



Lions Clubs International

plusoptix



Lions Child Sight UK FAQ

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1 Introduction

1.1 Lions Child Sight UK Mission Statement

Lions Child Sight UK aims to ensure that children across the UK have access to **early vision screenings**, especially in schools. By **working directly with schools**, the programme aims to **detect potential vision problems at a young age**, allowing children to receive the necessary care for **optimal development**. This initiative seeks to make screenings **accessible and routine**, helping prevent **undiagnosed vision issues** from impacting children's **learning, confidence, and future success**.

With this mission, **Lions Child Sight UK** hopes to create a **healthier, brighter future** for the next generation.

1.2 Overview of Why Vision Screening is Important

According to educational and vision experts, 80% of learning is visual. So, if a child can't see well, they can't learn well. It is estimated that more than 40% of the brain is devoted to visual function.

Eye tests and glasses are free for children whilst in full-time education, however, many parents do not take their children for screening. As adults we notice when our sight changes, but for a child who has always had vision, they may not realise that they have an issue.

Lions Child Sight UK suggests Lions perform vision screening with a concentration on Early Years (EY) (Reception, Year1 and Year 2) due to the need for early identification of risk factors for amblyopia, but screening through to year 7 is recommended.

Approximately 5% of all children in the this age group will have amblyopia, a treatable disorder that can result in permanently reduced vision when not addressed at an early age. The screening devices detect risk factors for amblyopia, such as strabismus (eyes that cross or wander out), refractive errors (the need for eyeglasses) and unequal vision between the two eyes, and potentially even more serious issues such as cataracts and eye cancer.

It is very important to understand that the "Gold Standard" for eye care is a comprehensive eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Vision screening is a simple and test designed to identify those children with risk factors which need to be examined by a professional. It is an attempt to get as many children in need of professional care as quickly as possible into the eye care system.

WE DO NOT SCREEN ADULTS. The screening devices do not test for all adult eye disease such as glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, macular degeneration, or any of the many conditions for which adults are at risk.

1.3 Purpose Of This FAQ

This document is to provide answers to regularly asked questions about the Lions Child Sight UK project

1.4 How To Use This FAQ

This document is split into sections that cover a range of topics. Each section should, we hope, be able to answer your questions.

2 General Questions

Q:	What is Lions Child Sight UK?
A:	Lions Child Sight UK is a Lions International MD105 (the British Isles) project with an intention of offering screening to every child of primary school age for vision issues.

Q:	What is the purpose of School Vision Screening?
A:	Vision screening is recommended for children aged 4 to 5 to screen for conditions like amblyopia (lazy eye), which can affect quality of life, social interactions, and educational ability.

Q:	Who are we aiming this project at?
A:	This project is intended for all primary (5-11) school aged children, with an emphasis on Early Years and Year 1 children.

Q:	Why do we need this screening programme?
A:	Whilst sight tests and spectacles are free for children, in full-time education, many parents do not take their children for eye tests. Screening helps identify apparently healthy individuals who may be at risk for conditions like amblyopia. Early detection allows for further tests and treatments to prevent complications and improve outcomes.

Q:	Does this replace a full eye exam?
A:	No, the screening complements full eye exams by optometrists or ophthalmologists and helps facilitate faster treatment.

Q:	What are the key benefits of the Lions Vision Screener?
A:	It allows for faster screening of large populations, provides robust clinical information to parents, and helps clinicians treat children more effectively.

Q:	How does the screening help communities?
A:	By offering early detection of eye issues, it helps ensure children receive timely treatment, improving their long-term eye health.

Q:	How many school age children are there in the UK?
A:	According to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics (ONS), there are approximately 3.8 million children aged 5-11 in the UK

Q:	How many children, of a school age, might have a sight issue?
A:	Approximately 20% of school-aged children in the UK have an undiagnosed vision problem. This means that around 760,000 children aged 5-11 might have sight issues. Source: https://www.visionmatters.org.uk

Q:	Are parents taking children for sight tests?
A:	Up to 50% of parents with children aged 8 and under have never taken their child for a sight test Source: https://www.visionmatters.org.uk

Q:	What are the advantages of this programme?
A:	By diagnosing vision issues before the age of 8 you give a child an opportunity of correcting the issue. It also introduces Lions to a whole new group of people that could potentially become Lions or Leos, whilst also introducing Lion youth projects to a school.

