

School Nursing Service

Year 1 Vision Screening catch up 2020/21

All area – version 1
Parent / Carer Information

Each year the Buckinghamshire NHS Trust (BHT) School Nursing Service routinely visit Reception Class in your child's school to undertake vision screening and height and weight measurements. However due to the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to undertake this screening last year, but this will now resume for Year 1 children who are eligible and who have not had their eyes tested in the past 12 months.

The Screening Programme

The checks are carried out by a trained team of School Health Assistants, in a private space away from other pupils. Parents / Carers are requested to **opt-out of this if they DO NOT** wish their child to take part, see Opt-out process below.

Vision Screening – The NHS recommends vision screening before 7 years old to detect any problems early so your child can receive effective treatment. The test is carried out in school and individual results letters are sent to you. In some instances we may telephone you to discuss our findings and advise about a possible referral to the Hospital Eye Department (Orthoptic). It is important that your child's eyes are checked regularly by an optician, which is **free** to all school age children. If your child is being seen by the Hospital's Eye Department then please advise us of this. Please note we will not test children who wear glasses.

National Childhood Measurement Programme – Each year in England, School children in Reception and Year 6 have their height and weight checked at school as part of the National Childhood Measurement Programme. However, this was not possible for some children last year due to school closures as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. We would encourage any families wanting support about healthy eating and activity to access information from SPARK <https://buckspark.co.uk/>

Covid-19 Infection Control Process

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's, School Nursing Services will carry out the screening following government advice that aligns with national and local COVID-19 guidance for schools and infection control. Considerations and adjustments have been made to carry out the screening within the altered school environment with respect to class groups and minimising the number of school visits required.

The staff members who visit your school have clear guidance on hand hygiene, cleaning the vision screening equipment and the allocated room(s). The local authority and school nursing team will consider use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as per BHT guidelines Pupils will not be required to wear PPE at any point during the screening process.

Further information about Vision Screening

Should you require further information about vision screening for children, please read this information from British and Irish Orthoptic Society. <https://www.orthoptics.org.uk/patients-and-public/childrens-vision-screening/> and from Department of Health [vision screening parent leaflet.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91481/vision_screening_parent_leaflet.pdf)

Opt-out Process

Please let us know if you DO NOT want your child to participate in the Vision Screening Programme because of the following reasons:

Please note on the email withdrawing consent is for one of the following reasons:

- is currently under the care of an Ophthalmologist / Orthoptist / Optometrist at your local Hospital Eye Clinic
- is currently under the care of a local Optometrist (Optician) or had a recent sight test.
- do not want their child screened due to personal reasons

bht.schoolhealth-screening@nhs.net

Please note this is to be used for screening queries and opting-out only

Please provide the following details: Child's Full Name (or known by name if different) : Date of Birth : School : Gender : NHS number (if known) : Name of parent/person with parental responsibility declining the screening : Return contact details. (Children with glasses will not be screened)

Summary - How the data is used

Under the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) any processing of personal data must have a lawful basis. The information collected for this programme falls within the category of data concerning health and the most appropriate lawful bases considered for this purpose is 'compliance with a legal obligation' and the 'provision of health and social care'. (Article 6 and 9 of GDPR) Any data collected during this programme will be treated confidentially and will not be used for any other purposes unless statutory legislation permits otherwise. Please read our Fair Processing Notice on the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust website on details on how we process person identifiable data. The confidential data is held as part of your child's health records and will only be used for such purposes.

There is more detailed information on the School Nursing Service

Contact and referral details:

www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing