



Department for Children, Adults and Health

Date: September 2019
Our Ref: NCMP 2019
Enquiries to: Jacqui Offer
Tel: 01454 863547
E-mail: Jacqui.offer@southglos.gov.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Height and weight checks for children in Year 6

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 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 programme.

The programme will be led locally by the Public Health and Wellbeing Division of South Gloucestershire Council. We plan to weigh and measure Year 6 pupils in terms one and two; the specific dates for your school have not yet been arranged. Pupils must be physically 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 a private space away from other pupils.

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

- **your child's height, weight, age, gender, 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 from 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. This will include your child's measurements together 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 anticipate that the results letter will be available to you within two months of your child being weighed and measured.

All of 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 by us in accordance with data protection procedures. 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 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 NHS 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 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 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.

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.

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.

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 measured, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height and weight please complete the attached form **and return it to your child's class teacher.**

Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to. If your child is absent on the specific day that weighing and measuring takes place the SHNS may revisit the school on an alternative day to weigh and measure your child. We do hope that all pupils in Year 6 will be weighed and measured.

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 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>

We look forward to your support as we undertake this important work over the coming months. If you need any further information or have any concerns about how we will look after your child's personal information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

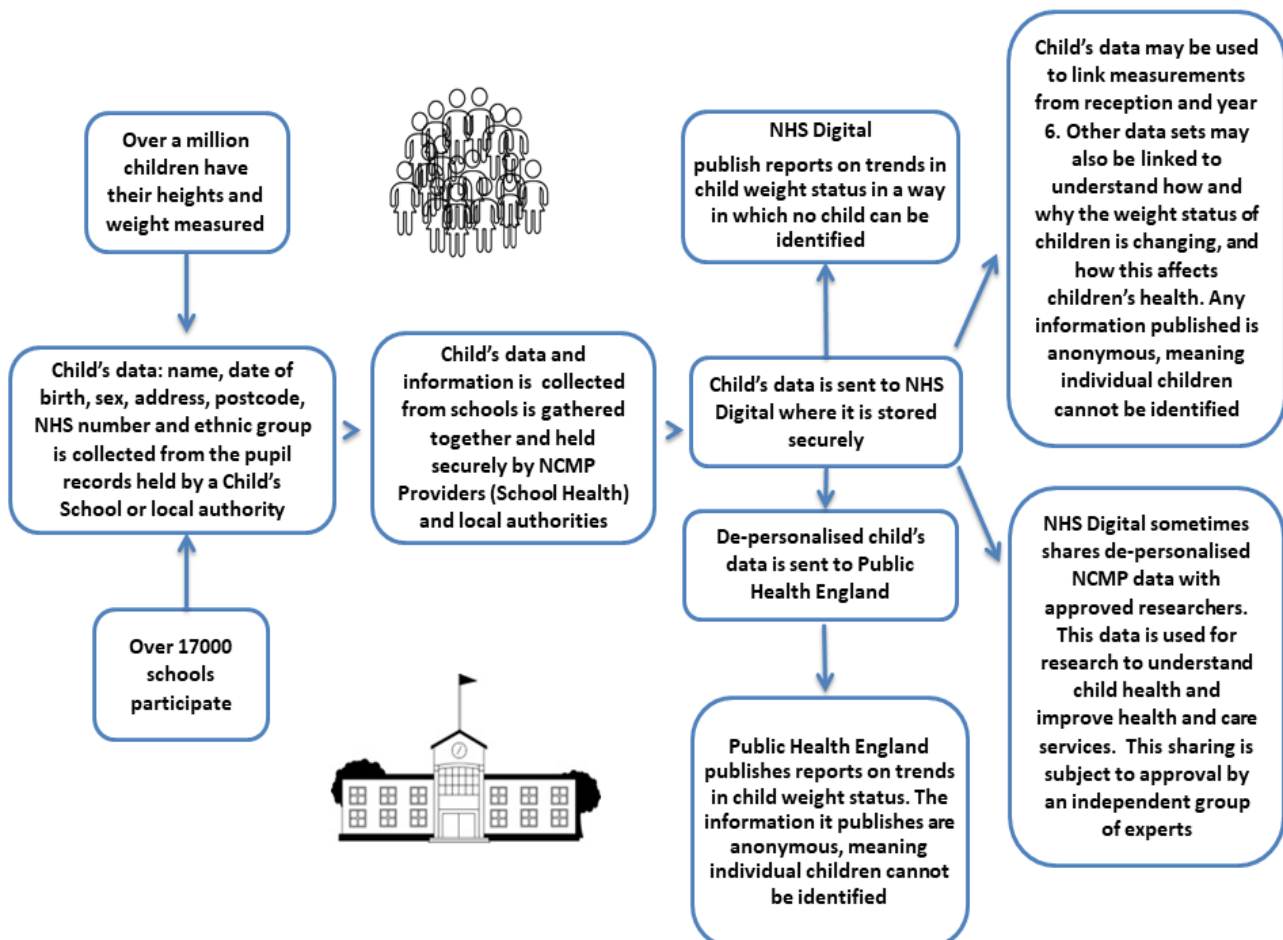


Jacqui Offer
Specialist Public Health Manager
Jacqui.offer@southglos.gov.uk
01454 863547

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.





Department for Children, Adults and Health

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM to your child's teacher if you DO NOT wish your child to be weighed and measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme.

Child's Name:

Date of birth: **Male/Female** (delete as appropriate)

Address:.....

.....**Postcode:**.....**School:**

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 a private space away from other pupils. 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. All this information is treated confidentially and held securely by us in accordance with data protection 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.

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us to NHS Digital. 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). No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.

I do not wish my child to be weighed and measured

This form needs to be signed by a person with legal parental responsibility for this child and returned to school.

Print name: **Sign name:**

Relationship to child: **Date:**

If your child then moves to a different school during year 6 please ensure that you inform the new school if you do not want your child to take part.

Please contact your School Health Nurse if you wish to discuss this form or any aspect of your child's health