

Private and confidential

Health Promotion Team
Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust
Prenton Clinic
Prenton Village road
Wirral
CH43 0TF
Tel: 0151 514 2510
www.wirralct.nhs.uk

Dear parent / carer

Height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6

Every 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, a healthy weight or underweight. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme.

The checks are carried out by registered 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 programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures. This includes robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements for the rooms and equipment used to measure your child's height and weight as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

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 may also be linked such as your child's dental survey results or any visits to hospital they may have had. Linking your child's information in this way helps us to understand how and why the weight status of children is changing, and how this affects children's health**
- **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.**

- your email address and telephone number are required as we may contact you by email or telephone to discuss your child's feedback/ send you your child's feedback letter by email/ offer you further support following your child's height and weight measurement.

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

All this information is treated confidentially and held securely. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children.

How the data is used

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database.

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 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 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 Public Health England that identifies your child.

Anonymised 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.



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Chair: Professor Michael Brown CBE DL
Chief Executive: Karen Howell

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, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight please let us know using the contact details provided below **0-19 health and wellbeing service on 0151 514 2510 within 10 working days.**

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 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 sincerely,

School Age Screening Team
0-19 Health and Wellbeing Service



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24 December 2021



**Wirral Community
Health and Care**
NHS Foundation Trust

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Dear Parent/Carer

School Health Screening Programme

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the School Health Screening Programme. The rationale for this programme is to identify any vision or hearing problems that may affect your child's learning. The screening sessions will be delivered in your child's school during their **Foundation 2** school year.

Vision screening:

The screening will take place in school by trained staff. If a vision problem is detected, you will be notified by letter.

Your child may be rescreened as part of our Quality Assurance arrangements with Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH).

Hearing screening:

If a hearing problem is detected your child will have a retest. If the problem is still present you will be notified by letter and an appointment for the hearing clinic will be offered.

Your child may be retested as part of our Quality Assurance arrangements with Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH).

In the best interests of your child this information could be shared with the school on a need to know basis unless you notify us in writing to the contrary. This is to ensure that school staff can support your child in the classroom, eg sitting them at the front of the classroom to help with their vision or hearing.

If you **DO NOT** wish your child to be screened, please contact the School Health Team within 10 days of the date on this letter. You can contact the team by telephone on **0151 514 2510** or letter, using the address above. If we do not hear from you, your child will take part in the vision and hearing screening during the school year.

I would be grateful if you could also contact the School Health Team, if your child is already receiving treatment for a hearing or vision problem. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

