

JSNA newsflash

National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP)

Every school year, children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight measured as part of the NCMP, one of the mandatory services for Local Government. Locally, the NCMP is delivered on behalf of public health by Hounslow and Richmond Community Healthcare's school nursing team.

These data are published at a Local Authority level on an annual basis; recently published data is on the 2012/13 school year. The findings summarised here are based on children attending primary school in the borough, rankings are given out of 351 local authorities.

What does this mean for Richmond?

- Richmond borough has among the **lowest levels of overweight and obesity prevalence** in primary school aged children in England. In reception, 16.3% of children are overweight or obese compared to an England average of 22.2%, making Richmond the eighth lowest local authority. In year 6 26.1% of children are overweight or obese compared to the England average of 33.3%, making Richmond twenty-first lowest.
- Looking back at NCMP data over the last 6 years **trends in overweight and obesity have remained very stable** for Reception year children, around current levels. In year 6 there has been a bit more fluctuation in the data but overall there is no clear direction in the trend.
- Although the low prevalence and absence of an increasing trend provides a positive picture, we cannot afford to become complacent. In reception, 5.9% of children in Richmond are obese, putting the borough 15 places behind Guildford which has the lowest prevalence of obesity at 4.2%. By year 6, 13.8% of children in Richmond are obese; this puts the borough in 43rd place after Waverley where prevalence is 10.1%.
- Furthermore, the borough continues to follow the National trend of a **doubling in obesity prevalence between children entering and leaving school**. In the 2012/13 school year, 132 children in reception and 214 in year 6 are obese.

Contact details

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We welcome feedback and are continually reviewing processes and products.

As new information becomes available, we aim to rapidly distribute with a local commentary via our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) newsflashes. We'd welcome your feedback. Please send your comments directly to JSNA@richmond.gov.uk or to the Public Health Team.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessments for the borough of Richmond are available at www.richmond.gov.uk/jsna.

