



Team for Children with Vision Loss

Blepharitis Keratoconjunctivitis

What is Blepharitis keratoconjunctivitis?

This condition combines two conditions, blepharitis and keratoconjunctivitis.

- Blepharitis is inflammation of the eyelid.
- Keratoconjunctivitis is inflammation of the conjunctiva (the thin layer that lines the white part of the eye), the inside of the eyelid and the cornea (the clear 'window' right at the front of the eye)
- It can be a chronic condition. Flare ups of the condition can frequently occur, and there is a need for regular prescribed eye drops to treat it.
- A child may also have an increase in visual sensitivity to sun light called **photophobia**.

How does this effect the way the child sees?

- Vision will be reduced and blurry when there is a flare up, but hopefully will return to normal levels when the eye condition settles.

What can be done to help?

- The child will require regular interventions from the Hospital Ophthalmology department.
- The child will regularly require medicated eye-drops under the guidance of the Ophthalmologist.
- The child may be prescribed glasses.

How can parents, family, friends, and teachers make a difference?

- Ensure the eyes are bathed regularly and kept clean, using a warm flannel, in a damping motion and not a rubbing motion.
- Ensure eye drops are used frequently- as instructed by the Ophthalmologist.
- If the child requires eye drops used within the school day, this will need support from a designated school staff member.
- If the child reports painful eyes, follow up with the Ophthalmologist.
- If the child has a flare up, they may temporarily need the following:
 - ✓ To sit at the front
 - ✓ Have enlarged print
 - ✓ Support for reducing the effects of glare from the sunlight and overhead lights, i.e., sunglasses for outside and blinds in the classroom.

If this condition goes untreated, or not treated correctly not only is it painful for the child, but it will cause permanent scarring to the cornea that glasses will not be able to correct and the child will be left with permanent sight loss.

Please note the font used in this information leaflet is called Verdana and is used because it is one of the most visually friendly fonts for people with vision difficulties and is also Dyslexia friendly too.

Further information for support for children and young people with vision loss can be found on the Birmingham Local Offer website:

[Sensory Support Vision - Local Offer Birmingham](#)

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