

**GLASSES
FOR KIDS**

Information for Schools



A Victorian State Government and State Schools' Relief initiative



State Schools' Relief (SSR) is proud to announce that the Victorian State Government has partnered with SSR once again to deliver the Glasses for Kids program between 2024 and 2027.

The Glasses for Kids program aims to remove vision impairment as a potential barrier to educational engagement by ensuring that children from schools in disadvantaged areas are supported to fully participate in education from their early years.

Your school has been invited by the Department of Education to participate.


The Glasses for Kids program aims to visit 770 primary and specialist schools and target up to 108,000 Prep - Year 3 students for initial vision screening during the program.

If required, eye testing and glasses will be provided to participating students at no cost.



PROGRAM IMPACT 2020 - 2023

340 
schools were visited

17,489 
vision screenings
were performed

7,371 
eye exams were
conducted

3,881 
pairs of glasses
were provided

PROGRAM FEEDBACK

95% of staff reported an improved student engagement in class

92% of staff reported improved student sense of wellbeing

86% of staff reported improved student behaviour in class

69% of staff reported improved student sense of belonging

Questions & Answers

HOW DOES THE GLASSES FOR KIDS PROGRAM WORK?

- Your school has been invited by the Department of Education to participate.
- GFK staff and qualified optometrists will visit your school and offer participating students with initial vision screening and, if required, further testing and glasses at no cost.
- All screening and testing sessions will be completed during school hours.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Primary Schools: Prep – Year 3 students.
- Specialist Schools: students aged 5 to 10 years old.
- Students outside these year levels or age groups may only participate in exceptional circumstances.

CAN CHILDREN WHO CURRENTLY WEAR GLASSES BE PART OF GFK?

- Yes, they can.

WHAT IF STUDENTS NEED GLASSES?

- If the optometrist prescribes glasses for your students, GFK will provide them at no cost.
- Students will have the opportunity to choose their glasses and be fitted on the day on the visit.
- Families will be given an outcome letter notifying them that glasses have been prescribed.
- Glasses will usually be sent to the school within a few weeks of the visit.



HOW DO STUDENTS SIGN UP?

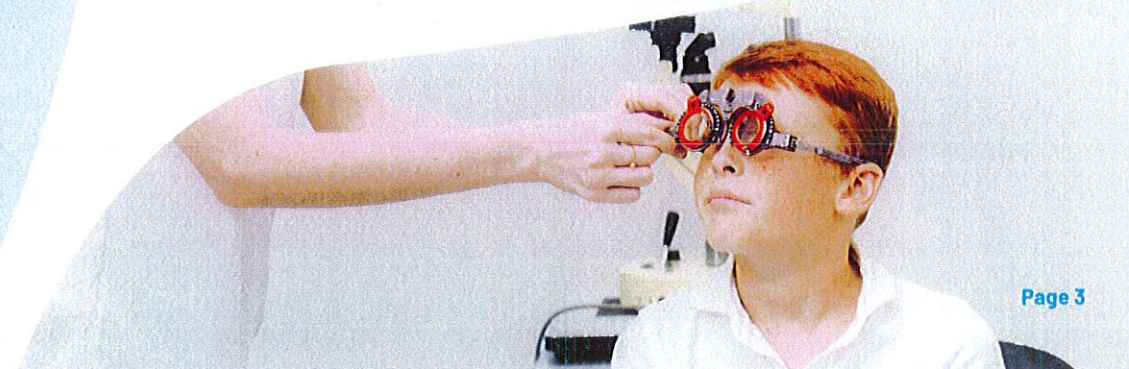
- Schools distribute the GFK consent form to parents, guardians, and/or carers.
- Each family can choose to complete either the online consent form via the QR code on the physical consent form or fill in the physical consent form.
- Paper forms will need to be returned to the school for collection before the due date set by the school.

HOW LONG WILL THE PROGRAM BE AT OUR SCHOOL?

- Program staff will work with you to minimise any disruptions during our visit.
- The number of days depends on the total number of participating students.
- The average is 25 students per day for primary schools and 15 students per day for specialist schools with one optometrist.
- Screening (plus testing and glasses if required) can take between 5 and 30 minutes per student.

WHERE WILL THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE?

- GFK will take place on the school grounds. The program will require a standard-sized room, ideally with a controllable light source and movable tables and chairs for the duration of the visit.
- GFK will discuss these requirements with you and work within any space limitations you have.



WHAT IS REQUIRED FROM YOUR SCHOOL?

