

2022/2023

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. Your child's class will take part in this year's screening programme.

Some reception children did not receive their vision screening in school last year. If your child did not receive their vision screening and is under 6 years of age at the time we are visiting their school, they will also be offered vision screening. 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.

If your child did not receive their vision screening in school last year and is aged 6 or over at the time we visit their school, they will not be able to be screened. You are advised to take your child for a vision screening at your local optician. This will be free of charge and your child will receive the correct screening for their age.

The date/s for your child's school: **21/11/2022, 22/11/2022 & 23/11/2022**

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 to 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, 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/BROMth156/136915>

(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 0203 958 4181 or parentsupport@schoolscreeener.com.

You will be notified by email when your child's results are ready to be viewed in the portal. This is 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 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 Digital 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 Digital, or OHID, 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 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

Service Lead Bromley 0-19