



December 2018

Sirona care & health CIC
Community Children's Health
Partnership
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Dear Parent/Carer

Vision and hearing screening and growth monitoring for children in reception year

The School Health Nursing Service offers vision and hearing screening and height and weight measurements to all children during their Reception year. This is usually done in small groups with their classmates. The measurements are carried out by trained School Nursing staff who will ensure that the measurements are conducted sensitively.

Vision and hearing screening

All children are screened for vision and hearing in their first year at school.

During the vision screening, your child will have the vision of each eye checked. It is not necessary for your child to know their letters to be tested. You will be notified if there are any problems.

The hearing screen is carried out on two different occasions. If your child passes the screen on either the first or second occasion, they will not be seen again. If the screen is unsatisfactory on both occasions your child, with your consent, will be referred to Audiology for further testing.

Growth monitoring

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. Every year in England children in Reception and Year 6 classes have their height and weight measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). 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 measurement programme.

The delivery of NCMP is a mandatory public health function of local authorities. This will be led locally by the Public Health and Wellbeing Division of South Gloucestershire Council. We plan to weigh and measure reception pupils in terms three to six. Pupils must be physically

Service provided by

Company Reg. No: 07585003

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able to stand to be weighed and measured unaided and any pupils who are unable to do so are not required to participate.

The measurements will be carried out in school by trained School Nursing staff. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in small groups along with their classmates.

The programme's data is used within the local authority and NHS to help plan the provision of services and advice to support healthy weight and lifestyles in the area. The information is also submitted for national analysis and publication in a way that means individual children cannot be identified.

Results

You will receive your child's measurements on the day your child is measured in school. The results of the vision and hearing screening and the growth monitoring will be sent home in a sealed envelope with your child, along with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area. Parents report that they want to receive their child's results. It is felt important that each parent/carer is given the measurement results for their child. The information you receive will give an indication of what the weight range is for your child for their age and height at the time of measuring.

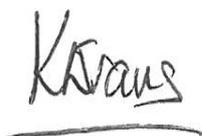
We will not share your child's results with school staff or other children, but you may want to discuss any results that may impact on your child's learning with their class teacher. If there are any concerns about your child's vision or hearing then you will be contacted again at a later date.

Withdrawing your child from the vision and hearing screening and growth monitoring

If you are happy for your child to take part in the vision and hearing screening, and to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything. **If you do not want your child to take part, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's class teacher.** Withdrawing a child from the programme will mean withdrawing them from hearing, vision and growth monitoring. Children will not be made to take part if they do not want to. If your child is absent on the specific day that the measurements take place, the School Health Nurses may revisit the school on an alternative day to weigh and measure your child.

We look forward to your support as we undertake this important work over the coming months. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Karen Evans

Lead Nurse for Public Health (South Glos)
Community Children's Health Partnership



Jacqui Offer

Specialist Public Health Manager
Public Health & Wellbeing Division

Further information

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 in accordance with information governance procedures. 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 the South Gloucestershire Public Health team for a minimum of 20 years. We will store your child's information on their local child health record on the child health information database, and share it with the School Health Nursing Service and GP if required. 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 care provided to 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 NCMP 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 Public Health England that identifies your child.

NHS Digital may link your child's current height and weight 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 NCMP 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 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/change4life>

Information about how we, South Gloucestershire Council collect, store and use personal information can be found at www.southglos.gov.uk/privacy

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>

Withdrawing your child from the vision and hearing screening and being weighed and measured.

If you are happy for your child to have vision and hearing screening and be weighed and measured you do not need to do anything.

If you **do not want your child to take part**, please fill in the form below and return it to your child's class teacher.

If your child then moves to a different school during their reception year please ensure that you inform the new school if you do not want your child to take part.



Withdrawal Form: Vision and hearing screening and growth monitoring

I do not wish my child to have vision and hearing screening, or to be weighed and measured for the National Child Measurement Programme.

Child's Name: _____ Year: _____ Class _____

Date of Birth: _____ Male/Female (delete as appropriate)

Child's School: _____

Parent's/Carer's Name: _____

Parent's/Carer's Signature: _____

This form needs to be signed by a person with legal parental responsibility for this child. Please return to your **child's class teacher** as soon as possible. Please contact your School Health Nurse if you wish to discuss this form or any aspect of your child's health.