

September 2018

Dear Head Teachers and Chairs of Governors,

Measuring the height and weight of children in Reception Year and Year 6

As set out in the White Paper *The Importance of Teaching*, good schools will play a vital role as promoters of health and wellbeing in the local community, as they understand well the connections between pupils' health and their educational achievements.

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is now a statutory public health function of local authorities. Your support for pupil wellbeing by participating in the NCMP last year is greatly appreciated. We would like to ask for your continued support for the programme, which is an important part of work in our local area to promote healthy weight in childhood. The programme involves the annual height and weight measurement of all children in reception year and year 6 in schools.

More than 99% of publicly-funded schools across England now take part in the programme. This means that accurate data are collected, providing valuable information about the trends in underweight, healthy weight, overweight and obesity in children in our area, which we will use to help plan and deliver services. The programme can help us engage with families about healthy lifestyles through sharing children's results with their parents and carers, and offering follow-up advice and support from School Nurses where appropriate, linked to the guidance for schools on how to create healthier school cultures through the national Change4Life programme at <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools>

A report on last year's results for England is available at <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/national-child-measurement-programme/2016-17-school-year> The results for local areas are also available for comparison here <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/national-child-measurement-programme>

If you have been involved in the NCMP in previous years, you will be aware of what is involved. If you are new to the programme, you might like to read the guidance for schools which is due to be updated next week and is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-child-measurement-programme-operational-guidance> The overall operation guidance at this link outlines, in appendix 1, the lawful basis for processing the NCMP data under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

In summary, the programme is led by local authorities, with support from schools by:

- identifying any children who are unable to participate because of disability, medical condition or other reason;
- sending letters to parents and carers to inform them about the NCMP and the opt out process – we enclose a copy of the letter to be sent to pupils to go to their parents/carers (please consider any new admissions who may start after letter has been sent out but before measurements have been completed);
- collating names of any children who have been withdrawn from the programme by their parents;
- providing class lists of relevant year groups;
- identifying a room or area where measurements can be taken privately

With many schools now sending information to parents and carers electronically, Public Health England is no longer printing paper copies of the leaflet for us to send to schools. The leaflet is attached and, as previously, a letter introducing the programme for parents/carers giving the background, the chance to opt out of the programme or register to receive results. Please send out **only the new 2018 updated**

parent/carer letter this year and not older versions as this update covers information regarding GDPR in relation to the NCMP.

We would be most grateful for your support and co-operation as we undertake the measurement programme over the coming year. If you require any further information, please contact Kirsty Hill via email on ncmp@devon.gcsx.gov.uk

Following Devon's successful Sugar Smart September campaign in 2017, Sugar Smart September is going national! It is a great opportunity to sign up to Sugar Smart to access a whole range of freely available local and national resources and start thinking about your school setting. www.sugarsmartuk.org Look out for a school Sugar Smart pack being launched soon including a school audit tool and Sugar Smart Certificate for schools.

Yours sincerely

Virginia Pearson

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