

Department of Optometry, Oxford Eye Hospital

Paediatric Low Vision Assessment Clinic

Information for parents and carers



What is low vision?

Low vision is when your child's ability to see clearly is still poor, even when using both eyes and when wearing their appropriate glasses. This can cause difficulty when they are carrying out everyday tasks.

What is the aim of the low vision assessment clinic?

The aim of the clinic is to explore what your child can see, to discuss the difficulties that may be caused by their reduced vision, and to offer practical solutions where possible.

We aim to provide your child with the necessary optical aids to perform everyday tasks. For example, this may be a new pair of glasses and/or a magnifier to help with reading.

The Optometrist will also give you and your child advice and information to make the best of the sight that they have. This may be advice on lighting to use to help when carrying out tasks, colour contrast and font size when reading or writing. They will also give you written information about your child's eye condition.

The clinic is part of a multidisciplinary low vision service. This is a group of medical staff who specialise in caring for children with sight problems. We work closely with all those involved in caring for your child, such as their community paediatrician. If we feel that your child would benefit from being referred to other professionals, we will discuss this with you.

The length of the appointment varies from child to child and can be tailored to suit your child's needs. A typical assessment (which includes a glasses check) takes about one hour. Follow-up appointments take about half an hour. How often your child will need a follow-up appointment will be discussed at the end of each visit. This can always be changed if any new concerns come to light.

How do I make an appointment for my child to be seen?

A referral must be made by a health professional (e.g. GP, Paediatrician, Optometrist or Ophthalmologist). Once we receive the referral we will send an appointment to your child in the post.

When does the clinic take place?

The clinic is currently held on Thursday mornings.

Who will my child see in the clinic?

A senior Optometrist from the Optometry Department at Oxford Eye Hospital.

Who do I contact if I need to change the appointment?

Please call 01865 234 567 and choose the option for the Optometry department. When you phone, please have your child's hospital or NHS number to hand. Please request that your child's appointment is rebooked into the Paediatric Low Vision Clinic.

Who do I contact if I have any concerns about my child's vision?

Any sudden changes in vision or new symptoms of concern should be reported to Eye Casualty on 01865 234 800.

Any other concerns can be reported to your child's Consultant Ophthalmologist or the Optometrist that they saw at the Low Vision Clinic, at their next appointment at the Eye Hospital.

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 **PALS@ouh.nhs.uk**

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