

Email: ncm-tr.NCMPCumbriaScreening@nhs.net

Dear Parent/Carer

Vision Screening for children of Reception age (born 1st September 2018 – 31st August 2019)

Your child is due to have a vision test in School carried out by one of our trained School Screeners as part of Cumbria's Public Health offering.

- **If you are happy for your child to have their vision tested you do not need to do anything.**

Please note that if your child passes, you will not be notified however it is recommended that you take them for an annual eye check at a local Optometrist (Optician) in the future.

- **You may want to opt your child out of the school vision screening if your child is currently under the care of an ophthalmologist/ orthoptist/ optometrist at your local Hospital or they are currently under the care of an optician and have had a sight test in the past 6 months.** Please notify us on the email address above stating that you wish to opt your child out of the Vision Screening including the reason why, your child's full name, D.O.B, address, name of your child's school and NHS number if you know it **within 2 weeks of receiving this letter.**
- **If you do not want your child's vision to be screened** please notify us on the email address above stating that you wish to opt your child out of the Vision Screening. Please include the reason why, your child's full name, D.O.B, address, name of your child's school and NHS number if you know it **within 2 weeks of receiving this letter.**
- If your child has any additional needs or requires any additional support to participate in this programme that you feel we need to be aware of please contact us on the email address above.

If you chose to opt out of vision screening your child will not be screened in School.

Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

Further details about what happens after your child is screened, why it is important for them to be screened, frequently asked questions and links to further information can be found on the next page of this letter.

Yours Faithfully,

School Aged Screening Team.

Vision screening

Vision screening allows us to ensure that all children experience good eye health and are able to access further help if needed.

If your child passes, you will not be notified however it is recommended that you take them for an annual eye check at a local Optometrist (Optician) in the future.

If your child's vision test shows a need for further investigation the Screener will send a letter to your home address. They will also use your child's name, date of birth, address & NHS number to refer your child for a more in depth test at your local NHS hospital eye service.

Your child's vision screening results will be recorded in your child's individual health record.

Why is it important to have a vision test?

A child's vision only develops until the age of 7 - 8 years and this is known as the critical period. After this it may not be possible to improve your child's vision and your child may be left with permanently reduced vision in one or both eyes. This may have implications on their life such as their ability to drive or career choice. There is often no indication of a vision problem particularly if just one eye is affected and parents have no idea that their child needs glasses.

How will the vision be tested when a child is unable to name letters?

The child holds a card with the letter shapes on it and simply has to match the one on their card to the one the examiner is holding.

What if my child is absent?

If your child is absent on the day of screening you may be asked to take your child to an Optometrist for testing.

What if my child is uncooperative or unable to manage the test?

You will receive a letter home informing you of this and your child will be referred to the Hospital Eye Service for testing.

Further information

Further information about the Public Health 5-19 Service can be found at [Public Health 5-19 | Cumberland Council \(cumberland.gov.uk\)](https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/public-health/5-19)

Information about how we North Cumbria Integrated Care collect and use information can be found at <https://www.ncic.nhs.uk/privacy-notice>

www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes