

Department of Optometry, Oxford Eye Hospital

Colour Vision Advisory Clinic

Information for patients



Colour Vision Advisory Clinic

Your child has been found to have reduced colour vision function, often called a colour vision defect. Colour vision defects are usually inherited and you may be aware of some other members of your family who have been diagnosed with colour vision problems.

The level of colour vision defect can vary considerably from person to person. Mild colour vision defects may hardly be noticed, whilst more marked defects may cause colours to be confused frequently.

At Oxford Eye Hospital we run a clinic specifically for children with colour vision deficiency. Using a range of tests we can diagnose the specific type of colour vision defect and measure the degree of severity.

This enables us to provide you with important information about how well your child sees colours and how it may affect their future career choices.

Some of the tests are complex and require careful colour matching judgements. As this will be challenging to younger children we offer an appointment with the clinic from the age of eleven years.

Frequently asked questions

Is my child colour blind?

No. Although the term colour blind is commonly used to describe people with colour vision defects it is not very accurate. Your child is capable of seeing colours

but can see fewer colours than someone with normal colour vision, and will confuse some colours. True colour blindness is extremely rare and is usually linked with other eye problems.

What colours will my child confuse?

The most common type of colour vision defect is called a red / green colour vision defect. This refers to the type of colour sensitive cells in the retina that are affected and not necessarily the colours that are confused. People with red/green colour vision defect are most likely to confuse:

- brown with green
- red / orange with yellow-green
- blue / green with red-purple or green with blue-purple.

Will my child have difficulty at school?

Generally a colour vision defect will not cause problems with schooling.

However colour can often be used in schools as a teaching aid – for example, codes used for highlighting different sounds or words. Teaching methods can be adapted to reduce emphasis on colour. Therefore it is important to tell the teacher about your child's colour vision defect.

Is the colour vision defect likely to get worse?

No. Neither the severity nor type of inherited colour vision defect change throughout life.

What should I do now?

If you would like further information and assessment of your child's colour vision, ask your GP or Optometrist to refer your child to the Colour Vision Advisory Clinic at the Eye Hospital.

Appointments are arranged by:

Pat Popplestone

Department of Optometry
Oxford eye Hospital (LG1)
John Radcliffe Hospital
Headley Way
Oxford OX3 9DU

Tel: **01865 234740**

We will be happy to contact you by telephone to arrange a mutually convenient appointment when your child has reached an appropriate age.

If you need an interpreter or need a document in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01865 221473** or email **PALSJR@orh.nhs.uk**

Patsy Terry, Head of Optometry
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Oxford Eye Hospital, West Wing (LG1)
John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford OX3 9DU
www.oxfordradcliffe.nhs.uk/patientinformation