

23rd March 2026

bht.schoolhealth-enquiries@nhs.net

Dear Headteacher, Senior Leadership Team and Year R Teachers

Child Vision Screening (ages 4-5 years) – Year R

Reception Year (aged 4-5 years) are invited to have their vision checked through the BHT School Nursing, Child Vision Screening. Please can you send the attached “Year R – Vision Screening Parent/Carer information sheet” to all parents and carers of children in Year R ONLY. **We would be grateful if you could send a class list, on an encrypted spreadsheet as per the attached file template, to our secure email address as we require this before we can begin screening.**

Children often cope very well with some eye problems which need to be identified and treated early to avoid lifelong visual loss. For this reason, it is important that even children with apparently normal vision should be tested.

We recommend a child has this sight test in case they have a problem which requires treatment. Young children rarely complain about having reduced vision. If only one eye is affected it is even less likely to be noticed by the child, parents or anyone else. A sight test will identify any problems.

The screening assessment ensures that a child has good vision in both eyes, and that their vision is developing normally. It is performed at this age so that any reduced vision or difference in vision between each eye can be picked up before the visual system is fully developed and any treatment necessary can be started.

If a child falls in any of the groups, then the parents/carers can withdraw consent by following the instructions on the Year R – Vision Screening Parent/Carer information sheet

- is currently under the care of an Ophthalmologist / Orthoptist / Optometrist at a Hospital Eye Clinic
- is currently under the care of a local Optometrist (Optician) or had a recent sight test.
- Parents/Carers are also able to withdraw their child from the screening test if they do not want their child screened due to personal reasons as well.

The School Health Assistants will be contacting you following on from this letter to book in a date which will be 10 working days after the screening information sheet has been sent to parents. The team will be following all recommended NHS prevention of infection guidelines and will require a suitable room/space for the screening to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Susie Mitchell

Service Lead for School and Learning Disability Nursing