Q:	If a national screening programme exists, why do Lions want to get involved in Vision Screening?
A:	While the national screening programme works well in some areas, inequalities exist across England, especially in income-deprived areas where children are less likely to be offered screening. Lions aim to reach these underserved areas to make a positive impact in the community

Q:	What gaps does Lions' vision screening address?
A:	The current programme primarily assesses for amblyopia (lazy eye) using an Orthoptist and a letter chart. Lions' vision camera can detect more, including long-sightedness, short-sightedness, squints, and retinoblastoma (a rare childhood eye cancer).

Q:	How does the Lions' vision camera differ from the standard screening?
A:	The Lions' camera detects a broader range of data, screening for refractive errors (long-sightedness, short-sightedness), squints, and more serious conditions like retinoblastoma.

Q:	Will vision screening affect the work of optometrists?
A:	No, vision screening will not impact the work of optometrists. In fact, it will support them by identifying children who may need further care.

Q:	How does vision screening benefit optometrists?
A:	Vision screening helps detect children at risk of conditions like short-sightedness (myopia), allowing optometrists to manage and treat these issues early in their clinics.

Q:	What are the future projections for short-sightedness?
A:	By 2030, 30% of the global population is expected to be short-sighted, and this figure is projected to increase to 50% by 2050. Vision screening can help address this growing concern early. Source: British Journal of Ophthalmology. https://bjo.bmj.com

3 Camera Questions

Q:	What camera are we using?
A:	We are using a PlusoptiX S20 camera. This is a German manufactured unit that is easy to use and quickly provides accurate results.

Q:	How long is the camera warranty?
A:	The arrangement with PlusoptiX is that every camera will be supplied with a two year warranty as part of the purchase package.

Q:	Does the camera need calibration?
A:	Plusoptix instruments are mechanically sturdy and equipped with top-notch optics and long lasting electronics. As a consequence they neither require regular service nor annual re-calibration.

Q:	Are there software updates?
A:	PlusoptiX periodically, release software updates. These can be performed by Lions. It is envisaged that should a camera require an update then it will be returned to the District Vision Screening Coordinator; updated; and then returned to holder of the camera.

Q:	Does the camera have any replacement parts?
A:	The rechargeable batteries are subject to aging. Depending on the number of charging cycles they need to be replaced. Battery replacement is simple.

Q:	Do we need training?
A:	Full training will be provided to any Lions that wish to be involved with this project and it will be a requirement that any Lion is trained before they can take part. As this project rolls out across a District local training sessions will be organised.

Q:	What happens if a camera needs repairing?
A:	In the event that a camera requires a repair it would be returned to the District Vision Screening Coordinator, who will contact the manufacturer.

4 Screening Session

Q:	How do you approach a school about vision screening?
A:	<p>Whilst it is a statutory requirement that all Early Years children have a health screening (height, weight and vision) when they start school, this currently only happens in about 55% of schools.</p> <p>To ensure that Lions are working with the correct agencies and that Lions are not stepping on any other organisations toes it is recommended that the following procedure is used.</p> <p>Find a local infant or primary school (junior schools do not have an EY class). As Lions it is highly likely that a member of your club has a relationship with a school, and ask the following question:</p> <p>“How does your school fulfil the statutory requirements for Early Years health checks? In particular the Vision element.”</p> <p>They are likely to say:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are done by the local health authority. • They are done by the local education authority. • They are done by an external agency. • We do not do EY Health Screening <p>If their answer is one of the first three then ask if they have a contact name and details for the organisation. You should then approach that contact, introduce Lions to them and explain how the Lions Child Sight UK project can help them with these Health checks. Where there is already a screening programme it is very important to work with them and not in competition.</p> <p>If the response is the fourth answer, then explain who Lions are and what the screening programme can offer, and that it is free.</p>

Q:	So a school says yes to vision screening, what is next?
A:	<p>Arrange a meeting with the Headteacher. At this meeting discuss the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange a suitable date. It typically takes 30 seconds to screen a child, so a class typically takes between 20 and 30 minutes. • Agree on a suitable location within the school. This needs to be a room away from the normal classroom and it needs to be able to control the lights or that the windows can be covered. • Explain that a teacher or TA (teaching assistant) needs to be with each group of children. • Explain that each child that is to be screened must have a signed parent/guardian permission form. Provide them with a sample letter. • Explain that each child will be screened and then a letter is produced, on the day, for every child. These letters then need to be sent home by the school. Additional material concerning eye tests and diabetes will also be included for parent information

