

Optometry Department, Oxford Eye Hospital

# Children's Eye Clinic

Information for parents and carers





Your child has been booked an appointment with the Eye Team. During the visit your child may be seen by up to three clinicians, each doing different but specialised examinations. From this we can assess your child's vision, eye coordination and eye health.

## Coming to the department

The Children's Eye Clinic is based in the Oxford Eye Hospital on level LG1, within the West Wing building. This is next to the Children's Hospital at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Headington, Oxford.

There is limited 'Pay on Foot' parking available outside and underneath the West Wing building. Please pay at the machines as you return to your car. It can be busy at times so you may prefer to come in by bus or use the 'Park and Ride' services around Oxford, which stop outside the West Wing entrance.

## What to do when you arrive in the Eye Hospital on LG1

Please check your child in at the main reception desk. You will be directed to the appropriate clinic area by following the coloured markings on the floor.

# Who you will see

The three different clinical groups your child may see are:

**Orthoptics:** The Orthoptist will measure what your child can see and assess any squint and eye co-ordination. Please remember to bring your child's glasses to the appointment.

**Optometry:** The Optometrist will assess whether your child has any long or short sightedness. This is done using a light which is shone into their eyes. The Optometrist may also check the health of your child's eyes.

**Ophthalmology:** The Ophthalmologist is the eye doctor who diagnoses any eye conditions and carries out any appropriate treatment.

# Will my child need eye drops?

On the first visit, after the Orthoptist has measured your child's vision, it may be necessary to put in eye drops. We will ask for your consent to do this. The drops temporarily enlarge their pupil and relax the focusing muscles of the eyes. This allows the Ophthalmologist or Optometrist to examine your child's eyes accurately. If your child needs further reviews in the eye clinic we will be able to advise you how often they will need eye drops.

The eye drops take approximately 30 minutes to work. Some very dark coloured eyes may need a second drop to help the pupil enlarge.

# What to expect with the eye drops

The drops will make your child more sensitive to light, so in sunny weather you will need to bring a cap or sunglasses for your child to wear afterwards.

After all the appointments have been completed children are usually fine to go back to school. You will need to let their teacher know that your child's vision may be blurred, especially for close work, for the rest of the day.

# Refreshments

There are two coffee shops, one on LG1 and one on the floor below (LG2), which you may like to use while waiting for the drops to work.

## How long should I allow for the first appointment?

Please allow approximately 2-3 hrs for your child's first visit. This will give you time for your child to have all the necessary eye examinations, allow the eye drops to take effect and give us time to discuss the eye test results with you. Any follow-up visits, if they are needed, will be shorter.

Please note: unfortunately we have limited space in our waiting rooms and you may like to consider making alternative arrangements for any other children in your care.

There is a private nursery on the JR site which may have spaces to offer emergency crèche facilities. You will need to book (and pay for) this in advance. Contact The Cooperative Childcare:

Tel: 01865 762 402

Email: [jr.nursery@ccc.coop](mailto:jr.nursery@ccc.coop)

*Please note the crèche is completely independent of the Eye Hospital and the NHS.*

# Community eye clinics

If follow-up appointments are needed we may be able to see your child in a clinic nearer to your home. We hold certain clinics in Banbury, Wantage, Witney, Abingdon, Bicester, Didcot and Thame. Please ask us at the end of your visit.

## If you have any questions please contact:

Orthoptic Department

Tel: **01865 234 742**

Monday to Friday, 8.30am - 4.30pm

Optometry Department

Tel: **01865 234 740**

Monday to Friday, 9.15am - 5.30pm

For more information about the Oxford Eye Hospital please visit our website:

[www.ouh.nhs.uk/eye-hospital/departments/default.aspx](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/eye-hospital/departments/default.aspx)

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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[www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/leaflets/library.aspx](http://www.ouh.nhs.uk/patient-guide/leaflets/library.aspx)

