



# Functional Vision Clinic

## Introduction

This is a multi-professional assessment and advisory clinic for children and young adults with disabilities and visual impairment. The aim is to establish how an individual uses their vision and to provide advice and strategies on the promotion of functional vision in everyday learning situations.

## About the clinic

### Who can attend this clinic?

Children and young adults under the age of 19 (at time of referral).

### Why choose to come to a Functional Vision Clinic?

- To meet with a multidisciplinary team who are able to help you establish what vision you have and how you are currently using it.
- You may need a clinical and educational programme to improve your functional vision.
- To be provided with information on your functional vision towards your Statement of Special Educational Needs.
- People working with you may need help and advice on how to present visual information to you.

### Who can refer me to the clinic?

Referrals can be made to this service by your paediatrician, GP, or other healthcare professional.

### How often are the clinics?

The clinic is held monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday.

## About the appointment

### How long is the appointment?

The time will vary from 2 to 2 ½ hrs.

### Who will I meet?

- Consultant Paediatrician
- Honorary Consultant Paediatrician
- Sensory Needs Teacher
- Senior Specialist Occupational Therapist
- Specialist Speech and Language Therapist

We are happy to invite your teacher, therapist or other clinicians that you may like to attend.

### Where will the appointment be?

In one of the Out Patient Clinic rooms at Chailey Clinical Services. When you arrive our receptionist will check that we have your correct details and show you where to wait for your appointment. A member of the clinic team will meet you and take you to the clinic room.

### What do I need to bring to the clinic?

It would be useful if you can bring any relevant clinical records or letters, particularly your ophthalmology report if you have one. We need to know how well you can see in different situations so we may request information, with your consent, from your teacher, therapists or others. It would be helpful to bring any special seat you may have, your glasses and any hearing aids if appropriate.

Please feel free to bring any drinks or snacks that you may require.



## Functional Vision Clinic

### What will happen during the appointment?

The clinic starts with introductions and the opportunity to talk about any concerns you may have regarding how well you see and how you can use your vision.

We will then carry out a range of practical assessments and observations with you to establish what problems you have with your vision and how you are using it. This may include assessment of:

- Visual field
- Visual acuity
- Your ability to make eye contact
- Recognising familiar faces and objects
- Eye movements
- Perception of movement and tracking
- Your ability to look and listen
- Your ability to visually attend to an object or a task
- How you use your vision in different lighting situations
- Whether you observe activity or objects across the room or only within a close range
- Your ability to see letters and words and to see details in pictures

Do feel free to ask any questions you have throughout the assessment and ask for any comfort breaks if you need them.

At the end of the assessment we will ensure you have a 15 minute break before we discuss our findings and recommendations with you.

### What will happen after the clinic?

Following on from the clinic, a report of the assessment is sent to you within 3 weeks of the appointment documenting the discussion and advice given. A copy will be sent to your referrer, GP and your teacher and any one else you would like it to go to.

## We're here to help

We're always happy to answer any queries that you may have.

If you have any queries at all, please contact the clinic secretary on:

 **Phone:**  
01825 722112

 **Fax:**  
01825 724719

 **Email:** [sc-tr.enquirieschcs@nhs.net](mailto:sc-tr.enquirieschcs@nhs.net)

**Or visit our website:**  
[www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/chailey](http://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/chailey)