

What is EYE GAZE?

- Eye Gaze is used as an access method to control a computer.
- An Eye Gaze camera picks up the reflections from the eyes using infrared technology.
- The majority of people can activate Eye Gaze but not everybody can use it purposefully.

What is the difference between EYE GAZE and Eye Pointing?

- Eye pointing is the ability to look between an object and a person to convey a message
- Eye Gaze generally refers to the technology that interprets the eye point.
- A person required good visual acuity and good visual processing in order to develop Eye Gaze skills



Eye Gaze Technology

Who can help?

Foreland Fields school staff have a wealth of experience with Eye Gaze.

The **communication team** will support classes when pupils are using Eye Gaze for the first time.

Speech and Language Therapists can support with referrals to the KM CAT team.

Occupational Therapists can support with positioning/seating to access the Eye Gaze

EYE GAZE for Communication

Eye gaze technology can offer an alternative access method for some Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) users.

- Eye Gaze for communication is the ability to comment, direct and share opinions in order to make thoughts, feelings and ideas known.
- Eye Gaze for communication uses a vocabulary package which requires teaching and modelling to ensure that the young person can use it functionally.

For this technology to provide a functional, consistent and successful means of communication, many additional factors need to be considered. It may be appropriate to arrange for a KM CAT Eye Gaze assessment to explore further whether Eye Gaze could be an appropriate access tool for individual pupils.

A variety of professionals will be involved in this process including Speech & Language Therapists, Teacher, Occupational Therapist and a Healthcare Scientist.

Eye Gaze at Foreland Fields School

Eye Gaze for Leisure

- Most pupils at Foreland Fields School will use Eye Gaze for leisure activities, such as playing games. This is to build up the stamina of the eye muscles and to develop concentration skills.
- Eye Gaze games are designed to be motivating and can be used to develop cause and effect.

Eye Gaze as an Assessment and alternative access tool

Eye gaze is unique as an assistive technology tool in that it can be used as an access device and as a tool to help gain insight into the visual and cognitive processing of our students. We can observe how our students respond to different stimuli and prompts; find out what attracts their attention on screen; look at movement patterns and start to form theories on preferences and understanding.

The ultimate aim with any student using alternative access is to enable the use of the same resources and software as their peers. Eye gaze devices used in school have been specially designed to easily emulate mouse access. This potentially enables pupils to access a wider range of software titles alongside their peers.

Notes to consider

- A lot of time and effort is needed to learn how to use Eye Gaze effectively
- Anyone supporting students needs to learn how to set up and use any technology and software regularly
- Using the eyes all of the time is an intense task and is very tiring.