

Why have I been told to patch ?

When there is a lot of astigmatism in one eye compared to the other, it can cause a weaker eye.

This may lead to your child wearing a **patch**.

Commonly these children are picked up from the eye test in school, if the public health nurse finds reduced vision she will refer the child into our service.

Sometimes children say their glasses make no difference to their vision and report they can see better without.

This is because the glasses are just for the weaker eye. If your child says this to you please encourage them to keep wearing their glasses.

It is always important that they wear their glasses all the time until told otherwise.

How long will my child need glasses?

Astigmatism doesn't generally get better or worse. Your child may always need glasses to correct their astigmatism.

It is very important for children to wear their glasses all the time to make sure their eye develops properly.

If you have any questions they can be answered during the appointment.



Astigmatism

What is Astigmatism?

An Astigmatism is when the cornea (front part of the eye) is slightly misshapen. Sometimes people describe their eye as being like a rugby ball.

- It causes blurry vision for things close and far away.
- Both glasses and contact lenses can be used to correct for astigmatism.
- It is very common and most people have small amounts of it. If you are long-sighted or short-sighted it is likely that you have some astigmatism too.

What causes Astigmatism?

Astigmatism is caused by the shape of the front window of our eyes, the cornea. It is generally with us from birth but can be caused by other conditions.

There are two types of astigmatism:

1. Regular Astigmatism

Every eye with Astigmatism has two prescriptions. Regular astigmatism is where these prescriptions are exactly 90 degrees apart.

2. Irregular Astigmatism

This is where the two prescriptions aren't 90 degrees apart. It is uncommon and is caused by an eye injury or eye condition such as keratoconus.

Keratoconus

Sometimes large amounts of astigmatism can be linked to a condition called keratoconus.

This is where the cornea bulges and loses its circular shape.

Risk factors include:

- High Astigmatism
- Family History
- Gender— Most common in men
- Age— Active from late teens to early 40s
- Frequent eye rubbing

It can be picked up from an eye test and with new treatments it is easier to control.

If we think your child has this condition, we can refer them to a specialist.