

Sent via school

Autumn Term 2021

Brighter Futures, Healthy Families, School Health

Grays Health Centre

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Dear Parent/Carer,

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

Every year in England, school 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 home 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/RecHealthQuestionnaire2021-22>
- 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 at thurrockschoolhealth@nelft.nhs.uk or call 03003001526.

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 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 may also be linked such as your child's dental survey results or any visits to hospital they may have had. Linking your child's information in this way helps us to understand how and why the weight status of children is changing, and how this affects children's health
- 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

All the data collected is also used for improving health, care and services through research and planning. All this information is treated confidentially and held securely. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children.

How the NCMP data is used:

The NCMP information collected from all schools in Thurrock will be gathered together and held securely by our local authority public health team. We will store your child's information as part of their local child health record on the NHS's child health information database which may be visible to their GP.

The NCMP information collected about your child 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 collected about your child 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. Public Health England is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS Digital and Public Health England will use the information from the NCMP 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 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.