

Reception Year vision and hearing tests, height and weight check

1. Height & Weight Check – National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

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. 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 trained 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 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. This information about your child is needed because their age, gender, ethnicity and the place they live are known to affect their height and weight. Their name, date of birth and NHS Number is needed to link your child's measurements to other information about your child. All this information is treated confidentially and held securely by us. It will not be shared with your child's school or with other children.

Once completed, we will send you your child's measurements together with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area. A member of our team will contact you to discuss the results if your child is outside of the healthy weight range.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by the local authority Public Health team. We will store your child's information on their local child health record on the child health information database and share it with their GP. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, you do not need to do anything. If you do not wish for your child to be tested please follow step 3 in this letter headed "opting out".

If you do not opt out, your child will be tested and the results will be sent home via the school in a sealed envelope. The team will not inform School staff of your child's results.

If your child:-

- Is under regular review at the hospital for ears, eyes or both
- Has additional needs

Please can you notify the team by calling **0300 300 0123**.

3. Opting Out

If you wish to opt your child out of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) or the vision test or hearing test please follow the steps below:

- Contact us by **31 December 2018**
- Call us on 0300 300 0123 or
- email: CCS-TR.NCMPScreeningOptOut@nhs.net
- Leave the following information:-
 - child's full name
 - NHS Number (if known)
 - date of birth
 - current home address
 - school they attend
 - check/test you're opting them out of

It is very important that we receive all the above information when you are opting your child out.

We provide this service to help protect the health of your child as part of our public task as a health service provider. Your child's school has provided us with your contact details. We will update your child's electronic health record of the outcome of our screening programme.

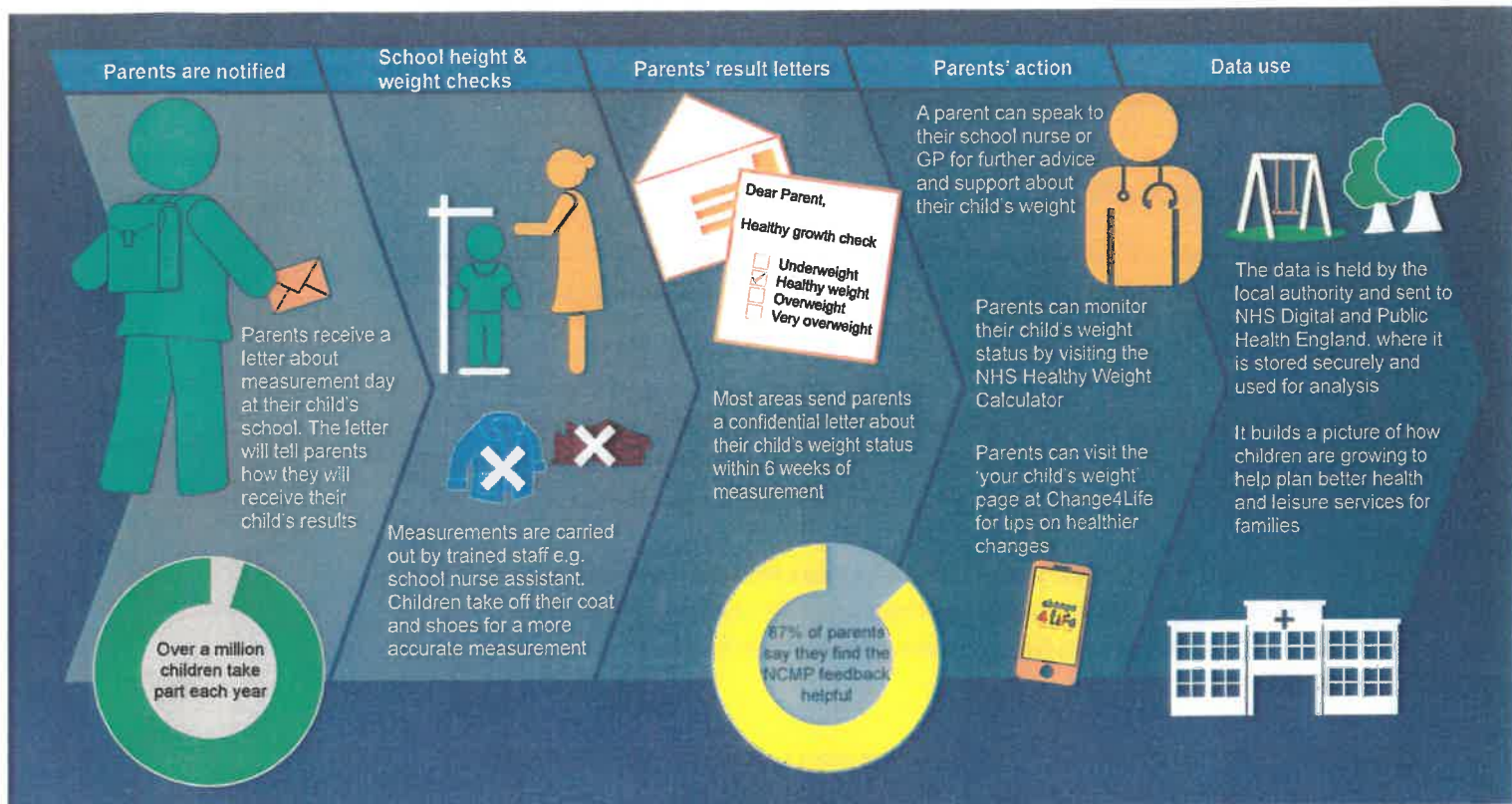
Please do not hesitate to contact the team if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully

