

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 checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. We collect this information as it helps the Public Health team understand how many children are a healthy weight, underweight or overweight and helps us plan services to support families and children. A leaflet from Public Health England is attached which describes the programme.

### **How your school is taking part**

Your child's class will be taking part in the programme, which will start from January 2020. The measuring is carried out by Devon County Council's trained School Nursing service. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils.

### **What happens with the information**

All information and results are treated confidentially, and your child's measurements will not be given directly to your child, to school staff or other children. The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together 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. All of the data collected is also used for improving health, care and services through research and planning.

### **What information we collect**

- your child's age, gender, 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 and how this affect children's health. This may include your child's dental survey results or any visits to hospital they may have had.
- 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**

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us 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 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.

Data may be used by NHS Digital and Public Health England 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.

NHS Digital may share de-personalised information with other organisations, such as universities 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. **No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.**

**What happens after the measurements**

We will only contact parents/carers where children measured are outside of the healthy weight range. Your child's School Nurse can also provide additional support and ideas and can be contacted via your child's school or Devon County Council website <https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/health/public-health-nursing>

If you wish to feedback any comments, compliments or complaints on the service provided by the trained staff taking the measurements, please contact the Customer Relations Team at Devon County Council on 0800 212 783 or email [customer.relations@devon.gov.uk](mailto:customer.relations@devon.gov.uk)

**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 online form here <http://devon.cc/ncmp> by **1<sup>st</sup> December** 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

*Virginia Pearson*

**Dr Virginia Pearson**

**Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment & Prosperity/ 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 ideas to help your kids stay healthy can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life>