

**Kent School Health**

Central Administration Team

**Trinity House,**

110 Eureka Park,

Upper Pemberton,

Ashford

TN25 4AZ

**Phone:** 0300 123 5205 (option two)

**Email:** [kentcft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net](mailto:kentcft.schoolhealthscreening@nhs.net)

**Web:** [Kent School Health](http://Kent School Health)

**Private and Confidential**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Hearing and Vision Screening**

The Kent School Health Team offers hearing and vision screening to all reception-aged children. These screenings help identify potential issues that could affect your child's speech, language development, social skills or learning.

What you need to know:

- If you wish your child to participate, no action is required.
- **To opt out** of one or both screenings, please complete our [opt out form](#) **Thursday 02<sup>nd</sup> January 2025**
- If your child is already under the care of a hearing specialist, orthoptist service, or wears prescribed glasses, please **opt out** of the relevant screening(s).

If you have any issues with the opt out form, contact us on 0300 123 5205 (option two)

Please note: Screening tests are not 100 per cent accurate. Temporary factors like colds can affect results. Hearing and vision specialists will confirm any issues and recommend further action if needed.

**Why is Vision Screening important?**

Your child's vision plays a critical role in learning and play. Early detection of vision issues allows timely treatment while their eyesight is still developing (up to age 8).

You will be notified of the screening results.

If your child does not pass, they will be automatically referred to a specialist vision service, which will contact you.

**For immediate concerns about your child's vision, schedule a free eye test at a local optician.**

Chair John Goulston Chief Executive Mairead McCormick

Trust HQ Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton, Eureka Park, Ashford, Kent TN25 4AZ

## Why is Hearing Screening important?

Hearing issues can impact speech, language, social skills, and education. Early detection means children reach their full potential. The hearing test is a simple listening game using headphones.

We recommend screening if your child:

- Did not have a hearing screen as a newborn.
- Shows signs such as unclear speech, difficulty responding to calls, loud speaking, or frequently asking for repetition.
- Has had neonatal illnesses, mumps, meningitis, or belongs to at-risk groups such as Pakistani, Bangladeshi, or Irish/Gypsy Roma Traveller communities.

If your child does not pass:

- They will be rescreened in school after 12 to 14 weeks.
- If they don't pass the second test, they will be referred to a hearing specialist.

You will receive written results at every stage. For immediate concerns, consult your GP promptly.

If you have any questions about this letter or concerns about your child's health affecting their education, contact the school health team using the details above.

Yours Sincerely

Kent School Health Service  
**Public Health and Prevention Directorate**

### Do you have feedback about our health services?

**Phone:** 0800 030 4550

8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

**Text:** 07899 903499

**Email:** kentchft.pals@nhs.net

**Web:** [www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS](http://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/PALS)

If you need to speak to someone about your appointment, please contact the service directly using the details at the top of page one.



### Patient Advice and Liaison

**Service (PALS)** Kent Community Health NHS

Foundation Trust Unit J, Concept Court Shearway Business Park

Folkestone Kent CT19 4RG