

# Eye Heroes

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## *Guide for Schools*

## Thank you for your interest in running the Eye Heroes workshop for schools.

This booklet goes into more detail about the free workshop, the volunteers who run it and the issues we are trying to address.

### First, a little information about us:

Eye Heroes is the UK's first child-led campaign to fight avoidable blindness. Children are trained through volunteer-led interactive workshops in schools and after school clubs to become eye health champions, and inform people in their communities about eye health and the benefits of regular eye tests.

### The sad part:

At least 1 million people using the UK today are blind due to problems that could have been treated if picked up early enough during eye check ups with opticians.

There is a lack of public awareness of the importance of Eye health and regular check ups, and the number of people becoming blind is on the rise. We must work together to fight this.

2 million people in the UK are blind.  
We can stop ourselves from getting blind  
by getting a eye check

### The good part:

Eye Heroes has been going strong for over a year empowering children to spread the word about eye health and regular eye checks to people in their communities.

The workshops are run for free by local volunteers from medical schools, teaching hospitals and other volunteer organisations, marrying the science of eye health with the pressing need to raise awareness in a fun and memorable way. Eye Heroes workshops are currently aimed at children aged 8 - 12 and include games, videos, role play and more.



## School Requirements

Our workshops are led by volunteers using our resources and training materials and will only require minimal teacher support during the session.

What's more is that these sessions are absolutely **FREE!**

I learnt that being a  
eye hero is important.

The sessions can be run for around 30 students between the ages of 8 - 12. We also try to encourage schools to schedule more than one session in a day so that an entire year group can benefit from the training and their community can benefit in turn.

Sessions are run in classrooms and need USB and projection facilities with sound as there are videos and activities that form part of the workshops.

As we use volunteers we are unable to run CRB/DBS checks on all regional teams. We would not expect the volunteers to be in an unsupervised situation with the students. You can find out more in the Roles and Responsibilities section of this guide.

For some of the sessions we would like to take photos to help promote awareness through our social media platforms. We will send parental permission forms to you ahead of time if we are looking at your school to form part of our platform. These forms will need to be signed and ready for our volunteers' to collect at the session.



## Our Volunteers

Our volunteers typically come from teaching hospitals and medical schools and are using the limited free time they have to help us promote the benefits of regular eye check ups through our programme.

The volunteers are based across the country to help spread the word through the training of students. The shared information starts to spread from children to other children, to adults and to localities such as towns and cities.

We rely on dedicated volunteers to run our workshops ensuring the students have a rewarding experience in joining a wider community of change makers.



### We ask that our volunteers:

1. encourage questions and interaction
2. avoid any technical lingo/jargon
3. ask thought-provoking questions
4. show appreciation for each child's participation
5. include less vocal children
6. are flexible with the interests of the group

## The Workshops

The workshops roughly last an hour and are structured as follows:

Short films - this introduction to the issues uses short films as they help to supply a lot of learning in a quick and fun way.

Activities - these activities help to demonstrate what losing sight really means and allow the students to see the world from a visually impaired perspective.

Role play - through role play situations, the students will learn about engaging with their community and how best to promote regular eye checks and the importance of eye health. Essentially they will get to practice what the Eye Heroes will do after the workshop.

Take home goodies and games - all students who take the workshop will be awarded certificates and will be shown the online game where they act as quizmaster. There is even a special prize!



The workshop is not only designed to educate on a scientific and social topic but aims to promote the following skill-sets of the **National Curriculum**:

- Asking questions and making enquiries
- Active participation in collaborative conversations
- Role play participation
- Considering different viewpoints
- Building on the contributions of others
- Developing an interest in, and commitment to, participation in volunteering

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Eye Heroes**

Eye Heroes is a platform to provide resources for volunteers to run workshops in their local areas to achieve the common goal of our initiative, which is the dual education of children and adults in their immediate surroundings about eye health. Volunteers act as independent agents and are not employed by Eye Heroes.

