

2023/2024

Dear Parent/Carer

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.

You will need to follow the instructions towards the end of this letter, regarding registering on parent portal, to receive further information, results, or to opt your child out of screening.

The date/s for your child's school: 25/01/2024

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, or optician, for early assessment and treatment.

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. You may wish to visit the NHS website Healthier Lives for further information on healthy eating and lifestyle <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/>.

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.

The way we share results with you has now changed

We are now using the Parent Portal, an electronic method, to communicate health information and results letters. In order to view your child's results, you will firstly need to register for a parent portal account.

What do I need to do?

1. Click the link below, this will take you to the registration landing page
2. Register for a school health parent portal account, using just an email
3. Check your email inbox to create a password. It's important that you keep hold of your Username and password for future logins
4. Log into the portal Login and fill in your child's information
5. Read the information provided and SUBMIT the form
6. Once you are linked with your child's details, you can read further information about health programmes and choose to opt out of one or both of the screenings.

<http://qlink.uk/BROMh227/141117>

or

<https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Bromley/p/BROMh227/141117>

(Please note, the portal does not work with internet explorer)

If you would like to opt your child out of the NCMP, or vision screening, please follow the above steps and complete the opt-out form within the portal. Should you require further support, please contact our team, using the details above. If you require technical support, please contact the school screener support team on 020 3958 4181, or parentsupport@schoolscreener.com.

You will be notified by email when your child's results are ready to be viewed in the portal, 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 England. NHS England 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 England, with Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), which is part of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), but in a de-personalised form only. This means OHID will not be able to identify your child. OHID is responsible for working to protect and improve the nation's health.

Both NHS England and OHID 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 England, or OHID, that identifies your child.

If your child was previously measured for the National Child Measurement Programme, NHS England 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 England, 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 England 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 registering on the parent portal and opting your child out of the programme. If you encounter any issues with this, please do let us know, by contacting us, using the details at the top of this letter. We require the opt-out to be completed **72 hours prior to the screening date**. 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, on the parent portal, if this is the case.

Yours faithfully

Abigail Phillipou

Tri-borough Head of Public Health Nursing