**Specific Learning Difficulties Clinic - Kathryn Whitfield: Advanced Orthoptist**

Children who are not progressing at school and have difficulties with reading, writing and spelling can access the specialist team of Orthoptists in the Specific Learning Difficulties Clinic (SPLD). Children have their visual perception skills assessed alongside visual educational tests which identify any defects of visual processing which may be contributing to their difficulties at school. The Orthoptists work very closely with the SENCO, teachers at school, occupational therapy and education psychology teams to ensure children are supported with any visual therapy or advice that may help their learning.

Clinics: held at Warrington Hospital and Halton Hospital.

**Referral Process for Schools**

Send a letter to Kathryn Whitfield which should include details of:

* child’s name
* date of birth
* address
* parents/carers names
* parental consent
* detailed explanation describing the child’s visual difficulties
* preferably with the completed [Orthoptists Screening Tool for Class Teachers](http://www.whh.nhs.uk/_store/documents/orthoptistscreeningtoolforclassteachersquestionnaire1a4.pdf)

Kathryn Whitfield

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