

Children's Universal Services
School Nursing Team
12-18 Lennard Road
Croydon
CR9 2RS

Tel: 0208 274 6391

E-mail:- CH-TR.Northschoolnurses@nhs.net

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Dear Parent / Carer,

National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) for Reception

Each year in England, school children in Reception have their height and weight measured. These measurements are used to calculate your child's BMI centile. 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 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 results together with information about healthy eating and being active. The letter you receive will inform you if your child is underweight, a healthy weight, overweight or very overweight. We aim to send the letter to you within 2 months of measurement.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Croydon Health Services NHS Trust. We will store your child's information on their local individual 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 health and care information to check how the NHS and social care services are doing, and use this to 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.

If your child was previously measured for the NCMP, NHS Digital may link your child's current and previous height and weight measurements. It may also link their measurements with other information it holds about your child such as their dental survey results or the reasons for any visits they may have made to hospital. Linking your child's information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing.

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.

Should your child's measurements fall outside the healthy weight range you will be contacted by a member of Croydon's Child Weight Management Service provided by The Palace for Life Foundation (<https://www.palaceforlife.org/healthy-eagles/>) to discuss options available to your family to support your child to maintain a healthy weight. The School Health Team will share minimum data for children whose measurements fall outside the healthy weight range with the child weight management service including name, date of birth, parental contact details and the child's measurements. This information will not be used for any other purposes whatsoever.

Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme

If you do not want your child to be measured and/or contacted by The Palace for Life Foundation, please contact the School Health Team via the school or email CH-TR.Northschoolnurses@nhs.net within the next 5 working days.

If you are happy for your child to be measured and be contacted if their results fall outside the healthy weight range, you do not need to do anything else.



Further information

Further information about the NCMP 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](https://www.nhs.uk/change4life)

Information about how Croydon Health Services NHS Trust collect and use information can be found at <https://www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk/your-medical-record>

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>

Further information on the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/678761/NCMP_pre-measurement_School_height_and_weight_measurements.pdf

Visit www.nhs.uk/change4life for lots of handy hints and tips for a healthy family. You can join Change4Life for free and be the first to hear about new activities, apps and offers. Register with Change4Life online.

Yours Faithfully

Veronique Black

Operational Lead for School Nursing and Immunisations