



December 2017

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

NHS guidelines recommend that 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

Every year in England, children in Reception and Year 6 classes, have their height and weight measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Your child's class will take part in this year's measurement programme.

The NCMP provides information to help build an understanding of national and local trends in children's weight. 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. The leaflet *Why your child's weight matters* is attached to provide you with more information.

The measurements will be undertaken by trained school nursing staff at school. Children who take part will be measured fully clothed except for their coats and shoes. Routine data such as your child's name, date of birth, sex, address, postcode and ethnicity will also be collected.

Community Children's Health Partnership Services are publicly funded and provided by Sirona care & health CIC working in partnership with Bristol Community Health and Avon and Wiltshire Mental health NHS Partnership Trust

Sirona care & Health CIC is a Community Interest Company registered in England and Wales with company number 07585003. Our Registered office is: Headquarters Building, St. Martins Hospital, Clara Cross Lane, Bath BA 2 5RP. We are publicly funded through the NHS and local authorities and are not-for-profit social enterprise.

The data from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by our local authority public health team and the school nursing team. Your child's information will also be stored on their child health system record. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially and in accordance with information governance procedures.

The programme's data are 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 results 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. This will also include some advice on healthy eating and being active. 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.

Opting your child out of 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 let us know using the attached form.** Opting a child out of 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.

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



Opting your child out of vision and hearing screening and being weighted 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.

Opt Out Form: Vision and hearing screening and growth monitoring

I do not wish my child to have vision and hearing screening, or to be weighted 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.

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