

Further information

If you need any further assistance, please contact the Orthoptic Services Department on 01744 646816 or via email:

sthk.orthopticservices@nhs.net

Vision Screening in Special Educational Needs (SEN) Schools

Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet can be made available in alternative languages / formats on request.

如有需要，本传单可提供其他语言/版式
此單張的其他語言/格式版本可按要求提供

Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona w innych językach/formatach.

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Why do we test vision of SEN children every year in school?

Research has shown that children with SEN are more likely to develop vision problems. Vision problems can impact on behaviour and learning. It is therefore recommended that children with SEN undergo a specialist vision assessment by an Orthoptist.

The familiar school environment is often an ideal setting to carry out these assessments. It also means that children do not need to be brought to the clinic.

What tests will my child have in school?

All children who attend an SEN school in St Helens and Knowsley are offered a vision assessment with an Orthoptist.

Parents are able to opt into the service. Once consent is obtained, the child will have a vision assessment every year throughout their school life. Some children are seen more than once in the academic year.

What will happen if my child's vision is reduced or a problem is suspected?

If vision is found to be reduced in one or both eyes, or if a problem is suspected, a glasses and eye health appointment will be arranged in school. This appointment will be with an Optometrist (Optician). Eye drops are usually required to dilate the pupil (so that a full and accurate assessment can be done).

Parents will need to sign for eye drops if required. Parents are invited to attend the Optometrist appointment, if they wish, but do not have to if consent has been provided. If your child needs a further assessment they can be referred to an Ophthalmologist (eye doctor) which will be in a community centre or hospital.

Do the eye drops make my child's vision blurry?

Your child's vision may be blurred for several hours, and it can take up to 30 minutes for the drops to work.

What if my child needs glasses?

Your child will be provided with a prescription (voucher). This can be taken to a dispensing Optician or Optometrist in the high street.

The optician will take measurements and help choose comfortable glasses that fit your child properly. There is no need for another eye test.

Children's glasses should be worn all day every day unless otherwise advised by a health professional.