

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/215
School-Aged Vision Screening

Please find attached questions to support a Freedom Of Information request into school aged public health screening for Vision, usually undertaken in reception year by school nursing, 0-19 health teams or orthoptist teams

1. Do you offer an 'opt out' or opt in' approach

All parents and guardians can opt out of any element of the school health surveillance program, including vision screening.

2. Which year group is the screen offered to?

Children in Reception classes are offered vision screening. This is an All Wales policy and is carried out for all children entering full time education by all Welsh Health Boards.

3. What method do you use to screen? Eg(Thompson, flash cards etc)

The method is Keeler LogMAR matching letters. This is uniform and agreed across all local health boards in Wales.

4. Which team/department delivers the screening?

School Health Nursing.

5. What staff group and banding deliver the screen?

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, vision testing was completed by all bands, qualified bands 5 and 6, and HCSW band 3.

In 2021/22, vision testing was completed by qualified band 5 and HCSW band 3.

In 2022/23, vision testing was completed by qualified band 5 and HCSW bands 3 and 4

All staff delivering this screening receive initial training from a senior orthoptist and a refresher course on a biannual basis. This is to ensure quality of service and uniformity of testing standards.

6. How many children took part in the programme, ie were screened (number) in 2018/19

5,291

7. How many children took part in the programme, ie were screened (number) in 2021/22

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) does not hold this information. The data is unavailable as school were affected by COVID-19, and so screening was disrupted.

8. How many children took part in the programme, ie were screened (number) in 2022/23

5,219

9. How many children have you screened to date in your 2023/24 cohort? (1st September 2023 - 31 March 2024)

We do not undertake screening from September to January, therefore from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, 448 children were referred to the community optometrist. 68 children were referred to the UHB's Ophthalmology Department, the majority of whom required specialist support for testing due to neurodiversity. The total number of children screened was 1,911.

10. Of those screened, what was your % failure rate in 2018/19?

There were 6,393 children in this cohort, of whom 4,701 received their CMP Examination.

11. Of those screened, what was your % failure rate in 2021/22?

There were 6,034 children in this cohort, of whom 4,550 received their CMP Examination.

12. Of those screened, what was your % failure rate in 2022/23?

There were 5,950 children in this cohort, of whom 5,041 received their CMP Examination.

13. Of those screened, what is your current rolling % failure rate in 2023/24?(1st September 2023 - 31 March 2024)

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14. Do you receive outcome data back from specialist orthoptist services on referrals sent to them?

This service is overseen by the UHB. Data regarding children who require specialist orthoptic assessment is included in the reporting to Welsh Government each year.