

School Nurse Service  
St Martins Hospital  
Midford House  
Midford Road  
Bath BA2 5RP

t: 01225 831666

e: [BathNES.NCMP@virginicare.co.uk](mailto:BathNES.NCMP@virginicare.co.uk)

Date: As per email

Dear Parent or Carer

## Measuring height and weight of children in Reception and year 6

Every year in England, school children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. Height and weight measurements are used to calculate weight status. The data is used within the local authority and NHS to understand how children are growing and plan to improve health, care and services. 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 as a result of being measured or receiving feedback.

Children who are in reception will also be invited to have their vision and hearing screened at the same time, as part of the school entry review.

## Your child's class will take part in this year's programme

The checks are carried out by trained staff from within the school nursing service. 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-19 safe way, in line with national safety and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidance. These measures include robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements for the rooms and the equipment used to measure your child's height and weight.

## How will my data be collected and stored?

In addition to the height and weight measurement, routine data, such as your child's name, date of birth and NHS number will be collected to link your child's measurement to other information about your child. Also, their age, gender, ethnicity, home address and postcode will be collected as these are known to affect height and weight of children.

Virgin Care on behalf of B&NES Council will store your child's data on their individual health record. Their measurements will be shared with the Child Health Information Service (CHIS).

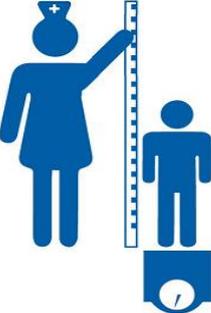
Your child's GP will either access your child's measurement direct from their health record or Virgin Care may share this with them to support the provision of ongoing care if needed.

All the information collected about your child will be submitted to NHS Digital, for national analysis and NHS digital will share this data with Public Health England in a de-personalised form so that **individual results cannot be identified**. De-personalised information from the NCMP may also be shared with organisations, such as universities. If your child has been measured before, their recent and previous measurement might be linked. Further, measurements might be linked to other datasets held by NHS digital such as hospital appointments. Linking your child's information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing.

The data from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by our local authority business intelligence team for local analysis. Head teachers will receive a summary of their schools Year 6 and Reception year results combined over the last three years. All information and results will be treated confidentially, and **no individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children**.

For more information on the way the Local Authority handles the data go to: [B&NES Privacy notice](#). For more information about how NHS Digital and Public Health England collect and use information visit: [NHS Digital](#) and [Public Health England](#).

### National Childhood Measurement Programme process

<p><b>Parents and carers are notified</b></p>  <p>Letter sent via e-mail to reception and year 6</p> 	<p><b>What do I need to do?</b></p> <p>Discuss measurement day with your child</p>  <p>If you do not wish for your child to be measured, contact school nursing as detailed in the opt out section on this letter</p>	<p><b>Measurement day</b></p>  <p>Children are measured in private, only coats and shoes are removed</p>  <p>A trained member of the school nursing team takes the measurements</p>	<p><b>What feedback will I get?</b></p> <p>A letter will be sent home addressed to you with your child's height and weight results</p>  <p>You can use the tools provided to check your child's weight category</p> 	<p><b>What can I do to support my child?</b></p> <p>Visit the 'your child's weight' page at Change4Life for tips about establishing healthy habits for the future</p>  <p>Discuss your results with your GP or school nurse on 01225 831666</p>  <p>You may receive a follow up call from a member of the Virgin Care Team and be offered support through a Healthy Lifestyle programme</p>
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### Opting your child out of the programme

We think that this is a useful and important measurement taken at a crucial time in a child's development, therefore we strongly urge you to let your child take part, and if you are happy with this you do not need to do anything. However, if you do not wish for your child to take part, please let us know by writing to the:

Screening Coordinator, School Nursing, Midford House, St Martin's Hospital, Clara Cross Lane, Bath, BA2 5RP or email [BathNES.NCMP@virginicare.co.uk](mailto:BathNES.NCMP@virginicare.co.uk) stating your child's name and school **within two weeks of the date on this e-mail.**

Children can only be opted out of the weighing and measuring by contacting us directly at the address or email. Children will not be made to participate if they do not want to.

If you have any concerns regarding the processing of your data, please contact the National Child Measurement Programme team on 01872 322828 and you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

### Further information

- [The National Child Measurement Programme - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)
- [Home | Change4Life \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) - [Fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy](#)
- [How we look after your health and care information - NHS Digital](#)
- [Personal information charter - Public Health England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- [National Child Measurement Programme - NHS Digital](#)

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Reynolds  
**Director of Public Health**  
**Bath and North East Somerset Council**



Val Scrase  
**Managing Director**  
**Wiltshire and B&NES Children's Community**  
**Services and B&NES, Devon Swindon and**  
**Wiltshire school aged Immunisations**  
**Service.**