5 Privacy & Data Protection

Q:	Do Lions need to be DBS checked?
A:	<p>YES, all Lions involved in this project must hold a valid Enhanced DBS certificate. This project involves children so it is important that Lions are checked. If you are not DBS checked then please contact your District Vulnerable Persons officer.</p> <p>ONLY LIONS WITH A CURRENT DBS CHECK WILL BE INCLUDED IN THIS PROGRAMME.</p>

Q:	Keeping your DBS up to date
A:	<p>When you receive your DBS certificate it is important that you register for the update service. This will ensure that your certification remains current. To use the update service you must register with the update service within 21 days of receiving your certificate.</p>

Q:	How is the screening data used?
A:	<p>Lions, in doing vision screening, are not conducting medical examinations resulting in a diagnosis; we are only <i>screening</i>, resulting in a referral when necessary. However, we still need to be aware of our responsibility to protect our subjects' privacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We DO NOT include any children's or family names or addresses in any discussion of the screening results. • Parents/guardians MUST sign permission forms allowing their child to be screened. • NO data, other than total children screened and number of referrals is recorded by Lions Child Sight UK.

Q:	What data will Lions retain after a screening?
A:	<p>The only data that is retained by Lions, after a screening session, is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name of the school and address. • Date of the screening session. • The number of children screened. • The number/percentage of referrals.

Q:	Sharing data with 3rd parties
A:	<p>Lions Child Sight UK do not and will not share any data from the screening sessions with any 3rd party. The data retained by Lions, as detailed in the previous question, will only be used internally and to update the national Lions Child Sight UK website. https://lionschildsightuk.co.uk/.</p>

Q:	What happens to the paperwork generated during a screening?
A:	Other than the information detailed in the previous question, all paperwork must be left with the school.

6 Safeguarding

Q:	Understanding Safeguarding
A:	All schools have a safeguarding or child protection policy and designated safeguarding Leads. Lions are asked to read the policy before a screening session is booked. We as Lions are visitors in the school and must abide by their rules of signing in and signing out, wearing identification badges etc.
Q:	What identifies a trained screener?
A:	All trained Lion vision screeners are issued with a photo identification card, which is valid for three years from the data of training.
Q:	Can Lions be alone with children?
A:	NO , you must never be left alone with the Children. A teacher or a teaching assistant should also be present with the children.
Q:	Can we give children stickers?
A:	Yes, you can issue stickers or badges to the children after the screening, BUT you must give them to the CHILD – DO NOT PIN or stick them on the child.
Q:	Can photographs be taken during a screening session?
A:	No photographs of the screening sessions can be taken, unless written consent is granted, by the child's parent/guardian prior to the screening session.

7 Other Questions

Q:	What are the on-going costs for this project?
A:	It is hoped that the on-going costs for this project are kept to a minimum and that each District will create a fund to support any expenses. These are likely to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulk printing of the standard letters required for a screening session.• Expenses for the Trainers to visit an area to train Lions in the use of the cameras.

Q:	How do we explain the benefits to a school?
A:	Lions have produced a simple PowerPoint presentation that explains what the Lions Child Sight UK project is about and why it is needed.

Q:	Are there standard letters?
A:	It is important that all Lions use the same letter as the wording has been approved by the NHS. It is hoped that these will be bulk printed to save money and make it easier for clubs to do the screening sessions.

8 Conclusion

8.1 We Hope This Helped

Lions hope that you have found the answers you were looking for in this FAQ. If there are any further questions please do not hesitate to contact your Vision Screening Coordinating officer, who should be able to help. If appropriate those questions will be added to this FAQ.

8.2 Thank You

Lions Child Sight UK would like to acknowledge the help and assistance of the following organisations and companies that have made this vision screening project a reality.

- **Lions Clubs International** and **Lions Clubs International Foundation** for their grants to purchase additional cameras.
- **Lions KidSight USA**, for the inspiration, initial training and providing their training manual for the base for these documents.
- **Plusoptix**, for the supply of cameras and additional training.
- And of course, the **Lions of MD105** (the British Isles) for giving up their time to do the screening.

9 Version Control

0.2	Sept 2024	First Draft
0.3	Oct 2024	Additional questions added
1.0	Nov 2024	Addition of front panel logo and questions
1.1	Nov 2024	Addition of the Safe-guarding section
1.2	Dec 2024	Changed front page to use standard header image, Updated logo.
1.3	Jan 2024	Addition of questions/answers from the 105A FAQ document.
1.4	Oct 2025	Minor word changes and additions of some questions/answers in response to questions received.
1.5	Feb 2025	Minor grammatical changes.

