Sudley
Primary School

Information for Parents and Carers: ADHD and ASD Referrals

You have received this pack in receipt of your request for school to make a referral to the Neurodevelopmental Treatment and Assessment Services. Pathway through our single point of access- contact@sudleyprimary.com.

This is related to your concern about possible Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for your child.

Purpose of this Information Pack

This pack explains how our school responds when parents or carers request a referral. It aims to explain what school can and cannot do, set out our step-by-step process and manage expectations clearly and transparently. We also would like to reassure families about the support already available in school.

Important Points to Understand

- **School staff cannot diagnose ADHD or ASD.** Only qualified medical professionals can do this.
- **Not all children who show some traits will meet the criteria for a diagnosis. This is a decision made by medical professionals.**
- **A diagnosis is not required for support in school.** Support is based on need, not labels.
- **Referrals are evidence-based**, not made solely on request.

What is ADHD?

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neuro-developmental condition where children have difficulty with attention and/or hyperactivity and controlling impulses. Their difficulties must be evident in more than one setting (for example, at school and home) and be significant enough to interfere academically and/or socially. In most circumstances, we see school-aged children for assessment and would normally only be able to diagnose after the age of six.

There doesn't have to be behavioural difficulties or learning difficulties. ADHD can present in various forms, such as a person not being able to concentrate or organise themselves. They will not necessarily be hyperactive.

What is Autism?

Autism is a difference in how the brain develops. People with Autism show:

- Differences in their social communication (e.g. how they interact with others)
- A preference for sameness and/or literal thinking
- Sensitivities to their environment.

Autism is often a hidden or invisible condition. This means that you can't always tell if someone is autistic just by looking at them.

Many children may show *some* characteristics without meeting diagnostic thresholds.

Our School's Graduated Approach:

We understand that sometimes children can present differently at home than they do at school. It is for this reason that the observations and assessments of your child are gathered from both environments. School will report *what we can evidence* in our environment and what support is already in place. We understand that this is not always the full picture. In this instance, sometimes the referral will be rejected by the Neuro Developmental Team. We understand this is frustrating and can discuss this with you, should it happen.

Support Available Without a Diagnosis

Your child does not need a diagnosis to receive support. This may include adjustments to classroom routines, visual supports, movement or sensory breaks, small group or targeted support and emotional regulation strategies.

Support is tailored to your child's needs and reviewed regularly.

Timescales and Waiting Lists

Please be aware ADHD and ASD assessment waiting lists are often **very long** (often 18–36 months). A referral does not mean immediate assessment, and during waiting periods, school support continues as normal.

We endeavor to make the referral within 4 weeks of receiving the completed paperwork that will be sent home for parents to complete. We may need to contact you to ask for additional information. We will send you a copy of the

referral form for your records. Please contact us after this time, if you have not received confirmation from the Neurodevelopmental Team.

What Parents Can Do at Home

- Share concerns and observations with school
- Maintain consistent routines
- Support emotional regulation strategies
- Access reputable information sources
- Contact Addvanced Solutions for advice and support
- Attend ASD drop-in sessions hosted by Liverpool ASD Training Team
- Contact the Isabella Trust for training on Autism

Useful links

http://www.addvancedsolutions.co.uk/home.html

https://www.beyondautism.org.uk/about-autism/services/the-isabella-trust/

https://www.merseycare.nhs.uk/our-services/liverpool/autism-spectrum-conditions

https://liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/autistic-spectrum-disorder-training/

Working Together

We understand that concerns about your child can be worrying. Our aim is to work in partnership with families and act in your child's best interests.

If you have questions after reading this pack, please contact us directly via contact@sudleyprimary.com and ask to speak with our Inclusion Team.

This information is reviewed regularly and aligns with our school SEN policy.