

Public Health

1st Floor Main Building
County Hall
Topsham Road
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EX2 4QL
(01392) 386382

January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

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

Each year in England, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme. The main purpose of the programme is to understand trends in childrens' weight over time and help with planning services for families and children. You can find out more information about the programme [here](#).

How your school is taking part

Your child's class will be taking part in the programme between January and the end of summer term 2023. The measurements are taken by Devon County Council's School Nurses. Children are measured fully clothed, in a private space away from other pupils. Children will not be able to see or be told their weight measurement. No child will be made to participate if they don't want to, your child can tell the teacher beforehand, or the nurse in the moment, confidentially.

The measurement information is confidential and will not be given to school staff. The information collected from schools will be held securely by Devon County Council. You can find out more about how the data is stored and used in the privacy notice [here](#).

You can choose for your child to not be weighed and measured by opting out using this [online form](#) by 15th January, or by calling 01392 381484, and we will let the School Nurses know before the programme starts. If you are late returning this form, it is possible your child will be measured. If you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, then you do not need to do anything. Even if you consent to your child being measured, your child can still choose to opt out on the day.

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 as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

What information is collected as part of the programme?

- Your child's height, weight, sex, and date of birth
- Your child's ethnicity and address
- The date of the measurements

If your child has been measured in the programme before, their name, date of birth, and NHS number are used to link their measurements from Reception and Year 6.

How is the data used?

The information collected will be held securely by Devon County Council Public Health and sent to NHS Digital, who are responsible for collecting information about health and care to monitor and improve the care given to people in England. NHS Digital will also share this information with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID; previously Public Health England), but this will be de-personalised so your child cannot be identified. This information may then be shared with organisations such as Universities, to help improve health, care and services through research. All this information is anonymised, treated confidentially, and held securely. You can find out more about how the data is used [here](#).

What happens after the measurement?

We will only contact you if your child's measurements are below or above a specific range, this would be in the form of a letter posted directly to your home and possibly, a phone call. Whatever your child's weight, if you would like support or advice about your child's health and wellbeing, please do contact your School Nurse via our new [website](#) or via [Devon County Council website](#).

If you have any comments or complaints on the service provided, or if you would like to know your child's height and weight and you don't receive a letter within 6 weeks of their measurement, please email health.nationalchildmeasurementprogrammese-secure-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Thank you for your co-operation and help,

Best wishes



Steve Brown
Director of Public Health
Devon County Council

More information about how NHS Digital collect and use information can be found [here](#).

More information about the organisations NHS Digital has shared information from the National Child Measurement Programme can be found [here](#).

Signposting for anyone in Devon who is struggling financially is available here:
[Help with the cost of living in Devon - Devon County Council](#)