

## Health and Social Services Department

### Orthoptics.

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Dear Parent/Guardian;

We are inviting your child to receive vision screening. This will take place at school during the year they are in reception class.

We enclose an information leaflet to explain what vision screening is and what happens if your child does not pass. You should take time to read this information.

If your child is already under the care of the Orthoptic department they will not be seen in school.

Please could you sign this form and return the lower part to your school secretary as soon as possible.

The information provided on this form will be passed direct from school to the Orthoptist. The information will be used for the purpose of child development/assessment and monitoring and will only be shared between the Orthoptic Department and Child Health Department



.....  
I hereby consent to my child being screened for visual problems by the Orthoptist at school and for any rechecks of the above that may be necessary thereafter.

**Child's Name:** ..... **School:** .....

**Home Address:** ..... **Date of Birth:** .....

..... **G.P:** .....

**Telephone number:**.....

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....

# Vision screening for reception aged children (and new comers up to and including Year 3)

## Information for parents

### Vision Screening

The States of Jersey recommends vision screening for all children between the ages of 4 and 5 years. We want to identify children with reduced vision in one or both eyes, squints or eye muscle problems. The aim is to detect any problems early so your child can receive effective treatment.

### Reduced vision

Vision continues to develop from birth to around 8 years of age. Children rarely complain of having poor vision and it can easily go unnoticed, especially if it only affects one eye. Reduced vision can have an impact on a child's learning and development. This is why we recommend vision screening at age 4 to 5 years. Reduced vision is caused by the brain not receiving a clear image from one or both eyes. Reasons could include factors such as the shape of the eye or a 'turn' in the eye (squint). Glasses and/or eye patches may be recommended as part of the treatment.

### The screening test

Vision screening is usually carried out in your child's school. If your child is not in school long term, other arrangements can be made.

We will assess your child's vision using a letter matching test. The test is fun and your child does NOT need to know their letters. We will put an eye patch over one eye or use a pair of glasses with one eye blanked out.

### Possible results

**If screening suggests a problem,** we will send you a letter confirming this and will either review your child in school at a later date or we will refer your child for further tests at the hospital. We will then recommend the best treatment for your child.

**If screening does not suggest reduced vision,** we will send you a letter confirming this. Vision screening should find most problems but like all types of screening it is not perfect and may not find every child with reduced vision.

## Screening is optional

You can choose whether you want your child to have vision screening. This screening test is the only routine opportunity for all children to get their vision tested. This enables problems to be found and treated quickly at the start of their school life.

If your child does not have vision screening and then requires an eye test at the hospital, a referral will need to be made via your GP.

**Your child's vision will change over time. Further information is provided in your child's 'red book'. If you are worried at any time that your child is not seeing properly, you should arrange to see an optician or GP.**