Yours sincerely,

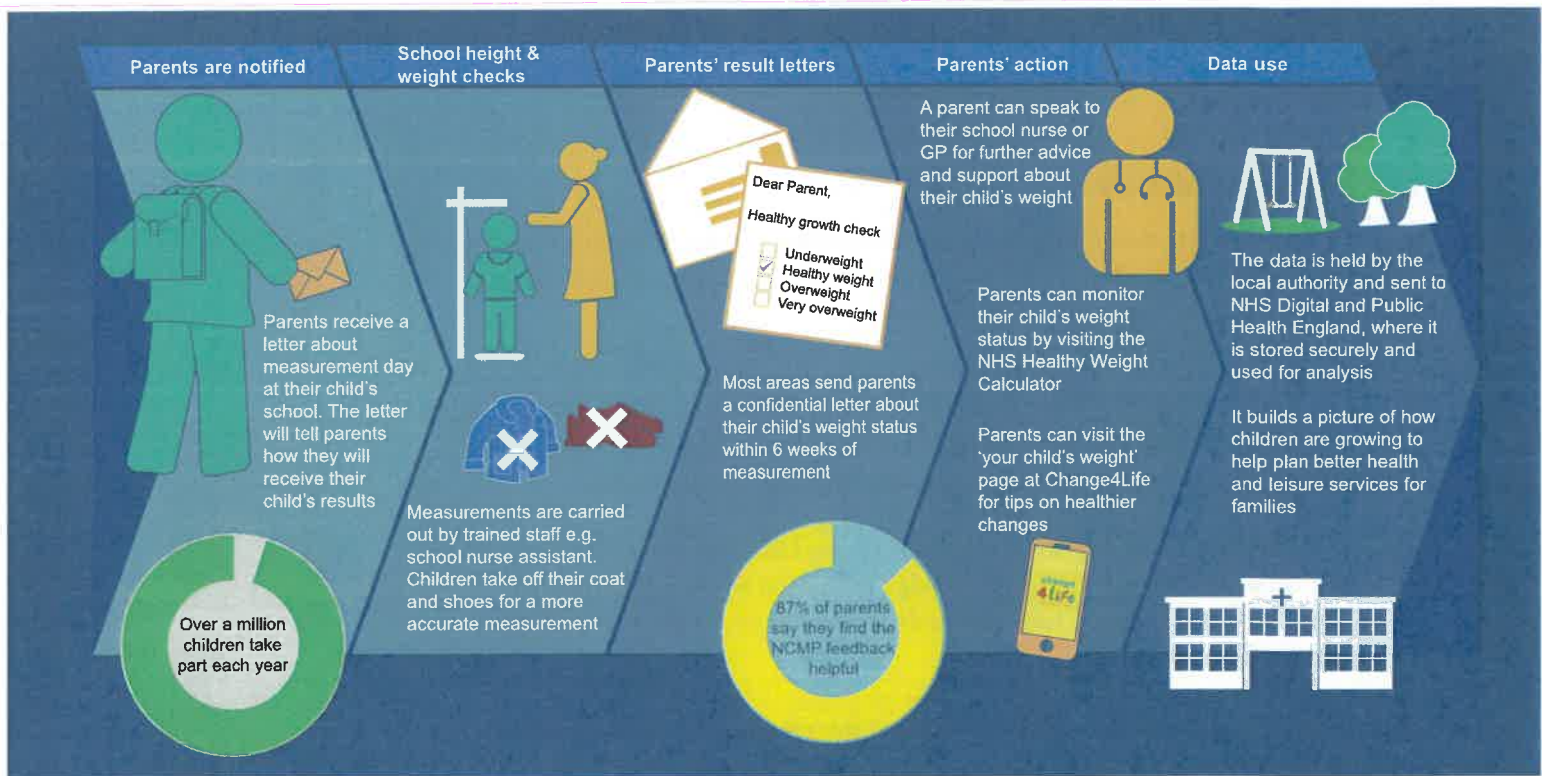
School Age Screening Team
0-19 Health and Wellbeing Service



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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

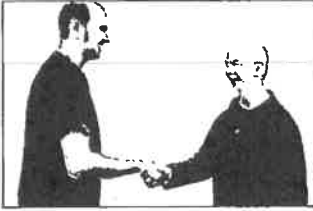
- Most children in Reception and Year 6 are a healthy weight.
- Around one in ten children in Reception is very overweight. This doubles to one in five children by year 6.
- The number of very overweight children in Year 6 is increasing year on year.
- Most children who are overweight in Reception will 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.



Your record helps the staff to care for you in the best way.



It is important that you tell us if anything changes so we can keep your record up to date.



Your information may also be used to help make services better.

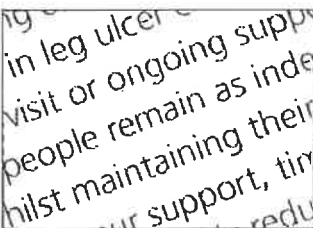


If it is used in this way **it will not** include things like your name and address.



For more information

Call **0151 514 2202** or **0800 694 5530**



If you need this information in another format or language, contact our Your Experience team:

Freephone: **0800 694 5530**

email: **wcnt.yourexperience@nhs.net**



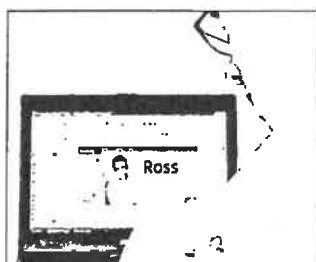
Keeping your information private



We keep information about you like:

- Your name, date of birth, address
- Your health and health/social care you have had

This information is called your **record**.



Your record may be written on paper or on a computer.



Staff that are helping with your care will need to see your record. This may include:

- Doctors, dentists, nurses, pharmacists
- Receptionists
- Social workers and care navigators
- Other health or social care staff



All NHS staff have to keep information private by law.