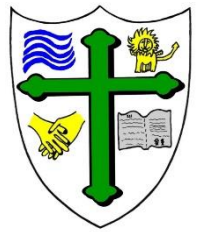


Pathways to a Diagnosis



CDC Pathway:

When a child's developmental needs continue to raise concern, they may be referred to the Community Development Clinic (CDC) for a multidisciplinary assessment. This pathway brings together professionals such as Community Paediatrics, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Educational Psychology to build a detailed understanding of a child's strengths and areas of difficulty.

The CDC pathway can lead to identification of a range of neurodevelopmental conditions. Examples include Autism, ADHD, Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD/dyspraxia), Global Developmental Delay, and speech, language or communication disorders. Not every child will receive a formal diagnosis; in some cases, the outcome focuses on targeted strategies and recommendations for support across home and education settings.

Nationally, diagnostic services are under significant pressure, and families often face extended waits. Current NHS community neurodevelopmental data shows children are waiting at least 30 months for an autism assessment, with a total wait of around 32.5 months from referral to diagnosis in some areas. [bhamcommunity.nhs.uk]

This pathway is school-led with a document needing to be created alongside the SENDCO, class teacher and parent. If you wish to start the process for this pathway please email Sendco@highcliffprimary.dorset.sch.uk

Right to Choose Pathway:

First Step:

Contact <https://sendiass4bcp.org/> and ask for NHS approved Right to Choose ADHD or Autism or ADHD and Autism (which ever specific assessment you are after) assessment providers. Once you have a chosen provider do the following: Contact the provider and ask if they can send you the GP contact form.

Steps to take with GP:

1. **Contact your GP:** Ask via the online form for your GP to run right to choose for an ADHD/ASD/Global Development etc. assessment
2. **Discuss with your GP:** At your appointment, explain your reasons for believing you need an assessment and ask your GP to refer you to your chosen provider under the Right to Choose legislation.
3. **GP completes referral:** Your GP should then complete the referral to the chosen provider.
4. **Provider contacts you:** Once the referral is received and accepted by the chosen provider, they will contact you to arrange the assessment

The waitlist for right to choose is currently between 6months and 18, dependant on your chosen provider. This pathway is led via the GP and parent with class teacher involvement once the process has been started.

Dyslexia / Dyscalculia Pathway

Dyslexia and dyscalculia are not diagnosed through the NHS or school-based pathways. Instead, a formal diagnosis requires a private specialist assessment, which must be arranged and paid for by parents. These assessments are carried out by qualified professionals such as Educational Psychologists or Specialist Dyslexia Assessors and provide a detailed profile of your child's learning strengths and difficulties, along with recommendations for support.