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Barnsley Hospital

NHS Foundation Trust

School Vision Screening Information for Parents

Community Orthoptic Services,
New Street Health Centre,
Upper New Street,
Barnsley,
S70 1LP
Tel: 01226 644878

What is Vision Screening?

The aim of the school Vision Screening programme is to detect reduced vision in one or both eyes, which may affect how well children can learn, for example, not being able to see the whiteboard or read a book properly. The aim is to detect any problems early, so your child can receive effective treatment. Reduced vision can be caused by factors such as the shape of the eye, or a 'turn' in the eye (squint.) Glasses and/or eye patching may be recommended as treatment for reduced vision.

Consent

Vision screening is an opt-out service. This means that ALL children will get tested, unless parents specifically decline this. Parents will be informed of when the testing will take place, and be given the choice to opt out. If you **DO NOT** want your child to be tested or wish to inform us that your child is already attending appointments under the hospital eye service, you can contact us in two ways:

- **PHONE:** by calling the Orthoptist clerk, Clare Morrisroe, on **01226 644878**.
- **EMAIL:** by email saying you would like to opt out with your name, your child's name and date of birth and what school your child attends to orthoptics.screening@nhs.net.

If you do not contact us within 2 weeks of receiving this letter, we will assume that you want your child to have the test. By accepting the vision screening test, you also consent to us sharing the results of your child's screening test with Child Health Information Services (CHIS) to maintain a comprehensive record.

What will my child be asked to do?

We will test your child in small groups of 2 or 3, in a quiet room within their school environment to allow the fewest distractions possible. We will then ask your child to either name or match letters whilst wearing occlusive orange and green glasses to test each eye individually. The letters we use are: **H, X, O, V, U** and **Y**. We also carry a picture book with us to use if your child is unable to match the letters.

After the tests, parents will be given a letter detailing the outcome of the screening test, either if the child has passed, or if they are to be referred for further diagnostic tests.

What happens next?

If your child passes the vision screening, no further tests will be needed, but you are advised to visit your local opticians once a year for an annual eye test.

If your child is absent on the day of testing or unable to complete the test, they may be offered a test on another day. If unable to complete the tests on a second visit, they will be referred for further testing.

If your child needs further testing, they will be referred to the hospital, where they will see either an optometrist (optician) or an ophthalmologist (eye doctor.) At this appointment, your child's vision will be re-checked, and they may require some eye drops to dilate their pupils. This will allow us to look at the back of their eyes, and also see if they require any glasses.

P.T.O

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In response to COVID-19, we will be making the following changes in how the service is offered;

- PPE will be worn by the vision screener to see all children – this includes a mask, apron and gloves.
- PPE will be correctly disposed of by the clinician.
- Children will be taken, no more than 2 at a time, to allow for safe social distancing.
- Children will be asked to wash their hands before the vision screening test.
- Contact between the child and examiner will be kept to a minimum, children will be asked to put on the occlusive glasses for their eye test, as well as holding the matching card (if needed.)

*If you have any queries, please contact **01226 644878** to speak to the Orthoptist Clerk, Clare Morrisroe, at New Street Health Centre, Barnsley, between 8:30AM and 5:00PM Monday to Thursday.*

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