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September 2024

Dear Parent or Carer,

Screening vision and measuring the healthy growth of children

Each 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 (NCMP). Height and weight measurements are used to better understand the healthy growth of your child. We collect this information because it is in the interest of public health to understand how many children are living with a healthy weight or are above or below a healthy weight.

Your Head Teacher has agreed that your child's school will be participating in the NCMP, you can contact your school to find out when we will be visiting. If a high volume of children are absent on the date of our visit, we may need to make another unplanned visit so please complete the [opt out form \(here\)](#) if you do not wish for your child to be included in any NCMP measurements.

Please note, children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

The checks are carried out by our friendly and trained team of School and Community Health Facilitators, who are part of the School Nursing Service. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. The results will not be visible to your child.

To protect your child's health, robust safety and hygiene control measures will be followed at all times. As recommended in the national guidance of school and healthcare, the

rooms and equipment used to measure your child's height and weight will be thoroughly cleaned before use.

Vision screening

It is very important for a child's eyesight to be screened when they are young so that any problems can be picked up and treated early. This will be done during Reception year alongside the NCMP.

On the day, School and Community Health Facilitators will screen your child's eyesight at school. We will inform you of the screening outcome and if necessary, we will refer your child to a specialist. We encourage you to share your child's results with their class teacher.

Personal and confidential data about your child

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered and held securely by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHC). We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database. It will not be shared with the child's school or with other children.

As part of the NCMP, we may share your phone number with [Beezee Families](#), the provider of Gloucestershire's Healthier Lifestyle Programme for children and young people. If your phone number is shared, a member of the friendly team may be in touch to let you know what offers are available in your local area.

To understand more about the data we collect, how we use and protect it, please read Gloucestershire's NCMP [Privacy Notice](#).

Withdrawing your child from the Programme

You do not need to do anything if you are happy for your child to:

- have their vision screened,
- be weighed and measured,
- and for your phone number to be shared with Beezee Families.

If you do not want your child to take part in the NCMP or Vision screen, please complete the [online opt out form \(here\)](#). Where appropriate, please let us know the reason why you would prefer your child to opt out of the NCMP and Vision screen.

If your child is already under professional care for their vision, please notify us using the online form or on the below number to prevent unnecessary referrals.


NCMP - receiving your child's measurement results

You will receive a letter offering free support for your child(ren) and family if your child's results fall above or below the ideal healthy weight for their age, sex and height. The letter will also have further information on the NCMP process.

If your child's results are not above or below the ideal healthy weight for their age, sex and height but you still want to know the outcome, please complete the [online results form \(here\)](#).

Alternatively, we are always keen to understand what matters to you, so if you would like to get in touch, please phone **0300 421 8225**. Please leave a message clearly stating your child's name, date of birth, address, school they currently attend and your contact telephone number, followed by how we might be able to help.

Yours faithfully,



Bridget Davies (Operational and Professional Head of School Nursing)

This letter is also available in other languages. Please call 0300 421 8225 to enquire.

Further information



1. NCMP and Vision Screening



2. How NHS Digital and Public Health England collect and use information



3. NCMP in Schools

Hints and Tips



4. Guidance: how to talk to your child about weight



5. Recipes, articles and top tips to help you live healthy and happy



6. NHS Healthier Families

1. For more information around the NCMP, including the Privacy Notice, please follow:
<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/screening/>

2. To see how NHS Digital and Public Health England collect and use information, please follow: <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/keeping-data-safe-and-benefitting-the-public/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information>

3. For information around how the NCMP works in schools, please follow:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-operational-guidance/national-child-measurement-programme-information-for-schools-2024>

4. For guidance around how to talk to your child about weight, follow here:
<https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/talking-to-your-child-about-weight-a-guide-for-parents-and-caregivers-of-children-aged-4-11-years/attachments/talking-to-children-about-weight-guidance.pdf>

5. To access recipes, articles and top tips to help you live healthy and happy, follow here:
<https://beezeebodies.com/blog/>

6. For lots of handy tips on how to keep your family healthy, follow:
<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>

7. If you wish to opt your child out from the NCMP, please follow:
<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/self-refer/school-nursing-screening-form/>

8. For more information about School Nursing Drop-In Sessions, please follow:
<https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/drop-ins/>

9. For more information about how to text your School Nurse using ChatHealth, please follow: <https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/children-and-young-people/physical-health/school-nursing/>