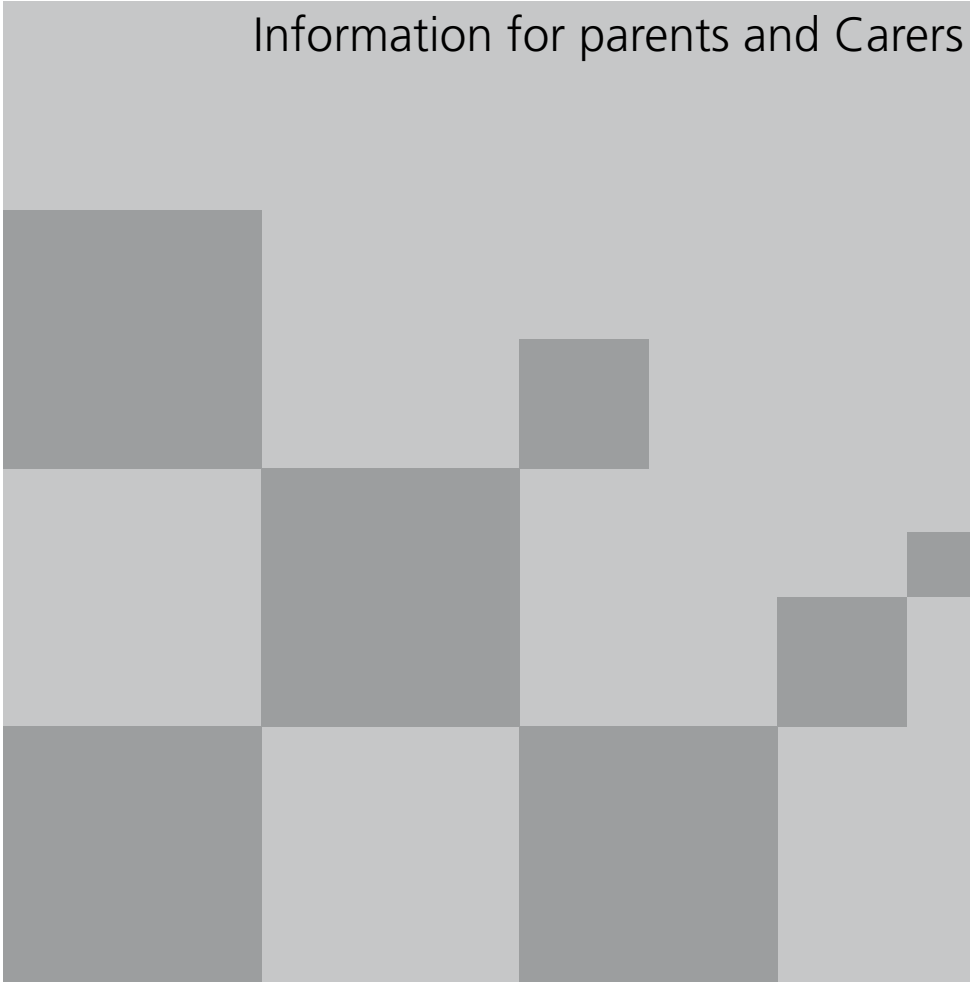


Orthoptic Department, Oxford Eye Hospital

Coming to the hospital eye department

(for children referred from school vision screening)

Information for parents and Carers



Your child has been referred to the Hospital Eye Service following an eye test at school by the Orthoptist. This leaflet explains what to expect at this first appointment.

At your first appointment your child will be seen in one, two or all three of the following departments:

1. Orthoptics

The Orthoptist specialises in assessing how well your child can see and how well their eyes work together.

2. Optometry

The Optometrist (Optician) will carry out a test to see if your child needs glasses (refraction) and check that both eyes are healthy (fundus examination). This test requires the use of dilating eye drops (see below).

3. Ophthalmology

The Ophthalmologist is an Eye Doctor. Most children referred from school vision screening only need to be seen by the Orthoptist and Optometrist, but a few will need a further opinion by the Ophthalmologist.

Dilating eye drops (cyclopentolate)

These drops will be put in both of your child's eyes by the Orthoptist at the end of the Orthoptic assessment. The drops relax the eye muscles, helping the Optometrist to get an accurate assessment of how much long sight, short sight or astigmatism your child has. The drops also help them to get a good view of the back of each eye to check on eye health. The eye drops take 30-40 minutes to work

Your child's pupils will become larger (dilated) and they will notice that their vision becomes blurred. Darker eyed children may need additional drops to relax their eye muscles completely.

The drops will make your child more sensitive to light for the rest of the day. In sunny weather, it is advisable to bring a cap or sunglasses for your child to wear on the journey home. The effect of the drops can last for up to 24 hours.

How long will we be at the Eye Hospital?

This will depend upon how many people your child needs to see.

If they need to see the Orthoptist and the Optometrist (which is quite common) then you are likely to be with us for around an hour and a half.

If your child only needs to see the Orthoptist then this should take about 30 minutes.

If your child needs to be seen in all three departments, please be prepared for an appointment lasting up to 3 hours.

If you have any questions or need any further information please contact us:

**Orthoptic Department at the Oxford Eye Hospital,
John Radcliffe Hospital**

Tel: 01865 234 742 or 01865 234 160

Monday to Friday, 8.45am - 4.30pm

If you have a specific requirement, need an interpreter, a document in Easy Read, another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221 473** or email **PALSJR@ouh.nhs.uk**

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