you keep hold of your Username and password for future logins
 4. Log into the portal to register your child's details and sign up for receiving feedback.
- (Please note, the portal does not work without internet explorer)

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/391732/p/Cah231/137632>

Click on this link to register. You will be given the opportunity to opt out should you wish to.

Please submit the form within 2 weeks of receiving this link.

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. We will record your child's information on their local child health record on a secure information database which can be seen by your GP and other health professionals. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially.

If your child is above the expected weight range for their age and height, information about your child will be shared with MoreLife who deliver healthy lifestyle programmes on behalf of the local authority. MoreLife will then contact you by phone to offer support if you would like it.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered and held securely by the local authority. All the information collected about your child will be sent to NHS England. NHS England 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 England with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS England and the Office for Health Improvement will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI). The Local Authority Public Health will also use de-personalised information to understand local trends. This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS England, OHID or Public Health that identifies your child.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS England 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. 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 NCMP may also be shared by NHS England 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 England only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.

The legal basis for sharing this information:

The legal basis for sharing this information is Section 14 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013, which states:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/218/regulation/14/made>

14. Information resulting from the weighing and measuring of a child who has participated in a weighing and measuring exercise which has been conducted in accordance with these Regulations, together with any personal information necessary to identify the child concerned, may be further processed by or on behalf of the local authority concerned with a view to the information being—

- (a) communicated to a parent of the child to whom the information relates, together with advisory material relating to the weight of children;
- (b) used for the purpose of providing advice and assistance to a parent of the child to whom the information relates with the aim of promoting and assisting improvement of the child's health;
- (c) disclosed by the local authority to a health professional who is in a position to provide the advice and assistance referred to in sub-paragraph (b) and to offer any related treatment to the child.

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 public health collect and use information can be found at: www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk and <https://www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/data-protection-foi-eir/gdpr-privacy-statements/>

Information about MoreLife <https://www.more-life.co.uk/in-your-area/bedsmk/> and their privacy statement can be found: <https://www.more-life.co.uk/privacy-policy/>

