University Hospitals Birmingham
NHS Foundation Trust

Reception Vision Screening Programme: update for Parents and Guardians

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Reception vision screening normally takes place between the ages of 4 -5 years old. 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 the best vision.
- **For more information about child vision screening:** www.nhs.uk/childrens-eyes

Information for parents/guardians of reception children

- Opt-out consent forms for parents will be delivered to schools for reception aged children. If parents/guardians have any concerns about their children having an eye test in school, they can contact the Vision Screening team to discuss this. Contact details will be included on their consent form.

How are we reducing risk to keep everyone safe during vision screening sessions?

- ✓ All staff involved in vision screening will follow local and national guidance on infection control.
- ✓ Risk assessments will be completed prior to attending schools to ensure all steps are taken to minimise risk.

Contact

If you have any queries please contact the Vision Screening team:
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Good Hope Hospital (0121) 424 9677
Email: n.ashraf1@nhs.net