



OLDFIELD
SCHOOL

Requesting Assessments of Need

Assessments of Need

If you have concerns that your child may have an unidentified Special Educational Need, you may wish for them to be assessed. This leaflet is intended to provide information about the pathways for assessment for a range of concerns.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

This is a medical diagnosis which is usually made by a paediatrician using information provided by the family and school. You can request an assessment for ADHD via your GP or contact the school's SENCO and we can make a referral from school. If you wish for us to make a referral from school, then we will also gather information from teachers to support this. We will need you to email the SENCO with your request along with a detailed summary of information that covers the points below:

- Please include details of the concern regarding when it started, how long the concern has existed, its severity and effects on family.
- Relevant history: e.g. medical, developmental issues and family structure.
- Please indicate what assessment intervention has already taken place, and how successful this has been. Give contact numbers of those involved where known.

Insufficient information may lead to the referral being returned, resulting in a delay.

Autism Spectrum Condition

This is a medical diagnosis which is usually made by a paediatrician using information provided by the family and school. You can request an assessment for Autism via your GP or contact the school's SENCO and

we can make a referral from school. If you wish for us to make a referral from school, then we will also gather information from teachers to support this. We will need you to email the SENCO with your request along with a detailed summary of information that covers the points below:

- Please include details of the concern regarding when it started, how long the concern has existed, its severity and effects on family.
- Relevant history: e.g. medical, developmental issues and family structure.
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Dyslexia and Dyscalculia

As a school, we are not able to provide a full dyslexia or dyscalculia assessment, but we can complete other assessments which could highlight a need in either of these areas- this would not constitute a diagnosis. Requests for these need to be emailed to the SENCO. As we have so many requests for assessment, there is usually a waiting list and this is generally 10-15 weeks long. If you would like an update on your child's position on the list at any point, please email the SENCO.

Some parents choose to pursue a private diagnostic dyslexia or dyscalculia assessment. Where a private report diagnoses dyslexia or dyscalculia, we are happy to use this diagnosis and diagnostic information to add the student to the SEND register, prepare them an individual Pupil Passport, and to plan use of individual assistive technology where appropriate. We would ask parents to be aware that we are not always able to resource or implement all the recommendations in a private report. Furthermore, if a report indicates

that a child needs 25% extra time for exams, this is something that will need to be assessed again formally in school by a specialist assessor before it can be implemented in formal exams. A diagnosis of dyslexia alone does not qualify a student for extra time in exams.

Learning Difficulties

We can assess for difficulties in memory and processing, as well as reading decoding and comprehension. Requests for these assessments are via email to the SENCO. As we have so many requests for assessment, there is usually a waiting list and this is generally 10-15 weeks long. If you would like an update on your child's position on the list at any point, please email the SENCO.

As for most schools, we are not able to provide Educational Psychologists' assessments upon request. This is because we are provided with a very limited number of days of Educational Psychology across the year – usually 4, which is enough time to assess around 3-4 students in full. Therefore, we usually need to prioritise these assessment places for students who are at risk of placement breakdown.

Mental Health

Assessments of mental health are usually made by CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health service) using information provided by the family and school. You can request this referral via your GP or contact the school's SENCO and we can make a referral from school. If you wish for us to make a referral from school, then we will also gather information from teachers to support this. We will need to you please to email the SENCO with your request along with a detailed summary of information that covers the points below:

- Please include details of the concern regarding when it started, how long the concern has existed, its severity and effects on family.

- Relevant history: e.g. medical, developmental issues and family structure.
- Please indicate what assessment intervention has already taken place, and how successful this has been. Give contact numbers of those involved where known.

Insufficient information may lead to the referral being returned, resulting in a delay.

The school's SENCO is Suzanne Crosbie–
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