



Community Children's
Health Partnership



September 2021

Community Children's Health Partnership
School Health Nursing Team
Kingswood Locality Hub
Alma Rd
Kingswood
BS37 5SS
Telephone: 01454 862441

Website: www.cchp.nhs.uk

This document can be provided in other formats and languages, please contact us:

Haddii aad u baahatid dukumentigan luqad kale, fadlan tag:

إذا كنت تحتاج إلى هذا المستند بلغة أخرى ، فيرجى الانتقال إلى:

Jeśli potrzebujesz tego dokumentu w innym języku, przejdź do:

sirona.communications@nhs.net

Dear Parent/Carer

Update: The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) height and weight and vision and hearing screening checks for children in Reception year 2020-2021.

In June this year we wrote to you to provide an update on the delivery of the NCMP and Vision Screening in your child's school. 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 NCMP was postponed in early 2020, as a result, we were unable to weigh and measure your child 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

In your letter we advised that with the support of your child's school we would like to offer a catch-up programme for vision screening. NHS guidelines recommend that all children are screened for vision in their first year at school. The screening will be carried out in school by trained School Nursing staff.

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.

Vision Screening will be delivered in a COVID-safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures and national guidance for schools and healthcare. To ensure reduced paper handling, 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 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



Fiona Owens
School Nursing Lead (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 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

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

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.