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Dear Parent/Carer

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 registered school nurses or trained health care providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. The programme will be delivered 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.

The 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. 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. This will include your child's measurements together with useful information.
- your email address and telephone number are required as we may contact you by email or telephone to discuss your child's feedback/ send you your child's feedback letter by email/ offer you further support following your child's height and weight measurement

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 other children.

How the data is used

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service and Isle of Wight Council. 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.

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 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 lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that 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.

We are currently part of the MapMe research project run by Newcastle University. The project aims to support parental knowledge and awareness of child weight status, and look at how child weight status changes over time. Children will be measured during this school year and in 12 months' time. We will share de-personalised data with the project team, including your child's date of birth, date of measurement, age, sex, height, weight, weight

category, ethnicity, and publicly available information about the wider postcode that you live in, for research use. If your child is currently in Reception, the project will also link to their National Child Measurement Programme information when they reach Year 6. If you would like more information on the MapMe project you can contact the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service on 0300 123 5224.

This study was approved by the Faculty of Medical Sciences Research Ethics Committee, part of Newcastle University's Research Ethics Committee. This committee contains members who are internal to the Faculty. This study was reviewed by members of the committee, who must provide impartial advice and avoid significant conflicts of interests.

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 let us know by writing a letter to your child's Head Teacher within two weeks of receiving this letter.

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

If you do not wish for your child's de-personalised information to be made available to the MapMe research project, please let us know by contacting the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service on 0300 123 5224.

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/change4life>

Information about how Public Health at Isle of Wight Council collect and use information can be found at <https://www.iow.gov.uk/azservices/documents/2552-Privacy-notice-final-010720-DB.pdf>

Information about how the Solent NHS Trust collect and use information can be found at <https://www.solent.nhs.uk/media/1664/patientprivacynotice.pdf>

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>

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Bryant'.

Simon Bryant
Director of Public Health

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Crocker'.

Steve Crocker
Director of Children's Services