

Date: Academic Year 2025/26

Children's Community Health Hub
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Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Healthy Child Programme School Screening

Your child's school is taking part in the **Hearing and National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)** this term, delivered by the School Nursing team. You will find more detailed information about this below.

Signing up to the School Screener Parent Portal

We kindly ask you to **log in or register on the Parent Portal** and complete a short online form. This helps us confirm your preferences and ensures you can access your child's screening results directly through your account.

 **Within the form, you will also have the option to opt out of either programme, let us know if your child is under the care of Audiology or has a PVP shunt.**

 **Click here to complete the form**

<https://cam019.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/391732/g/hSAS2526>

 **Please submit the form within 2 weeks of receiving this link.**

 **Please see the attached information about the screening programmes before completing the form.**

School Hearing Screening of Children in Reception

During this school year we will visit your child's school to perform hearing tests.

This involves putting headphones on your child and asking them to respond when they hear a sound. In this way, we can measure if your child can hear within satisfactory levels or not. This is a safe simple test which is comfortable for your child and takes 5-10 minutes. Your child's ears may also be examined.

Hearing is important for your child's learning and communication and identifying problems early helps in reducing problems in school and at home.

Your child's results will be made available to you via the *School Screener Parent Portal*. Please allow 24 hours for the results to be available.

<p>If you are happy for your child to have a hearing screen</p>	<p>Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to view your child's results. Details on how to sign up to the School Health Parent Portal are attached.</p> <p>If your child does not pass the test, they will be re-tested within the next school term back in school. If your child does not pass the second test you will be invited to bring your child to one of our audiology clinics for further testing.</p> <p>If you do not have digital access and would like your child to be screened, please contact the Children's Community Health Hub and ask to speak to a member of the screening team and a paper copy of the results letter can be sent home.</p>
<p>If you do NOT want your child to have their hearing tested OR they currently attend ENT/Audiology clinic</p>	<p>Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to opt out of the programme. Details on how to sign up to the School Screener Parent Portal and opt out are attached.</p> <p>If you do not have digital access and wish to opt your child out you must inform the school in writing that you do not wish for us to screen your child.</p>
<p>If your child has a PVP shunt (programmable ventriculoperitoneal shunt) they <u>must not</u> have a school hearing screen</p>	<p>Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to opt out of the programme. Details on how to sign up to the School Screener Parent Portal and opt out are attached.</p> <p>The headphones have magnets and by placing them on your child's ears, close to the shunt, they can magnetically adjust the valve. If you are worried about your child's hearing and would like them to be seen by an audiologist, please contact your GP and ask them to refer to the Audiology service.</p>

Measuring the 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 checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Height and weight measurements are used to calculate weight status. The School Nursing Service routinely visit schools to carry out these measurements on behalf of the local authority, who have a legal duty to collect NCMP data. We collect this information to build a picture of how children are growing, so that the best possible advice and support can be provided.

You can watch the [NCMP animation](#) which explains the process of the NCMP and why it is important. It will guide you through what it involves, how your child's data is collected and processed and what it will be used for.

How the measurements are carried out

The wellbeing of children and families is very important. The measurements are taken in a sensitive way and no child will be made to participate if they do not want to. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. Individual results

are not shared with your child or their school. Your child's height and weight information is only shared with you, via the *School Screener Parent Portal*.

How we use the data

The measurements will be combined with routine information including your child's name, date of birth, sex, address, postcode and ethnicity. The information will be submitted for national analysis and publication in a way that individual children cannot be identified. All information and results will be treated confidentially.

Further details on how we process your child's personal information are provided in the enclosed information sheet.

What happens after children are weighed and measured?

Your child's results will be made available to you via the *School Screener Parent Portal*. Please allow 24 hours for the results to be available.

If your child's weight falls **above or below** the expected range for their age and height, you will have access to information on how to get advice and support.

If your child's weight is **above** the expected range, your details will also be shared with [Choose You](#) (for Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire) or [Total Wellbeing](#) (for Luton) who deliver behaviour change programmes on behalf of the local authority. Choose You or Total Wellbeing will contact you by telephone or text to offer further support.

Next steps – What do parents/carers need to do?

If you are happy for your child to be measured	Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to view your child's results. Details on how to sign up to the School Health Parent Portal are attached. If you do not have digital access , but would like your child to be measured, please contact the Children's Community Health Hub and ask to speak to a member of the NCMP team and a paper copy of the results letter can be sent home.
If you do NOT want your child to be measured, you must opt out	Please sign up to the <i>School Screener Parent Portal</i> where you will be able to opt out of the programme. Details on how to sign up to the School Screener Parent Portal and opt out are attached. If you do not have digital access and wish to opt your child out you must inform the school in writing that you do not wish for us to measure your child.

Whatever your child's individual measurement, taking opportunities to help them be active and eat a healthy diet is good for their future health and happiness. For more information on healthy choices visit the Healthier Families website at: [Healthier Families - Home - NHS](#)

If you're finding it difficult to feed your family as a result of the cost-of-living crisis, then you can find help and support through your local authority:

Bedford Borough:

www.bedford.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/grants-and-funding/help-cost-living

Central Bedfordshire:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/165/support_with_the_cost_of_living

Luton Borough:

<https://m.luton.gov.uk/Page/Show/Benefits/support/Pages/Luton-supporting-you.aspx>

Please check whether your child is eligible for Free School Meals and the Holiday Activity and Food Programme by visiting this website <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> and contact your school directly to apply.

If you would like further information, please contact the Children's Community Health Hub on 0300 555 0606, who will ask for your child's name, date of birth and the school they attend so you can be directed to the school nurse team in your area.

Yours faithfully
School Screening Team

The information we collect and what it is used for

Your child's data

Your child's height, weight, date of measurement, sex and date of birth are used to calculate your child's weight category (also known as body mass index, or BMI).

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 (DHSC) may also be linked to allow information from health and education records to be added, where lawful to do so. This helps 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. These other data sets may include 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 (including 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 and 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.

How the data is used

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

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

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by the Local Authority. The School Nursing Service will securely store your child's information as part of the local child health record on the NHS's child health information database and share it with the child's GP.

It is the responsibility of the Local Authority to submit the information collected about your child to NHS England. NHS England is responsible for collecting data and information about health and care so that it 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 DHSC but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child.

Both NHS England and OHID will use the information from the NCMP to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and BMI. This helps to plan services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS England or OHID that identifies your child. NHS England uses the data to produce [National Child Measurement Programme statistics reports](#) showing trends at national and local level.

De-personalised information from the NCMP 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. NHS England only ever shares information for research through formal assurance and approvals processes, seeking advice from experts as necessary.

Further information

Information about how we collect and use information can be found at:

- CCS School Nursing Service - www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk
- Local Authority Public Health - www.bedford.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/data-protection-foi-eir/gdpr-privacy-statements/
- Choose You – <https://chooseyou.co.uk/privacy-policy/>
- Total Wellbeing - <https://www.totalwellbeingluton.org>
- You can find information about how NHS England and DHSC collect and use information at:
NHS England's [How we look after your health and care information](#) webpage
the DHSC [Personal information charter](#) webpage

You can find information about the organisations NHS England has shared information from the NCMP at NHS England's [National Child Measurement Programme](#) webpage.