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2020/21

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Vision screening in Reception and height and weight checks for children in Reception and Year 6**

Every year, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and, in Bromley, Reception children also have their vision screened. Your child's class will take part in this year's screening programme.

Vision screening is recommended in order to detect whether a child has reduced vision in one or both eyes. This can often be corrected if found at a young age. If reduced vision is detected, your child will be referred to an orthoptist for early assessment and treatment. Your child will not be screened if they are currently seeing an orthoptist. Please let us know if this is the case for your child.

It is also important to have a good understanding of how children are growing, so that the best possible advice and support can be provided for them and their families. Helping children to achieve a healthy weight is both a national and local priority.

The NCMP measurements and vision screening will be carried out by trained healthcare professionals. Children are fully dressed except for their coats and shoes and the measurements will be done in a private area away from other pupils. Routine data, such as your child's name, sex, address, postcode, ethnicity, NHS number and date of birth, will also be collected.

The data from all Bromley schools will be gathered together and held securely by Bromley Healthcare. We will store your child's information on their health record and share it with their GP. All information and results will be treated confidentially. **No child's individual results will be given to school staff or other children. It is at parents' discretion as to whether they share the results with their child.**

After the screening, we will send you your child's results. This will be by the end of the school year, normally within six weeks from the day your child is measured for NCMP results and within 5 working days for vision screening. We will also send you general advice on healthy eating, being active and related activities available in your area.

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 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 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 Public Health England that identifies your child.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Digital may link your child's current and previous height and weight measurements. It may also link their measurements with other information it holds about your child such as their dental survey results or the reasons for any visits they may have made to hospital. Linking your child's information in this way helps better understand how and why the weight status of children is changing.

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.

**Opting your child out of the programme**

**If you do not want your child to take part, please let us know by emailing the opt out slip below to your child's school or returning it to your school office within 7 days.** Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to. You can opt out of either the NCMP or Vision Screening, or both.

**Does your child already see an orthoptist or optician?**

In order for us to ensure the best care for your child, it is helpful to know if he/she is seeing another eye specialist. Please let us know below if this is the case and where the child is seen.

**If your child does not already see an orthoptist or optician, and you are happy for your child to be weighed and measured, and have their vision screened, you do not need to do anything.**

Yours faithfully

Debra Drazen  
Lead for Children's Dietetics and Bromley Primary School Screening



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**I DO NOT WANT** my child to be weighed and measured for the National Child Measurement Programme.

**I DO NOT WANT** my child to have their vision screened.

My child is currently seeing an orthoptist/optician.

Please indicate where your child is seen.....

School: .....

Child's name: ..... Class: .....

Parent's/Carer's name: .....

Parent's/Carer's signature: ..... Date: .....

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO OPT OUT OF EITHER THE NCMP OR VISION SCREENING, PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF BROMLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL SCREENING OR EMAIL IT TO THE SCHOOL**