

0-19 Healthy Child Service
Suffolk County Council
Allington Clinic
427 Woodbridge Road
Ipswich
IP4 4ER
Tel: 0345 607 8866

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Measuring the Height and Weight of Children in Reception Year

Across England, children in Reception and Year 6, will have their height and weight measured by the School Nursing Team, as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. Your child's class will be taking part in this year's programme. These measurements are taken because we want to understand how children are growing across the County, and to help children be as healthy as they can possibly be.

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.

As well as the weight and height of your child, we will also record their name, sex, address, postcode, ethnicity, and date of birth. We will enter the results on your child's confidential Child Health Record and send you the results if a concern is raised for your child within 6 weeks of measurement.

In Suffolk, 96% of parents agree for their child to join the programme, and we hope you will agree as well. If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything further. If you do not wish for your child to take part in this year's National Child Measurement Programme please contact 0345 607 8866 or email childrenshealth@suffolk.gov.uk within 14 days of receipt of this letter. Children will not be made to participate if you do not want them to.

The overall programme results will be submitted for national analysis and publication. All information and results will be treated confidentially, and no child's height or weight measurements will be given to school staff or to other children.

We hope that you will agree on the importance of understanding a child's weight, and how it can affect their health. We understand that managing healthy weight is a complex issue, which is why, as part of this year's programme, we are working in close partnership with health professionals within our CYP 0-19 Healthy Child Service, to support families across the County. As part of this process, information from the National Child Measurement Programme may be shared with them and may also include follow up contact with parents. The CYP 0-19 Healthy Child Service, will use your school contact details to offer additional support if needed. If you do not wish for your child's measurements to be shared with them, please contact 0345 607 8866 or email childrenshealth@suffolk.gov.uk within 14 days of receipt of this letter.

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

For further information on the National Child Measurement Programme, please visit www.youtube.co.uk, and search 'NCMP Suffolk', or for tips on healthy eating and being active, please visit <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>.

Yours faithfully



Stuart Keeble
Director of Public Health



Suzy Joyner
Interim Executive Director of Children's Services

Appendix A – 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 held by NHS England and Department of Health and Social Care, may also be linked, to allow the addition of information from health and education records, where lawful to do so, to understand how and why the weight of children is changing, and how this affects children's health and education, and how the care children receive, can be improved. This includes your child's health data, relating to:
 - Their birth, hospital care (including time in hospital and out-patient appointments and diagnosis of medical conditions).
 - Mental Health
 - Social Care
 - Primary Care - includes all healthcare outside of hospital, such as GP and dental appointments.
 - Public Health - including data relating to preventing ill health, such as immunisation records.
 - Records for when and the reason why people pass away.
 - Medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes.
 - Health, lifestyle, and wellbeing surveys, that your child has participated in.
- 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.

Appendix B – How the data is used

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Suffolk County Council. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database and share it with their GP.

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us to NHS England. NHS England 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 England, with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID focuses on improving the nation's health, so that everyone can expect to live more of life in good health, and on levelling up health disparities, to break the link between background and prospects for a healthy life.

Both NHS England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (DHSC), 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 England or the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (DHSC) that identifies your child. NHS England use the data to produce [National Child Measurement Programme statistics reports](#), showing trends at national and local community level.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme may also be shared by NHS England 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 England only ever shares information for research, through formal assurance and approvals processes, seeking advice from experts as necessary.