

The SEE Project shows in-school eyecare services unlock potential

Services offered in the study

- ✓ Full in-school eye examination
- ✓ Dispensing of glasses where needed
- ✓ Jargon-free reports describing child's visual status for both parents and teachers
- ✓ Follow-up to see what impact the service had on children, parents and teachers

200

Pupils with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties

Special education school

and their parents and teachers

Study outcomes

The school setting was considered a benefit for the child

82% agree

PARENTS

83% agree

TEACHERS

Key benefits

1. Familiarity of setting
2. Convenience for parents
3. Teachers have direct access to eyecare providers to ask questions about vision
4. Opportunity to complete eye exam over several sessions

Jargon-free reports were useful

"I have a better understanding of my child's vision and how to help her at home"

88% of parents found the information useful daily

33% found out something new about their child's vision

Big, bold and easy to see

Learning opportunities increased

Children spent more time focused on their work

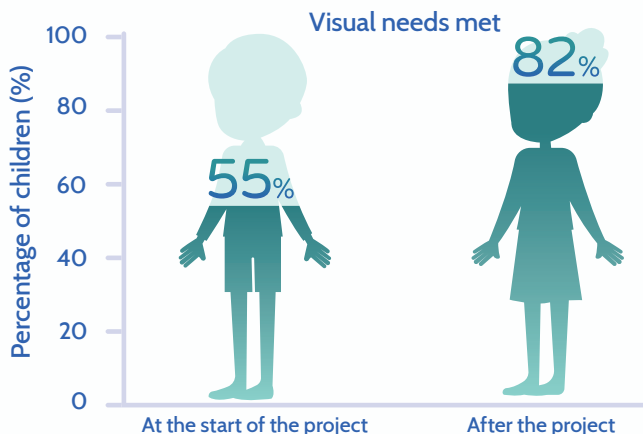
"This was a helpful and positive process and I was able to implement the findings and adapt my teaching where necessary"

Crowded, small, faint text is hard to see

100% of teachers found the report information useful

88% modified their classroom as suggested by the report

Children's visual needs were identified and met



There are clear benefits to vision, learning and in-class behaviour with in-school eyecare services

When children see more, they can learn better

Want to take action? Learn more here



See more, learn better

Poor vision can mask a child's true potential

There are measurable benefits to vision, classroom engagement and learning opportunities when the in-school eyecare model validated by The SEE Project is implemented

Activating in-school eyecare for children with special educational needs is part of removing visual barriers – enhancing their ability to access the curriculum

References

1. Emerson E and Robertson J. Prevalence of Visual Impairment amongst people with learning disabilities. 2011. Available at: the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) website. 2. Little JA and Saunders KJ. Public Health 2016; 129 (2); 143-8. 3. SeeAbility. Framework for provision of eye care in special schools in England. 2016. Available at: the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCOphth) website. 4. McConnell *et al.* Testing a framework for eye care provision in special educational schools in the UK: are there measurable benefits? Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science. 2019.

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see
Special Education Eyecare

See more, learn better



The unmet need

Comprehensive eyecare support is important for children with special educational needs

It is estimated that children with learning disabilities are 28 times more likely to have serious vision problems compared to their peers.¹

It is important that these vision problems are detected, managed and communicated effectively.² Our research shows that many parents and teachers are either unaware of children's visual limitations or don't know how to help children make best use of their vision in school and at home.

Considering more accessible, extended modes of eyecare provision for these vulnerable children is an opportunity to make a real difference.



The SEE Project

Gathering evidence for an in-school eyecare service model

Providing eyecare in special schools is a proposed framework, endorsed by the eyecare professions.³

The benefit of an in-school eyecare service model for children with special educational needs was measured for the first time in The SEE (Special Education Eyecare) Project.

The framework includes:



Full in-school eye examination



Dispensing of glasses where needed



Jargon-free reports describing the child's visual status for both parents and teachers



Suggestions for changes in the environment to improve learning e.g. enlarging size of text or decluttering

With measurable benefits to vision, learning opportunities and engagement in class, The SEE Project collected evidence to support activation of eyecare services in special school settings.⁴

see
Special Education Eyecare