



# East Sussex School Health Service

East Sussex School Health Service  
Children & Young Peoples Directorate  
Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust  
Ore Clinic  
407 Old London Road  
Hastings  
East Sussex  
TN35 5BH

**Private and confidential**

**Phone:** 0300 123 4062

**Email:** kentchft.esschoolhealthservice@nhs.net

**Web:** www.kentcht.nhs.uk

Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

**Letter reference:**RSC.3b.10.18

Dear parent/guardian,

## Reception screening in East Sussex

The East Sussex School Health Service offers vision and hearing screening to all reception class children.

It's important for eye problems or hearing difficulties to be identified as early as possible because they can have a significant impact on a child's development and education. Eye problems are often much easier to treat if detected while a child's vision is still developing (usually up to about seven or eight-years-old). Although serious hearing problems during childhood are rare, early testing ensures any problems are picked up and managed as soon as possible.

Screening will take place at your child's school between **November 2018 and July 2019**. It will be carried out by trained healthcare staff in a private area in small groups of two or three children. If your child is receiving treatment for a hearing problem or wears hearing aids they will not have their hearing tested so please let us know if this is the case.

If your child wears glasses please make sure they have them in school on the day of the test.

In order to accurately test the vision of each eye separately, a small square of low-adhesive hypoallergenic tape will be placed lightly over the eye not being tested. Covering one eye for a short time in this way does not cause any discomfort and the tape is not in direct contact with the eye. Your child will be given a simple explanation of the purpose of the test. This will include an opportunity to feel the tape.

**Service provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust**

**Chairman** David Griffiths      **Chief Executive** Paul Bentley  
**Trust HQ** The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane,  
Barming, Nr Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT



Letter reference: RSC.3b.10.18

**If your child has any sensitivities or allergies to hypoallergenic tape, please inform the School Health Team using the details at the top of this letter.**

The results of the screening will be given to your child on the same day to bring home. If the screening indicates your child's vision or hearing may need further assessment, they will be referred to either the audiology (hearing) or ophthalmology (vision) departments at East Sussex Health Care for a more detailed test. In order for you to receive an appointment by letter or by phone we will share your contact details with East Sussex Health Care. If you do not wish us to do this please let us know using the contact details above.

### **Opting your child out of the screening**

If you do not wish your child to take part, please inform us as soon as possible, before the screening is due to take place, using the contact details above.

In the best interests of your child the School Health Team routinely updates GPs on those children who have not received screening.

- If you are not registered with a GP practice please access <http://www.nhs.uk> or phone the NHS England Customer Contact Centre 0300 311 2233 for availability of GPs in your area.
- If you are not registered with a dental practice please phone 0300 123 1663 for availability of dentists in your area.
- If your child's immunisations are not up to date please contact your GP.

If you have any questions relating to this letter or wish to speak to a member of the School Health Team, contact us using the details above.

For more information about the School Health Service and the ways in which we support children and parents please contact us or read our leaflet, which can be found online here: [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/schoolhealthleafleteastsussex](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/schoolhealthleafleteastsussex)

Yours sincerely

**Debbie Mentessi**  
**Team Coordinator**

Details about the information we collect from you, what we do with it and how it may be shared can be found in the leaflet What happens to personal information held about you? at [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/personalinfo](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/personalinfo) or you can ask your healthcare professional