

NHS Children's School Vision Screening 2020-2021: COVID-19 Update

16th September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

You should have already received a Consent Form informing you of the vision assessment recommended for all reception aged children in Lambeth and Southwark (aged 4-5 years).

The assessment is carried out within schools by an Orthoptist, a children's vision specialist, employed by Guys and St Thomas' Hospital (GSTT). During the assessment your child will wear a patch to enable the vision in each eye to be assessed separately. If your child does not meet the pass criteria or is absent on the day of testing, they will be referred to the eye department at St Thomas' Hospital (including community site Gracefield Gardens, Streatham) or to a specialist local optician service.

The aim of this screening assessment is to detect significantly impaired vision which could affect learning. To carry out the assessment, we require your consent.

Please note this is an OPT OUT service. If you do not return your consent form, your child will automatically be tested.

COVID-19 Update

Changes have been made to our vision screening assessment to ensure safety measures are met. In line with our GSTT hospital Infection Control Guidelines, we will be wearing scrubs and appropriate PPE to complete the assessment. With the help of the class teacher / teaching assistant we will be maintaining a social distance from children we are testing. We will complete the assessment in the child's class setting, to ensure school 'bubbles' are maintained.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on:

Email: gst-tr.eyelook@nhs.net or **Tel:** 02071884299 (Note this is a voicemail inbox only).

Yours Sincerely,

Natasha Barrow
Orthoptic Screening Lead