

Vision and Hearing Screening in School

Te Whatu Ora Nelson Marlborough Public Health Service provides a vision and hearing service in schools.

As part of the National Screening Program your child will be routinely screened by the Vision and Hearing Technician in their first year of school **only if** your child **has not** had vision and hearing screening completed as part of the B4 School check and in Year 7 they have a further Vision screen. All children tested will take home a result slip. Parents will only be contacted if a referral is required.

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.

Vision Screening: We use a spot screener, which is an Infrared photo-refractory camera with built in algorithms that determine the results. We may also use the Parr letter matching system, which is where 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 the alphabet. If your child wears glasses or is under specialist care, we do not screen their vision.

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

Year 7 Vision Screening: We use a spot screener, which is an Infrared photo-refractory camera with built in algorithms that determine the results. We may also use the New Davis wall chart which is a routine 4 metre distance vision check. If your child wears glasses or is under specialist care, we do not screen their vision.

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: Your child will be given a result sheet to take home. You will be contacted if a referral is required. All results are entered on to the Ministry of Education secure ENROL school database.

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

Please contact us if you have any questions: **027 246 0679 / 027 277 8413**

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