- Help promote the upcoming GFK visit at your school.
- Ensure that all Foundation (Prep) to Year 3 students (students up until age 10 in specialist settings) receive the GFK physical consent form.
- GFK requires the school to collate any paper forms and add details to the online Student List. Schools can speak to a program staff member to determine which families have submitted an online consent form.
- The final number of paper forms received, and the student details must be added to the Student List by the due date; this enables appropriate visit planning.
- Translated documents and forms are available on our website at www.glassesforkids.com.au The online consent form also has translation capabilities built in.

We aim to achieve a high participation rate, so please let us know if we can support you in any way.



DO STAFF HAVE WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS?

- SSR, GFK staff and Program Partners (optometrists and staff) entering school grounds are required to hold a valid Working with Children Check.
- Schools may ask visitors to present their WWCC prior to and/or upon arrival, as per your visitor policy.

PUBLIC LIABILITY AND WORKCOVER INSURANCE

- State Schools' Relief Ltd is insured by VMIA under the State Government of Victoria (Department of Education). The Certificate of Currency can be provided on request.
- Optometrists are accredited with the Optometry Board of Australia, plus have their own Public Liability Insurance, Workers Compensation and/or Professional Indemnity Insurance where applicable.



Valuable Information

WHY ARE FAMILIES ASKED FOR THEIR MEDICARE DETAILS?

- Vision screenings (and further testing if required) are undertaken by a registered optometrist or by a practitioner under the supervision of a registered optometrist. The optometrist may choose to bulk bill vision testing through Medicare.
- Families without Medicare can still participate in the program.

PRIVACY PROTECTION

- Information collected about the student will be used for the purpose of administering and providing the services of the GFK program.
- The Department of Education, State Schools' Relief and its program partners will handle all student's personal and health information in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 and the Health Records Act 2001, and DE information handling policies.
- Privacy policy can be viewed here www.education.vic.gov.au/pages/privacypolicy.aspx

PRIOR TO THE VISIT

- Check that the details from any paper consent forms received have been added to the online Student List.
- Keep any physical forms that have been returned late separately. We will do our best to allow these students to participate, but we may not have the capacity to see them.
- Confirm with GFK that a suitable space has been allocated for the duration of the visit.

DAY OF THE VISIT

1. Arrange any paper forms received into class bundles in alphabetical surname order and provide them to program staff.
2. Provide a timetable to GFK staff listing the availability of classes throughout the day. We usually start with Prep/Foundation students, however if any classes have something specific for us to work around, please let us know.
3. If students are in the middle of screening at the time of recess or lunch, we will ask the student to return after the break but have them first check in with their teacher.
4. If students are permitted to return to class in pairs without supervision, please let us know.
5. Outcome letters for each participating student will be provided at the end of the visit for distribution to parents and carers by school staff.
6. Referral letters (if required) will be provided in sealed envelopes and should be distributed to families with the outcome letter.
7. Program staff will email a summary of the visit upon the visit's conclusion including the number of students screened, tested, prescribed glasses and receiving a referral.



POST VISIT

- GFK will be in regular communication via email with the nominated key contact when the glasses have been dispatched.
- The glasses cases will be identified with each student's name, and we ask that you please distribute them to the individual students.
- Schools will be invited by SSR to participate in a post-program Student Impact evaluation.

WHAT TO DO IF THE PRESCRIBED GLASSES ARE LOST OR DAMAGED

- GFK will provide one (1) replacement pair of glasses, providing the initial pair is less than 12 months old.
- If glasses are lost or damaged, the school may request a replacement pair via the GFK portal. Program staff will demonstrate how to use this portal during the visit.

HOW TO GET STUDENTS INVOLVED

Help your families know that GFK is coming to your school and encourage your students to participate in this great opportunity.

Social media, newsletters, and school portals:

- Let families know what they can expect when GFK comes to visit.
- Turn our suggested content into your own by personalising it for your school community.
- Post about the program and let families know that GFK is visiting your school soon!

Posters, guides and brochures






- Display the GFK posters, guides and brochures in the office, classrooms and corridors.



Scan the QR code and watch the video for more information about Glasses for Kids



Next Steps

-  **1** Promote the Glasses for Kids program visit to all eligible students
-  **2** Distribute the GFK consent form to Foundation (Prep) to Year 3 students (up until age 10 in specialist settings).
-  **3** Complete the online Student List with details of paper consent forms by the due date.
-  **4** Collate any paper consent forms received, ready for the visit.
-  **5** On the day of the visit, have class lists printed and have a space available.

Want to know more?

In the lead up to our visit we will be in regular contact to discuss logistics, however if you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Email: info@glassesforkids.com.au

www.glassesforkids.com.au

State Schools' Relief

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