5-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) team

School height and weight measurements

Every year, throughout England, more than a million children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme



What we know from the data collected so far

- Most children in Reception and Year 6 are a healthy weight.
- Around one in ten children in Reception is very overweight. This doubles to one in five children by year 6.
- The number of very overweight children in Year 6 is increasing year on year.
- Most children who are overweight in Reception will remain so or become even more overweight for their age by year 6 without action to achieve a healthier weight.

Because many children are overweight, we are all becoming used to seeing heavier children as the norm. It means we cannot always tell when a child is overweight. That is why many parents find it helpful to have an objective measurement of how their child is growing. More than 8 in 10 parents say this information is helpful and they can then make decisions about their child's lifestyle and wellbeing to make changes, or seek support if necessary.

Why achieving a healthy weight is important

When children are a healthy weight, they feel better about themselves. They find it easier to play and learn. And they are more likely to grow up healthy too. Helping them to be a healthier weight when they are a child can set up their health and wellbeing for life.

You can encourage the whole family to enjoy eating healthily and being active which will help your child achieve and maintain a healthier weight. Children who see their parents, grandparents and carers following a healthy and active lifestyle tend to join in and learn by example. These habits become a normal part of everyday life for the whole family.

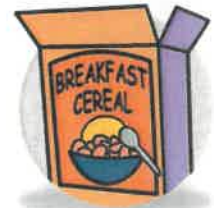
Change4Life is here to help your family be healthy and happy



Be Sugar Smart

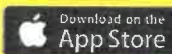
Kids are having nearly three times more sugar than they should. Too much sugar is bad for teeth and can lead to weight gain. But don't worry, we have some simple swaps to help you be sugar smart and cut back.

- 1** Sugary drinks are bad for teeth and lead to decay. Swap fizzy drinks, juice drinks and flavoured milks for water, lower-fat milks and no added sugar drinks. Limit fruit juice to no more than 150ml a day and stick to meal times.
- 2** Eating breakfast every day is important, but some breakfast choices have much more sugar than you think. Opt for plain porridge, shredded wholegrain or plain wholewheat biscuit cereals. Help your kids towards their 5 A DAY by adding in chopped fruit.
- 3** Sugary snacks can all add up! Fruit and vegetables are always the best snack. But when choosing packaged snacks, stick to two a day max.



See what's really inside your food and drink

Download our food scanner app for FREE and see for yourself the amount of sugar, salt and saturated fat in everyday food and drinks.



change 4 life is here to help.

Search Change4Life and sign up for loads of healthy eating tips, tasty recipes, easy lunchbox ideas, fun activities and much more!



We're on Facebook too and want to hear from you!