

Public Health

1st Floor Main Building
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter
EX2 4QL
(01392) 386382

January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Measuring the height and weight of children in Reception Year and Year 6

Each year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. We collect this information as it helps the Public Health team identify trends and helps us plan services to support families and children. Public Health England has a [leaflet](#) which describes the programme.

How your school is taking part

Your child's class will be taking part in the programme, which is running between March and the end of summer term 2022. The measuring is carried out by Devon County Council's trained School Nursing service. Children are measured fully clothed, 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 as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

What happens with the information?

All information and results are treated confidentially, and your child's measurements will not be given to your child, to school staff or other children. The information collected from schools will be gathered and held securely by Devon County Council. If you would like to know more about how data is stored and used please see the privacy notice via the link here <http://devon.cc/privacy> and information overleaf.

What information we collect

- your child's date of measurement, sex and date of birth are used to calculate your child's weight category
- if your child was previously measured as part of the NCMP, their 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 to help better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing. This may include your child's health data relating to their birth, hospital care, mental health, social care, primary care, public health (such as immunisation records), medical conditions and health surveys your child might have participated in
- 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

How the data is used

The information collected about your child will be held securely by Devon County Council Public Health and sent to NHS Digital; it is responsible for collecting data and information about health and care to monitor and improve the care provided to people across England. NHS Digital will also share this information with

the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) formerly Public Health England, but in a de-personalised form only so your child cannot be identified. Information may be shared with other organisations such as Universities, to help improve health, care and services through research and planning. All this information is anonymised, treated confidentially, and held securely. NHS Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children.

Data may be used by NHS Digital and OHID to:

- Better understand numbers and trends in child weight and body mass index (BMI)
- Help with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area

What happens after the measurement?

We will only contact you if your child's measurements are below or above a specific range. Your child's School Nurse can also provide support and can be contacted via your school or [Devon County Council website](#). If we don't contact you but would like to talk to a School Nurse, then please get in touch.

If you have any comments, compliments or complaints on the service provided, or would like to know your child's measurements please email Rachel.humphries@devon.gov.uk in the Devon County Council Public Health team or call (01392) 386382.

What to do if you don't want your child weighed and measured

If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything. If you do not wish your child to take part, please complete the our [online form](#) as soon as you receive this letter, and we will let the School Nursing service know before the programme starts. Children will not be made to participate if they do not wish to.

Thank you for your co-operation and help,

Best wishes



Steve Brown
Director of Public Health
Devon County Council

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 activities for families can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>

Information about how Devon County Council collects and uses information can be found on our [website](#)

Information about how NHS Digital and Public Health England collect and use information can be found [here](#) and [here](#)

Information about the organisations NHS Digital has shared information from the National Child Measurement Programme can be found [here](#).