



Community Children's
Health Partnership



April 2021

Community Children's Health Partnership
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sirona.communications@nhs.net

Dear Parent/Carer

Update Re: The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) height and weight and vision and hearing screening checks for children in Reception year 2019-2020.

Every 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. Due to Covid-19, the closure of schools and government guidance the NCMP was postponed in early 2020. As a result, your child will not be weighed and measured as part of this programme. However, we would encourage you to check your child's measurements and calculate their weight status using the [NHS BMI calculator](#). Please contact your School Health Nursing Service (SHNS) on the contact details provided for further support and advice.

The Vision Screening Programme

NHS guidelines recommend that all children are screened for vision in their first year at school.

As we were unable to complete this for all children in their reception year, with the support of your child's school, we would like to offer a catch up programme for vision screening only. The screening will be carried out in school by trained School Nursing staff.

You may have recently attended an appointment at one of the community vision screening clinics delivered by the SHNS. If this is the case please disregard this letter.

Vision screening 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 screen your child's vision as recommended in the national guidance for schools and healthcare.

During the vision screening, your child will have the vision of each eye checked. It is not necessary for your child to know their letters to be tested. If screening suggests reduced vision you will be

notified and depending on the result we will either recommend that you take your child to an optician, or we will automatically refer them to the Orthoptist team at the Bristol Eye Hospital, for further testing. To ensure reduced paper handling due to Covid-19, we will not routinely send you your child's results, rest assured we will contact you if screening suggests reduced vision. It is recommended that all children visit their community optician annually to ensure good eye health. We will not share your child's results with school staff or other children, but you may want to discuss any results that may impact on your child's learning with their class teacher.

Hearing Screening Programme

Due to changes in policy and the successful implementation of the Universal Neonatal Hearing Screening Programme introduced for all newborns across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire in 2002, a decision has been made to cease the school entry hearing screen in this area. Therefore, we are no longer offering this screen. If you have any concerns regarding your child's hearing please contact your GP or school nurse to discuss further.

Withdrawing your child from the Vision Screening Programme

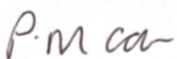
If you are happy for your child to have vision screening, you do not need to do anything.

However, if you **do not** want your child to have vision screening, please let us know by completing the opt out form at the end of this letter and returning it to your child's class teacher.

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

We look forward to your support as we undertake this important work over the coming months. If you need any further information or have any concerns about how we will look after your child's personal information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Patricia Carr
Clinical Lead for School Nursing (South Gloucestershire)
Community Children's Health Partnership



Helen Tapson
Consultant in Public Health
Public Health & Wellbeing Division

Further information

All data collected is treated confidentially and held securely by us in accordance with data protection procedures. The information we collect includes your child's name, address, date of birth and school, we will also record the results of the vision screening.

The information collected from all schools in the area will be gathered together and held securely by the South Gloucestershire Council public health team for a minimum of 20 years. We may store your child's information on their local child health record on the NHS child health information database and share it with the School Health Nursing Service and GP if required. No individual results will be given to school staff or other children, and all information will be treated confidentially.

The official authority for vision and hearing screening is provided by the Health & Social Care Act 2012¹. This official authority means that the lawful basis for processing children's personal data for this

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted>

purpose is considered to be provided by:

- GDPR Article 6(1)(e) - processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority
- GDPR Article 9(2)(h) - processing is necessary for medical diagnosis, the provision of health or social care or treatment or the management of health or social care systems

Informing parents

Guidance on the administration of vision screening is published by Public Health England².

This guidance states that Local Authorities can decide whether to adopt an 'opt in' or 'opt out' approach. Both approaches to administering vision screening are equally valid under the GDPR. This is because the lawful basis for processing children's personal data for this purpose is provided by the Articles covering 'exercise of official authority' and 'provision of health care or treatment', not by consent.

Information about how we, South Gloucestershire Council collect, store and use personal information can be found at www.southglos.gov.uk/privacy

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-vision-screening/service-specification>

Withdrawal Form: Vision Screening

Withdrawing your child from the Vision Screening.

If you are happy for your child to have vision screening, and to be referred if required you do not need to do anything.

If you **do not want your child to take part**, please print and complete the form below.

If you are unable to print a copy of this form please contact the school office where you will be able to obtain a paper copy.

Withdrawal Form: Vision Screening

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM to your child's teacher if you DO NOT wish your child to take part in the Year 1 vision screening catch up programme.

I do not wish my child to take part in the Year 1 vision screening catch up programme.

Child's Name:

Date of birth: **Male/Female (delete as appropriate)**

Address:

Postcode:..... **School:**

This form needs to be signed by a person with legal parental responsibility for this child and returned to school.

Print name: **Sign name:**

Relationship to child: **Date:**

This form needs to be signed by a person with legal parental responsibility for this child. Please return to your **child's class teacher** as soon as possible.

Please contact your School Health Nursing Service if you wish to discuss this form or any aspect of your child's health.