

**Community Services**

Orthoptic Department

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**Department of Orthoptics – Vision Screening Service**

Dear Parent/Carer

**Vision screening for children aged 4 to 5 years**

Reception vision screening normally takes place between the ages of 4 -5 years old. Due to COVID-19 lockdown this has meant that the programme is running behind but we are now in a position to offer vision screening to the reception class children but this will overspill into the next school year. This will be done as safely as possible following local and national guidance.

**Why does my child need an eye test?**

- Vision screening tests are designed to see if your child has reduced vision in one or both eyes. The aim is to detect problems early so your child can receive effective treatment.
- Vision continues to develop from birth to around 8 years of age. Children rarely complain of poor vision, particularly if it affects just one eye, so problems can easily go undetected.
- Reduced vision can have an impact on a child's learning and development and is caused by the brain receiving an unclear image from one or both eyes.
- Reasons for reduced vision could include the shape of the eye or a turn/squint in one or both eyes. Treatment options may include glasses and/or a patch worn over the eye with best vision.
- For more information about child vision screening: [www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes](http://www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes)

If you **DO NOT** want your child to have vision screening, please telephone the orthoptic department on the number above within the next two weeks to opt out, otherwise we will assume you are happy for your child to be screened.

Regards

Orthoptic Department