Wandsworth School Nursing Service
Single Point of Access
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01/09/2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

Height and weight checks for children in reception and year 6

Every year in England, school children in reception and year 6 have their height and weight checked at school. This is called the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The checks are carried out by registered school nurses or trained health and care providers. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. You can watch the NCMP process animation. The animation explains the process of the NCMP and why it is important. It will guide you through what it involves, how your child's data is collected and processed and what it will be used for.

Why do we need to measure children?

Children's height and weight measurements are collected to build an understanding of how children are growing. The information from the NCMP is used by local councils and the NHS to plan the provision of health and leisure services for families to promote healthier growth in children.

In most areas, parents receive their child's measurement data, because this can be useful information about their child's growth. It also provides an opportunity to offer

support to parents where required. Your child's class will take part in this year's programme.

What information is collected and why

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

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 collected to link their measurements from 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.

Information about how personal information and data is collected and stored

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 Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust collects, stores and uses your child's information here.

How you can withdraw your child from participating in the NCMP
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, you will still need to register using the supplied link, but you must use the **"opt-out"** function on the portal to withdraw consent for height and weight measurement.

The ability to "opt out" will end at 16:30 on the day before the scheduled school visit by health practitioners. For this reason, if you wish to opt out, we urge you to complete this as soon as you have received the link from your child's school.

If you have any questions you would like to discuss with us or if your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight, please contact the team using the details below:

Tel: 0330 058 1679
Email: clcht.0-19wandsworthandrichmondadmin@nhs.net

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

How is a child's mental health and wellbeing considered in the NCMP

The wellbeing of children and families is very important to the programme. Measurements are conducted in a sensitive way, in private and away from other children. Individual feedback is not shared with your child or their school.

The weight and height information is shared only with you, either through a parent feedback letter or telephone call. It is your choice to share or not share the information with your child.

If you are concerned about your child's growth, weight, body image or eating patterns, seek further support from a school nurse or GP.

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.

You can find further information about the NCMP at The National Child Measurement Programme NHS webpage.

Yours faithfully

Wandsworth School Nursing Team

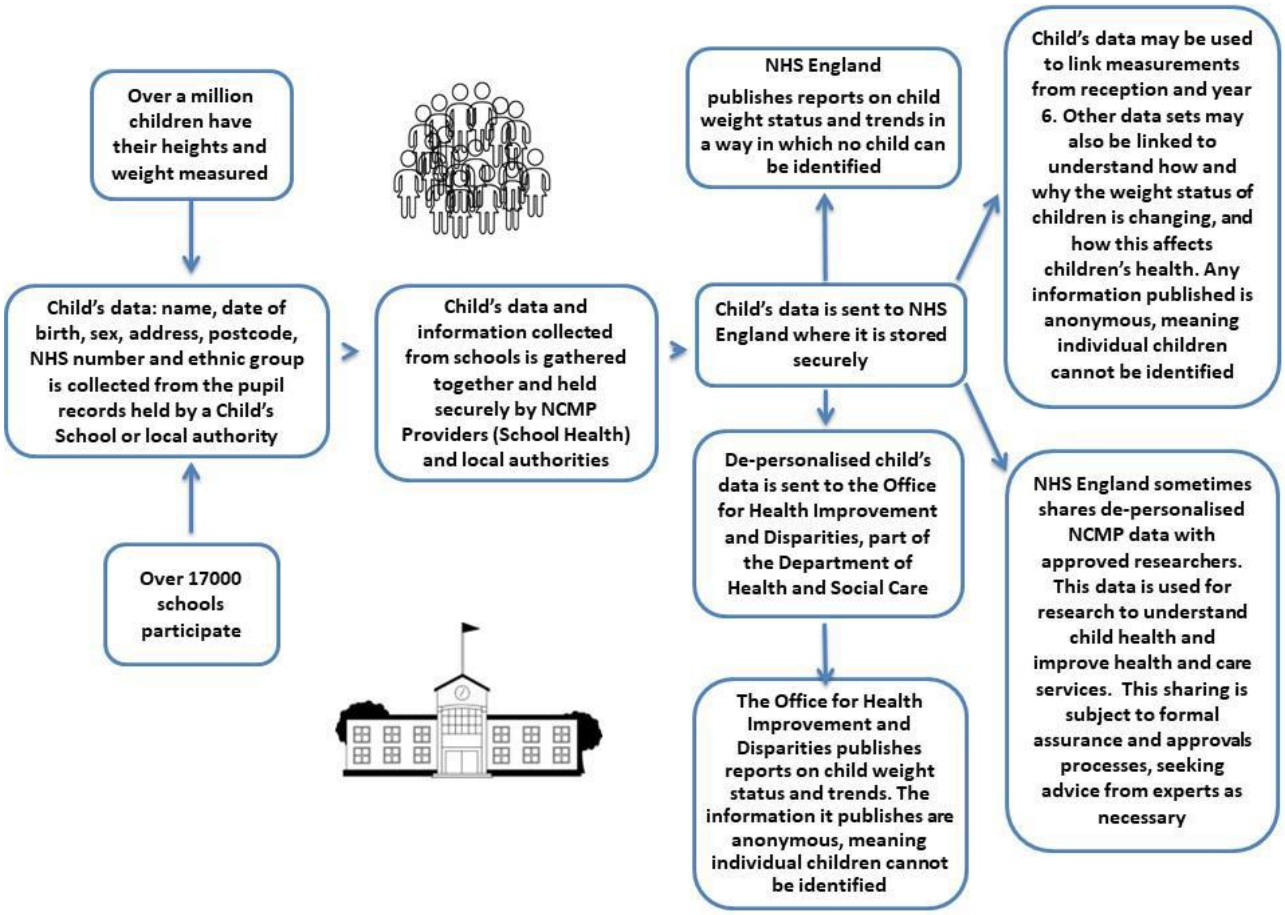
Robert Guile

Director of Operations, South West Division
Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust

Wandsworth Council

NHS Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust

How your child's data is collected and processed as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

Local authorities have a legal duty to collect the NCMP data. They do this by following guidance from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Local authorities are responsible for making decisions on how the data is collected and for making sure it is protected. Local NCMP service providers are contracted to carry this out; this might be through the school nursing team working in schools or a local healthcare provider. The team collecting the data enter it into the NCMP IT system, which is provided by NHS England. The data may also be entered into a local child health information system. Your local authority is responsible for sending the data to NHS England. NHS England and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities are jointly responsible for the data held at a national level. Your local authority is responsible for the data held locally.

The diagram below displays what happens to your child's data as part of the NCMP.