

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you about some important changes to how referrals to CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) are made. CAMHS now require clear evidence that a child or young person's needs have already been:

- Identified
- Assessed
- Supported within their educational setting

In school, this is demonstrated through a graduated response, for example via an Individual Support Plan, which outlines your child's needs and the strategies already in place.

✓ Who can make a referral?

Referrals to CAMHS are usually made by a professional who knows your child well, in partnership with parents or carers. In most cases, this will be a member of staff from your child's school. If another professional is making a referral, they will still need detailed input from the school to ensure a full and accurate picture of your child's strengths, needs, and current support. In exceptional circumstances, where no professionals are involved, a parent/carer-only referral may still be considered.

✓ Alternative Support Options (Right to Choose)

Due to current waiting times, you may want to consider the Right to Choose (RTC) pathway. This allows families, via their GP, to request alternative providers for:

- ADHD assessments
- Autism assessments

These services are often quicker but still funded by the NHS.

More information can be found here:

<https://adhduk.co.uk/right-to-choose/>

Another option for autism assessments is Caudwell Children, who may offer additional support. Please contact us if you would like further information.

✓ Contacting the SEND Team at Ormiston Horizon Academy

If you have any questions or would like support with referrals, please contact the SEND team:

- **SENCo:** Julie Marsh
jmarsh@horizonoot.co.uk
- **Assistant SENCo:** Danielle Betley
dbetley@horizonoot.co.uk
- **SEND Admin:** Kerry Rigby
send@horizonoot.co.uk

Yours sincerely,
Julie Marsh
Assistant Principal/SENCo