

PARENT/CARER INFORMATION

Introduction

NHS England, have committed to transforming eye care and vision for children and young people in special schools, by delivering **free**, eye examinations **on the school premises**, together with the supply and fitting of glasses

THIS SERVICE IS INSTEAD OF VISITING A HIGH STREET OPTICIAN



Research has shown that children with a learning disability and/or autism are **28x** more likely to experience challenges with sight and eye health.

Despite this greater need, most children have to attend a hospital eye department for routine services and over 40% have no history of eye care provision.

Why is an eye test important for my child

Some children may not know they have a sight problem or may not be able to tell people about a change in their vision.

Uncorrected vision can lead to lack of participation in activities or difficulty walking because the environment looks blurred.

Therefore, it's recommended that all children have their eyes tested **every year**, or more often if needed, to identify the condition of their sight.

No child is too disabled to have their eyes tested as you don't have to be able to read or speak to have an eye test.



An eye test is an eye health check as well as checking if glasses are needed.

Your School Eye Care Team

Optometrist: Garry Travers BSc

who will examine the eyes to check they are healthy and see whether glasses would be beneficial

Dispensing Opticians: Debra Jones FBDO

who will take the facial measurements and characteristics into consideration if glasses are required to ensure they fit properly and are comfortable to wear

Frequently asked Questions

What is the difference between the Special School Eye Care Service and a High Street Optician?

The Special School Eye Care Service is a specialist NHS service:

- Delivered by an Optometrist & Dispensing Optician team who have received specialist training and are highly experienced in special needs eye care
- Eye care for the child takes place in a familiar setting
- Your child will be accompanied by their familiar, school staff if the family/carer do not attend
- We have specialist eye testing equipment, not found in the local Optician, to tailor the Eye Test to your child's individual Special Needs
- Eye Tests can be carried out over several short appointments, without time constraints
- We can easily do followup appointments to check test results when required
- We carry several ranges of specialist frames that can be customised, to ensure the best fitting glasses possible

Does my child still need to attend a High Street Optician if they are seen in School?

NO. Please let us know if you want to withdraw from the Special School Eye Tests Service, and attend a High Street Optician instead, otherwise we will see your child when they are next due.

Can I attend my child's eye test?

YES. Just indicate this on the form, or inform the School. If you do not want to attend, your child will be accompanied at the Eye Test by a school staff member.

Who can have an Eye Test at School?

All learners are entitled to a free Eye Test in school, as long as they have not had an Eye Test recently elsewhere.

Will I be informed of the Eye Test appointment time before hand?

Schools are very busy places, and it is difficult to know in advance which learners and staff members will be able to attend a clinic. You will be informed of the appointment time if we are told you would like to attend the Eye Test.

Do I have to pay for the glasses?

No. All the glasses we dispense including specialist frames & thinner lenses, if required, are free, for all learners under 19.

Does my child get a free spare pair of glasses?

The NHS only supply one free pair of glasses. When there is a high prescription under certain circumstances we can apply to the NHS for a spare pair.
We can supply a spare pair of glasses from £25 - Please contact us.

What happens if the glasses get lost or broken?

Tell us, and we will replace or repair them for free if your child is under 16. Different NHS rules apply if they are over 16. Depending on the their individual situation, it might still be free.

Is the service available outside school term?

Yes. All the eye tests are carried out in school, but you can contact us at any time for broken & lost glasses, or to answer any questions.

Will I be given an NHS glasses voucher to use in High Street Optician?

No. Although the Special School Eye Care Service is funded by the NHS, different regulations apply to our service.

What happens after the Eye Test?

The Eye Care Team will write a report in plain English explaining the outcome of the Eye Test. This will be sent to the school, for them to send to the family. The family will be contacted directly if there is any matter to discuss.

Further questions?

Contact the school or the Eye Care Team:

Travers Opticians - 0161 746 8098

schools@traversopticians.co.uk / garry.travers@nhs.net

For further information visit: www.traversopticians.co.uk/schools

How to arrange an Eye Test in School?

To opt-in, use the QR code or link below and complete the Questionnaire & consent form.



If you find it difficult to complete the form online, an easy read paper version is available, or it can be completed verbally over the phone or in school.

www.traversopticians.co.uk/schools.html