

Private and Confidential

Tuesday 10th February 2026

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 and 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](#) by **Tuesday 24th February 2026**.
- 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 eight).

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

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

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.

Chair John Goulston **Chief Executive** Mairead McCormick

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

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.

For immediate concerns, consult your GP promptly.

Can we ask that your child's school has up to date contact details for you as their parent, so we can send your child's hearing and vision results by email. Alternatively, if you wish to receive your results by post, please contact our team via the email address above.

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.

Find ways to support your child's development and to help them be happy and healthy at Kent Family <https://family.kentchft.nhs.uk>.

Yours Sincerely

Kent School Health
Prevention, Health Inequalities and Children's Services

Do you have feedback about our health services?

Phone: 0800 030 4550

Monday to Friday (currently only available 11am to 1pm)

Text: 07899 903499

Email: kentchft.pals@nhs.net

Web: www.kentchft.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
Trinity House, 110-120 Upper Pemberton
Ashford Kent TN25 4AZ