

Kent School Health

Central Administration Team

Trinity House,

110 Eureka Park,

Upper Pemberton,

Ashford

TN25 4AZ

Phone: 0300 123 5205 (option two)

Email: kentcht.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net

Web: Kent School Health

Private and confidential

22nd September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Hearing and vision screening

Hearing and vision screening is offered to all reception-aged children by the Kent School Health Team. This screening can help identify if your child has any hearing or vision problems which could affect your child's speech and language development, social skills and impact on their learning.

If you wish for your child to take part you do not need to take any further action.

If you do not wish for your child to take part in one, or both screening programmes, please use this link to complete our [Opt out form](#) by 31 December 2023.

If your child is already under the care of, or has been referred to a hearing specialist, orthoptist service or wears glasses, please OPT OUT of the relevant screening programmes.

If you have any difficulties in using the online Opt Out form then please contact us on 0300 123 5205 and select Option 2

Screening tests are not 100 per cent accurate; some children will fail the screening tests who do not have a permanent issue with their hearing or vision, for example if they have a cold when their hearing is tested. The hearing and vision specialists will identify where a child has any hearing or vision problems or requires additional investigations.

Why is Vision screening important?

Your child's eyes are in constant use in the classroom and at play. If they have any undetected problems with their vision, their education and participation in activities and sports can suffer. It is important to identify vision problems as early as possible.

You will be informed of your child's results. If your child does not pass their vision screen we will automatically refer them to your local specialist vision service who will contact you.

If you have any immediate concerns about your child's vision, which they aren't already receiving care for, we recommend that you make an appointment at your local high street opticians for a free eye test

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick

Trust HQ The Oast, Unit D, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, near Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT

Why is Hearing screening important?

Undetected problems with hearing can affect a child's speech and language development, social skills and education. It's important to identify hearing problems as early as possible to ensure that children can reach their full potential. Your child's hearing will be screened using a simple listening game using headphones.

We would recommend your child takes part in the screening programme if:

- they did not have a hearing screen when they were a new-born. This may be the case if your child was born outside of the UK.
- they don't speak clearly
- they don't reply when you call them
- they talk very loudly
- they ask you to repeat yourself or respond inappropriately to questions
- they turn up the volume of the TV very high.

Other children may also be at an increased risk, this includes children who have had a neonatal illness, mumps or meningitis. Children from Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Irish Traveller and Gypsy Roma Traveller ethnic groups, may also have an increased risk. If your child is in a group with an increased risk, we would suggest your child takes part in our screening programme.

If your child does not pass the screen we will see them again, in school, 12-weeks later. If they fail the second screen they will be invited to an appointment with hearing specialists. You will receive a letter at each stage about your child's results.

If you have any immediate concerns about your child's hearing, then please do seek advice from your GP to make sure that no concerns go undetected.

If you have any questions relating to this letter or wish to discuss any health concerns which could impact on your child's education, please contact the School Health Team using the details at the top of this letter.

Yours Sincerely

Kent School Health Service
Public Health and Prevention Directorate

Do you have feedback about our health services?

Phone: 0800 030 4550

8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Text: 07899 903499

Email: kentchft.pals@nhs.net

Web: www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS

If you need to speak to someone about your appointment, please contact the service directly using the details at the top of page one.



Patient Advice and Liaison

Service (PALS) Kent Community Health NHS

Foundation Trust Unit J, Concept Court Shearway Business Park

Folkestone Kent CT19 4RG