

Sent via school

Autumn Term 2020

Brighter Futures, Healthy Families 0-19 Service Thurrock
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Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Height, weight, and hearing and vision checks for children in Reception Year

Each year in England, children in Reception Year have their school entry health checks. This academic year the Healthy Families School Health Service will be completing these checks at your child's school or local health centre. You will be notified if your child's checks will take place at a health centre.

All checks will follow Public Health England COVID-19 guidance, and be in line with the school's own risk assessment, and NELFT infection and prevention and control procedures.

Your child's height and weight will be measured as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), and their hearing and vision tested. It is important to have a good understanding of how children are growing, and detect potential hearing or vision problems early, so that the best possible advice and support can be provided.

The checks are carried out in a private space by trained staff from the School Health Service. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coat and shoes, and the information is treated confidentially.

Your child's feedback letter will be sent to your address along with any recommended follow up. If your child's measurements are not within the healthy body mass index range, or they have missed sounds or pictures, we will contact you by telephone to discuss the results.

Please complete the health questionnaire and diversity monitoring form for your child via the links below, within two weeks of receipt of this letter. This will enable us to update your child's NHS record and send correspondence to the correct address:

- Health Questionnaire https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RecHealthQuestionnaire2020_21
- Diversity Monitoring Form <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ChildDiversityMonitoring>

Withdrawing your child from school health screening

If you are happy for your child to have their health checks, you do not need to do anything. If you **do not** want your child to have their height and weight, and/or hearing and vision checked, please contact us within two weeks of receipt of this letter.

Children will not be made to take part if they do not want to.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information, advice or support.

Yours faithfully,

Healthy Families - School Health

The NCMP information we collect and what it is used for:

- your child's age, gender, 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 from Reception Year, to Year 6
- 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 NCMP data is used:

The NCMP information collected from all schools in Thurrock will be held securely by our local authority public health team. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record and may share it with their GP.

The NCMP information will be sent by us to NHS Digital. NHS Digital 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 will also be shared by NHS Digital with Public Health England but in a de-personalised form only. This means Public Health England will not be able to identify your child.

Both NHS Digital and Public Health England will use the information from the NCMP to better understand numbers and trends in child weight and BMI. This helps with the planning of services to support healthy lifestyles in your area. No information will ever be published by NHS Digital or Public Health England that identifies your child.

De-personalised information from the NCMP may also be shared by NHS Digital 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 Digital only ever shares information for research with the approval of an independent group of experts.