

School Nursing
St Martins Hospital
Midford House, Clara Cross Lane
Bath, BA2 5RP
t: 01225 831666
f: 01225 833813
e: BATHNES.schoolnursing@virginicare.co.uk
Date as per e-mail.

Dear Parent or Carer










Measuring height and weight of children in Reception and year 6

Every year in England, children in Reception year and year 6 have their height and weight measured. The data is used within the local authority and NHS to understand how children are growing including numbers and trends in Body Mass Index Centile (BMI) and to help plan the provision of services and advice to support healthy weight and lifestyles in your area. This is a statutory programme that local authorities administer under compliance with a legal obligation and the provision of health or social care.

Why achieving a healthy weight is important?

We know that weight is not the only thing that affects a child’s health, and that as parents and carers you have more information to go on than weight alone in judging what is best for your child. However, we think weight is one of the most important factors. When children are a healthy weight, they feel better about themselves and they find it easier to play and learn. Helping them to be a healthier weight when they are a child can set up their health and wellbeing for life. Some ideas for families can be found at; www.nhs.uk/change4life

National Childhood measurement programme process

<p>Parents and carers are notified</p>  <p>Letter sent via e-mail to reception and year 6</p> 	<p>What do I need to do?</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>Measurement day</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>What feedback will I get?</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>What can I do to support my child?</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 school nursing and be offered support through Virgin Care's Healthy Lifestyle programmes</p>
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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.

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](#).

Opting your child out of the programme

We think that this is a really 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:

NCMP Administrator, School Nursing, Midford House, St Martin's Hospital, Clara Cross Lane, Bath, BA2 5RP or email BATHNES.schoolnursing@virgincare.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.

Yours faithfully



Dr Bruce Laurence
Director of Public Health
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Telephone: (01225) 394067
Email: bruce_laurence@bathnes.gov.uk



Val Scrase,
Head of Operations,
Wiltshire and B&NES Children's Community Services,
Virgin Care Services Limited.
Email: val.scrase@virgincare.co.uk