



Vision screening for 4 to 5 year olds

Information for teachers in Local Authorities using opt-out consent

This information will help you to answer any questions by children or parents about the forthcoming vision screening.

We will then ask the child to either name or match letters on a card held 3 metres away. Children do not need to know their letters to complete the screening. Testing a child typically takes no longer than 10 minutes.

Aims of screening

The aim of the vision screening is to detect significantly reduced vision.

Young children rarely complain about having reduced vision. If only one eye is affected it is even less likely to be noticed by the child, parents or teachers.

The tests are carried out within school by trained vision screeners.

Parents or carers are informed that the test will be taking place. Vision screening in this Local Authority uses opt-out consent. This means that parents/carers only need to respond if they do not want their child to receive the screening. If they choose to have vision screening they will receive a letter with the result.

The screening test

We will test the children in a quiet room within the school. Each eye will be tested separately, by covering the other eye with a patch or glasses with one lens blanked out.

Possible results

If they do not pass, children will be referred for further tests. These could be carried out by a local optician, by someone in a children's community eye service or within the hospital eye service.

If a child is absent on day of screening or unable to perform the screening test, where possible, they will be tested on another occasion. If they are still unable to perform the test they will be referred for diagnostic testing.

If necessary, parents will be contacted by letter to make an appointment for an eye test at their local optician. This includes children who were absent on 2 occasions and missed screening,

We will write to parents of children who pass the test to inform them of the outcome. This will also highlight that like all screening tests, vision screening is not 100% perfect but should find most problems. Children's' vision will change over time and vision screening may not pick up less common eye problems.