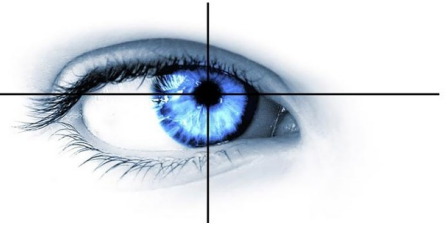


# BELSON & SONS

O P T O M E T R I S T S



63 St. Johns Way  
Corringham  
SS17 7NA  
T: 01375 674130

3 Broadway North  
Pitsea  
SS13 3AS  
T: 01268 552030

5a Newland Street  
Witham  
CM8 2AF  
T: 01376 512336

320 Burdett Road  
Poplar  
E14 7DL  
T: 020 7987 4445

[www.belsonopticians.co.uk](http://www.belsonopticians.co.uk)

## COLOUR VISION DEFICIENCY - ADVICE FOR PARENTS

### What Is Colour Vision Deficiency?

Colour Vision Deficiency (often *wrongly* called "Colour Blindness") is a reduced ability to distinguish between certain colours. It is a commonly inherited trait in males (about 1 in 12), and much less common in females (1 in 200). In some individuals it is only fairly mild, but in others it is more marked. The degree of Colour Vision Deficiency depends on whether one of the three types of colour sensitive pigments in the retina is *absent* or merely *defective*.

Total "colour blindness" (the inability to discern any colours at all) is *very* rare and is usually accompanied by reduced visual acuity.

### Can Colour Vision Deficiency be a handicap to my child's education?

Colour has a special place in a child's world, often being used as an aid to learning. Studies have failed to show any educational handicap resulting from faulty colour vision, but teachers may not necessarily be well-informed on this subject.

Many learning materials are colour coded, and your child may fall behind if their learning environment is not adapted accordingly. *It is always sensible to inform teachers if a child is known to have difficulty in identifying colours.*

### What about the future?

Having Colour Vision Deficiency has no affect on long term health. However, one of the main ways it might impact one's lifestyle is by affecting career or job choice.

People with Colour Vision Deficiency, *may* be excluded from certain types of job or career. This is usually because such professions require accurate colour recognition in order for their job to be carried out safely or effectively. These jobs *may* include:

- \* some positions in the armed forces
- \* customs and excise officers
- \* fire service officers (depending on type and degree of Colour Vision Deficiency)
- \* hospital laboratory technicians
- \* pharmacists
- \* electricians & electronic engineers
- \* those involved in aviation (such as pilots and air traffic controllers)
- \* those involved in paint, paper, or textile manufacture
- \* railway drivers and maintenance staff

Colour Vision Deficiency is not normally a bar to studying Medicine, but certain difficulties have been recognised and should be borne in mind if considering certain medical specialities.

---

*The information in this advice sheet was compiled from sources cited below, and then edited / adapted by Graham Wallis B.Sc.(Hons), M.C.Optom (Optometrist & Associate Partner, Belson & Sons, Corringham)*

## **REFERENCES**

[http://www.eyecaretrust.org.uk/view.php?item\\_id=69](http://www.eyecaretrust.org.uk/view.php?item_id=69)

<http://www.colourmed.com>