



Early Help Team South
(On behalf of the Directors of Public Health and Children's Services)
Children, Families & Community Health
Reuben George Centre
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Height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6 – 2022/23

Each 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. Height and weight measurements are used to calculate weight status. We collect this information because it is in the public interest to understand how many children are overweight, healthy weight or underweight. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme.

The checks are carried out by trained health care providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. The programme will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures. This includes robust hand and respiratory hygiene and enhanced cleaning arrangements for the rooms and equipment used to measure your child's height and weight as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare

The information we collect and what it is used for is listed below:

- 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 held by NHS Digital and Department of Health and Social Care, may also be linked as this would let us add information from health and education records, where lawful to do so, to understand how and why the weight of children is changing, and how this affects children's health and education and how we can improve the care children receive. This includes 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 - includes 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, 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
- Your address is required to send you your child's feedback letter. This will include your child's measurements together with information about healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area.
- Your email address and telephone number are required as we may contact you by email or telephone to discuss your child's feedback and/or send you your child's feedback letter by email and/or offer you further support following your child's height and weight measurement.

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 by us. It will not be shared with your child's school or with other children.

Once completed, if you would like to discuss the results please, contact the school nurses on the telephone number under the letter's address, above.

If your child's height or weight measurements are in the range that could lead to health concerns, you will be contacted by letter within 6 weeks. This will give the opportunity to discuss the results and to access support if you would like it.

How the data are used

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by Swindon Borough Council. We will store your child's information on their local child health record on the child health information database. No individual measurements will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially.

All the information collected about your child will be sent by us to NHS Digital. NHS Digital is responsible for collecting health and care information to check how the NHS and social care services are doing, and to use this to improve the care provided to people across England.

The information collected about your child will also be shared by NHS Digital with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID focuses on

improving the nation's health so that everyone can expect to live more of life in good health, and on levelling up health disparities to break the link between background and prospects for a healthy life. Both NHS Digital and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities will use the information from the National Child Measurement Programme 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 Office for Health Improvement and Disparities that identifies your child.

De-personalised information from the National Child Measurement Programme 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.

Withdrawing your child from the National Child Measurement Programme

If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight, please let us know by informing your child's school by phone or email as soon as possible.

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

Further information

Further information about the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme>

Information and fun ideas to help your kids stay healthy can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>

Information about how Swindon Borough Council collect and use information can be found at https://www.swindon.gov.uk/directory_record/23131/children_families_and_community_health_services_privacy_notice

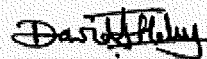
Information about how NHS Digital and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities collect and use information can be found at <https://digital.nhs.uk/about-nhs-digital/our-work/keeping-patient-data-safe/how-we-look-after-your-health-and-care-information> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care/about/personal-information-charter>

Information about the organisations NHS Digital has shared information from the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at <https://digital.nhs.uk/services/national-child-measurement-programme>

Yours sincerely,



Professor Steve Maddern
Director of Public Health
Swindon Borough Council



David Haley
Director of Children's Services
Swindon Borough Council

If you **DO NOT** want your child to be weighed and measured, please inform your child's school by phone or email as soon as possible

If you are in agreement with your child being weighed and measured no action needs to be taken.

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|--------|--|---------------|--|
| School | | | |
| Name | | Date of Birth | |

I DO NOT want my child to be weighed and measured.

Signed..... Parent/Guardian Date.....