



Email: ncm-tr.NCMPCumbriaScreening@nhs.net

Dear Parent/Carer

National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

Each year in England, school children in 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 calculate a child's growth. We collect this information because it is in the public interest to understand how many children are of a healthy weight, are overweight or underweight.

Your child's class will take part in this year's programme. The checks are carried out by trained screening staff. 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 area they live are known to make a difference to their height and weight. Their name, date of birth and NHS Number is needed to link your child's measurements to other health information about your child. All this information is treated confidentially and held securely by us. **It will not be shared with your child, your child's school or with other children.**

If your child's weight is assessed as a healthy weight we will not contact you further. If your child's weight is assessed as underweight, overweight or very overweight we will send you the details of the result to your home address.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely **on a National online database with strict access restrictions.** After you have been informed of the result, North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust will also store your child's information on your child's individual health record (similar to red book) on the child health information database. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially.

NHS Digital will also collect this information from the National database. NHS Digital is responsible for collecting health and care information to see how NHS and social care services are doing and to help improve services across England.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital may link your child's current and previous height and weight measurements. This is so that they can look at population and community trends over the years. They may also link 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. This is to help us better understand how and why the weight of children is changing in populations and communities and to help us make sure we are tackling this.

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. They will use the information to better understand numbers and trends in children's weight to help with the planning of services and campaigns (i.e. Change for Life) to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England 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 with the approval of an independent group of experts.

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 to take part, or if you have any questions, please notify us on the email address above stating that you wish for your child to opt out of the screening, and include the following information, your child's full name, D.O.B, address, name of your child's school and NHS number if you know it **within 2 weeks of receiving this letter.**

If you chose to opt out of the screening programme your child will not be measured.

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

Further information

Further information about the Public Health 5-19 Service can be found at <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/ph5to19/training.asp>

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 Cumbria County Council collect and use information can be found at <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/admin/privacy.asp>.

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,

School Aged Screening Team