

National Vision and Hearing Screening in School

The Nelson Marlborough Health Public Health Service provides a Vision and Hearing service in schools.

If your child has not had their Vision and Hearing screened as part of the B4 School check they will be routinely screened at school.

Hearing Screening (Audiometry): An audiometer plays a range of sounds through headphones while your child listens. If your child does not respond to any of the sounds, another test, Tympanometry will be required. This may identify:

- Otitis Media with effusion (fluid in inner ear)
- Grommets/Perforation of the ear drum
- Wax/Obstruction

If your child has hearing aids or is under specialist care for hearing concerns we do not screen them.

Distance Vision Screening: A letter is shown at a four metre distance and your child will be asked to point out the same on a card or tell us the letter if they know their alphabet. If your child wears glasses or is under specialist care we do not screen their vision.

Reading vision: We do not screen for reading vision/tracking concerns. This needs to be assessed by an optometrist and you arrange this with an optometrist of your choice.

Year 7 Vision Screening: This is a routine 4 metre distance vision check that is done at school. We do not screen children who wear glasses or have recently had a vision assessment with an optometrist. Your child will come home with a result sheet. You will be contacted if a referral to an optometrist is required.

Requests: From time to time a teacher/GP or parent may request a screening test. A result sheet will be sent home with your child. You will be contacted if a referral is required.

Screening results: All results are entered on to the Ministry of Education secure school database. Parents will only be contacted if a referral is required.

Please note: If you have ongoing concerns with your child's vision and/or hearing please contact your GP or optometrist as screening is not a full diagnostic assessment.

Please contact us if you have any questions: **543 7916 / 543 7909**

If you do not consent to your child having routine/requested Vision and Hearing screening at school please contact us on the above number.