

School Nursing Service

Sirona care & health
Kingswood Locality Hub
Alma Road
Kingswood
BS14 4DA
T: 0300 125 5200

www.sirona-cic.org.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Vision screening and height and weight checks for children in reception year

The School Nursing Service offers vision screening and height and weight checks to all children during their reception year. National guidelines recommend that all children are screened for vision in their first year at school. This is normally undertaken alongside the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

Height and weight checks

Every year in England, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured at school as part of the NCMP. We collect this information to build an understanding of how children are growing. The information is used by local councils and the NHS to support the planning and provision of health services for families. Your child's class will take part in this year's measurement programme.

The measurements will be carried out in school by trained School Nursing staff who will ensure that the measurements are conducted sensitively. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, this is usually done in small groups alongside their classmates. Children must be physically able to stand to be weighed and measured unaided and any pupils who are unable to do so are not required to participate.

Maintaining the well-being of children in the NCMP

The wellbeing of children and families is very important. Measurements are conducted in a sensitive way; this is usually done in small groups. If you are concerned about your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns, seek further support from the School Nursing Service or your GP.

The Vision Screening Programme

During vision screening, your child will have the vision of each eye checked. It is not necessary for your child to know their letters to be tested. If screening suggests reduced vision, you will be notified and depending on the result, we will either recommend that you

take your child to an optician, or we will automatically refer them to the Orthoptist team at the Bristol Eye Hospital, for further testing. We will not contact you if your child's vision is satisfactory. Despite this vision screening, it is recommended that all children visit their community optician annually to ensure good eye health.

Results

Individual results are not shared with your child or their school. The weight and height information is shared only with you in the parent/carer feedback letter you will receive by post. It is your choice to share or not share the information with your child. We anticipate that the results letter will be available to you within two months of your child being measured. Please ensure that the school have your accurate postal address as we will use this to send you your feedback letter.

Withdrawing your child from participating in the NCMP

If you are happy for your child to have vision screening (and be referred if required) and be measured, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not want your child to have vision screening and their height and weight to be measured, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height and weight please complete the attached form **and return it to your child's class teacher**.

Children will not be made to take part if they do not want to. If your child is absent on the day of measuring, the SNS may revisit the school at a later date to measure your child.

We look forward to your support as we deliver the NCMP over the coming months. If you require any further information on the NCMP or have any concerns about how we will look after your child's personal information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Sirona care & health CIC

Public Health & Wellbeing Division
South Gloucestershire Council

Further information

The information we collect, what it is used for and how it is stored

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

Your child's ethnicity and address are collected to monitor differences in child growth and weight between ethnic groups, where children live and their backgrounds.

Your child's name, date of birth and NHS Number are used to link your child's measurements in reception and year 6 to other information from health and education records held by NHS England, the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Education, where it is legal to do so.

All this information will be shared with the School Nursing Service to enable them to accurately identify your child and conduct their measurements.

We need your phone number because we may contact you by phone to discuss your child's feedback or offer further support.

The information collected will be held securely by the South Gloucestershire public health and wellbeing division for a minimum of 20 years. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database, which a number of medical professionals will have access to for the provision of healthcare and treatment.

We will send all 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.

Legal basis for processing your child's data

Under Articles 6 and 9 of the UK GDPR, the legal bases we rely on for processing your child's data are that:

- we have a legal obligation
- it's necessary to perform a task or function in the public interest or for our official functions and the task or function has a clear basis in law
- it's necessary for the provision of health or social care
- it's necessary for reasons of public interest in the area of public health
- it's necessary for statistical purposes

These legal bases only apply if we take suitable and specific measures to protect your rights, and we only use your information for the purposes we describe in the section above on what we do with your information.

Parental consent is not the legal basis for processing NCMP data.

Vision and hearing screening and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

The official authority for vision and hearing screening is provided by the [Health & Social Care Act 2012](#). This official authority means that the lawful basis for processing children's personal data for this purpose is considered to be provided by:

GDPR Article 6(1)(e) - processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority

GDPR Article 9(2)(h) - processing is necessary for medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems

Guidance on the [administration of vision screening](#) was published by Public Health England.

This guidance states that Local Authorities can decide whether to adopt an 'opt in' or 'opt out' approach. Both approaches to administering vision screening are equally valid under the GDPR. This is because the lawful basis for processing children's personal data for this purpose is provided by the Articles covering 'exercise of official authority' and 'provision of health care or treatment', not by Consent.

You can read more about how the Department of Health and Social Care collects, stores and uses your child's information and data in the [National Child Measurement Programme privacy notice](#).

You can read more about how NHS England collects, stores and uses your child's information and data at [National Child Measurement Programme \(NCMP\): GDPR information](#).

At the NHS England [National Child Measurement Programme webpage](#) you can read more about:

- taking part in the programme
- how your data is collected
- how your data is used

You can read more about how Sirona and South Gloucestershire Council collects, stores and uses your child's information at [Sirona care & health](#): and www.southglos.gov.uk/privacy.

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.

You can find further information about the NCMP at [The National Child Measurement Programme](#) NHS webpage.

Further information

You can find information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy at the NHS Better Health: healthier families webpage [Easy ways to eat well and move more](#).

Another way to help maintain a balanced diet and physical activity for your family is the NHS Healthy Steps email programme. Sign up for the 8-week Healthy Steps emails and you will be sent lots of low-cost easy tips, fun games, healthy swaps and tasty recipes on a budget. You can sign up to NHS [Healthy Steps - step this way](#).

Withdrawal Form: National Child Measurement Programme

Withdrawing your child from vision screening and the National Child Measurement Programme.

If you are happy for your child to have vision screening, and be weighed and measured, you do not need to do anything.

If you **do not want your child to take part**, please fill in the form below and return it to your child's class teacher.

If you are unable to print a copy of this form please contact the school office where you will be able to obtain a paper copy.

If your child then moves to a different school during their reception year please ensure that you inform the new school if you do not want your child to take part.

I do not wish my child to have vision screening or to be weighed and measured for the National Child Measurement Programme.

Child's Name:

Date of birth: **Male/Female (delete as appropriate)**

Address:

Postcode:..... **School:**

This form needs to be signed by a person with legal parental responsibility for this child and returned to school.

Print name: **Sign name:**

Relationship to child: **Date:**

This form needs to be signed by a person with legal parental responsibility for this child. Please return to your **child's class teacher** as soon as possible.

Please contact your School Nursing team if you wish to discuss this form or any aspect of your child's health.