



Vision Support Team

Team for Children with Vision Loss

Conjunctivitis

What is Conjunctivitis?

- Conjunctivitis is inflammation of the conjunctiva, which is the thin layer that lines the white part of the eye and the inside of the eyelid.
- Flare ups of the condition can frequently occur, and there is a need for regular eye drops to treat it.
- A child may also have an increase in visual sensitivity to sun light called **photophobia**.

How does this affect 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.
- **If this condition goes untreated it is painful for the child and may cause permanent scarring to the cornea that glasses will not be able to correct and the child will be left with permanent sight loss.**

What can be done to help?

- When there is a flare up of the condition the child will require medicated eye-drops under the guidance of the pharmacist (in most cases).
- If the condition occurs on a regular basis he/she may require a referral and interventions from the Hospital Ophthalmology department.

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 as instructed by the pharmacist or Ophthalmologist (if relevant).
- 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 pharmacist or Ophthalmologist (if relevant).
- If the child has a bad 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.

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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