

ASD pathway- Chawson First School

Worcester Umbrella Pathway:

The Umbrella Pathway is an assessment and diagnostic pathway which assesses children and young people for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism is the name for a range of conditions that affect a person's social interaction, communication and imagination. Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how people perceive the world and interact with others. Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. All autistic people share certain difficulties but being autistic will affect them in different ways.

The Umbrella Pathway Team includes; Community Paediatricians, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Autism/CCN Teachers and Clinical Psychologists.

The signs of autism vary from one person to another but may include any of the following:

- Difficulties with social communication
- Difficulties with social interaction
- Restrictive and repetitive behaviours
- Repetitive activities and interests since early childhood
- Disturbance of daily functions due to the above
- Other difficulties such as sensory processing and co-ordination difficulties
- Difficulties in learning, information processing and other behaviours may be apparent

Referrals:

For a referral to be considered, evidence will be required of significant difficulties, impacting the child/young person's daily life, across the four areas of their development associated with ASD:

- Social emotional reciprocity
- Non-verbal communicative behaviours
- Developing and maintaining relationships
- Restricted patterns of behaviour

In addition to identifying these difficulties, **there must be evidence of interventions previously tried to meet the child or young person's needs.** This is known as the Graduated Response. More information about this can be found in the [Worcestershire Local Offer](#) and Graduated Response.

A referral must include evidence that an **Early Help or graduated approach response has been considered and implemented over time** in relation to the presenting difficulties and the needs of the child, rather than an assumption that ASD is the cause.

Referrals from **school, school nurse, or GP** should demonstrate:

- a graduated approach response from school with evidence of 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycles. This must be in place and evidenced over a minimum of 6 months or 2 terms for all school aged children.

OR

- a supporting report from a professional such as the Complex Communication Needs (CCN) team, Educational Psychology (EP), Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), or Occupational Therapy Team (OT) *that focuses on key areas as detailed above.*

In order to meet the growing level of need for children across Worcestershire we will follow the pathway below. We will strive, in a timely manner, to support families through the umbrella process but our main focus should be on identifying barriers, providing support and intervention to best equip children and parents to be success now and in the future. This information should be shared with parents to explain the school process.

ASD pathway

