

The Lancashire Healthy Young People and Families Service
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School: Willow Lane Primary School

Date of Measurement: Monday 26th February 2024

Height and Weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6

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, weight, age, and gender are used to calculate your child's 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 wellbeing of children and families is very important. Measurements are conducted in a sensitive way. Individual results are not shared with your child or their school. The emotional impact of the NCMP has been researched and studies show that body image, self-esteem, weight-related teasing, and restrictive eating behaviours do not change because of being measured or receiving feedback. If you are concerned about your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns, seek further support from a school nurse. The checks are carried out 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 programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures and national guidance for schools and healthcare.

After the checks, we will **only** send you your child's measurements if your child's weight falls within the underweight, overweight, or very overweight weight range. We will also send information on healthy eating and being active. You may also be contacted by telephone to discuss your child's measurements.

If your child's weight falls within the healthy weight range, you will not receive a letter.

If you wish to receive your child's measurements regardless of the result, please let us know using the contact details at the top of this letter within 8 weeks of receiving this letter.

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

- your child's date of measurement, sex 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 in Reception and Year 6. Other data sets held by NHS Digital and Department of Health and Social Care, may also be linked as this would let us add information from health and education records, where lawful to do so, to understand how and why the weight of children is changing, and how this affects children's health and education and how we can improve the care children receive. This includes your child's health data relating to;

- their birth, hospital care (including time in hospital and out-patient appointments and diagnosis of medical conditions)
 - mental health
 - social care
 - primary care - includes all healthcare outside of hospital such as GP and dental appointments,
 - public health - including data relating to preventing ill health such as immunisation records
 - records for when and the reason why people pass away
 - medical conditions such as cancer, diabetes
 - health, lifestyle and wellbeing surveys that your child has 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
 - 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.

All the data collected is also used for improving health, care and services through research and planning.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered and held securely by HCRG Care Group. We will store your child's information on their local child health record. 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 the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID focuses on improving the nation's health so that everyone can expect to live more of life in good health, and on levelling up health disparities to break the link between background and prospects for a healthy life.

Both NHS Digital and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (DHSC) will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme 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 the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (DHSC) that identifies your child.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme 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 through formal assurance and approvals processes, seeking advice from experts as necessary.

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 checked, please let us know before the date of measure using the team contact details listed at the top of this letter to ensure your child is opted out in time. Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

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 collect and use information can be found at <https://www.hcrjcaregroup.com/legal-information/privacy-policy/>

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>

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Shaw'.

Marianne Shaw
Service Manager
The Lancashire Healthy Young People and Families Service