A photograph of a piece of paper with handwritten text in red ink. The text reads "Being a eye hero is BRILLIANT!". The word "BRILLIANT!" is written in all caps and is larger than the other words. There are some faint smudges and a small mark on the paper.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteers are trained using our free online resources, and are encouraged to contact the Eye Heroes team for advice where needed.

1. Eye Heroes will train its volunteers to carry out the specific task of running a 1 hour workshop. They will not receive training for duties carried out beyond this.
2. Eye Heroes cannot be held responsible if the content of the workshop delivered is different to the workshop that Eye Heroes outlines as part of the training.

### **Volunteer safety**

Eye Heroes cannot take responsibility for the health and safety of its volunteers while they deliver workshops on school or after-school club premises.

### **School/after-school club property**

Eye Heroes does not cover for loss or damage to the school/after-school club's personal property prior to, during or after workshops. Volunteers are acting as independent agents, and are not contracted out by the Eye Heroes group.

1. Schools and after-school clubs must ensure that the correct fire and property insurance is in place for activities carried out on its premises. Eye Heroes cannot be accountable for this.

### **Child protection**

Eye Heroes cannot take responsibility for the safety of the children at the school or after-school club.

1. In line with the 2012 recommendations from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), our advice to school/after-school clubs is that volunteers running one-off activities with children in schools do not require DBS checks if they are supervised. As such, Eye Heroes cannot guarantee that volunteers will be DBS checked.

2. In school/after-school clubs where a DBS check is required for all external agents Eye Heroes will do its best to supply a volunteer with current DBS clearance, or, the school/after-school club may wish to sponsor their DBS check. The DBS doesn't charge a fee for checks on volunteers (correct at the time of writing this document, 2017).
3. Eye Heroes can take no responsibility for the behaviour of the individual volunteer following training. It is ultimately the school/after-school club and supervising agents who retain ultimate responsibility for child safety.

## **Materials**

Where required, Eye Heroes will provide the resources required to run workshops.

1. Should additional material be required, it may be borrowed from the school/after-school club, in which case an agreement must be made between the school/after-school club and the volunteers to ensure the safe return of these items. Eye Heroes cannot take responsibility for any items lost on school/after-school club premises.
2. Eye Heroes is unable to reimburse costs incurred for new equipment.

## **Copyright**

All resources, animations, literature and web content remain the property of Eye Heroes and may not be distributed or sold without the express permission of the Eye Heroes group.

1. Eye Heroes cannot take responsibility for the content of external websites or agents that support Eye Heroes or are featured within our materials.

## **Photography and images**

Eye Heroes will seek express permission from all participants in the workshop to take and use photographs and videos for further promotion of our initiative. The terms under which these will be distributed are clearly outlined on the release form.

1. For children under 16 a parent or guardian will sign this form. This can be delivered in person or electronically via email.
2. No images or audio will be used in any Eye Heroes material, whether in print, audio or online, without the express permission of the individuals featured.

## **Feedback**

Eye Heroes welcomes feedback from all parties and will distribute feedback forms and online links for this purpose.

1. Eye Heroes reserves the right to use this feedback online in the form of testimonials, using only the first name and location of the person providing feedback.

## **Raising concerns**

1. If a school or after-school club has any concerns about a volunteer they should contact Eye Heroes where appropriate prior to the workshop.

2. If these concerns arise after the workshop Eye Heroes should be informed so that appropriate action can be taken, up to and including the dismissal of the volunteer from the Eye Heroes project register.
3. For serious concerns regarding inappropriate behaviour, the school or after-school club should inform the relevant agencies in accordance with its own health and safety and child protection policies. This is at the discretion of the supervisor and Eye Heroes cannot take responsibility for the volunteer in this situation or for the action undertaken by the school/after school club.

### **After the workshop**

The Eye Heroes workshop encourages children to go back to their local community and spread the word about eye health. Eye Heroes cannot be responsible for the health and safety of the children when carrying out this task.

*Further information: all information and resources required to run a workshop, both for school/after-school clubs and volunteers, is to be found on our website [www.eyeheroes.org.uk](http://www.eyeheroes.org.uk)*