

Information Sheet for School Staff

School-led vision checks

Benefits for your school and students

1. Identify to schools which of their pupils may have an eyesight problem
2. Reduce the number of school children with undiagnosed eyesight problems.
3. Help ensure children who have reduced vision are referred to a local optician for a full [free] NHS eye examination and provision of glasses, if required.
4. Potential for improved literacy in children who comply with glasses wear in school.
5. Opportunity to participate in educational research, which may influence future policy.



Why are we doing this?

A previous study has been carried out in several schools in North Yorkshire to find out if children in Year 7 who had problems with their eyesight could be identified and helped by specially trained members of school staff. The results from that study have proved positive, meaning that school staff **could** reasonably identify children who had poor vision. In this study, we want to upscale this research and see whether this result can be shown again in other schools and over additional year groups.

Researchers at the **University of Bradford (UoB) School of Optometry and Vision Science** will be responsible for carrying out this study, which is seeking to find out if it is feasible for trained school staff to check the vision of Year 7 and Year 8 children.

As we have previously shown that it is possible for trained staff to carry out vision checks, here we will evaluate the accuracy of the vision checks that school staff perform. This project is part of a wider study which has been funded by the **Department for Education (DfE)**, called **Glasses in Classes**, which aims to try and identify vision problems in children as soon as possible, so that they can be corrected. The hope is that this will limit any negative impact that poor vision has on the child's education.



Process:

- Each school will assign a member (or members) of staff to act as a 'Vision Coordinator' (VC) for the study.
- The VC will need to attend one, online training (lasting ~1 hour), via video demonstrations and a VC handbook.
- Issue an Information Letter and Opt-Out Consent to all parents/guardians of Year 7 and Year 8 children.
- Carry out a vision check on all Year 7 and Year 8 pupils (max 2 mins per child).
- Agree a suitable date and time for a qualified optometrist to attend your school to carry out a more detailed, validation eye and vision check (~4-5mins per child) on ~20% of children in each year group.
- Send home letters (where required) to the parent/guardian of any child who is found to have reduced vision, to indicate to them that they should take their child for a full eye examination at a local opticians or hospital eye department.
- Make a note in the child's school record as to who should be wearing glasses at school.
- Promote glasses wear in children and liaise with parents/guardians of children who consistently attend school without wearing glasses.

