**Flowchart: ASC diagnosis pathway**

**Stage 1**

**Proactive first steps to address concerns**

**Initial Concerns**

1. **Observe and Document Symptoms**

* Parents complete questionnaire detailing how needs present at home.
* Parents to trial one of the identified strategies and feedback on the form the impact of this being consistently implemented at home for at least 10 weeks.

1. **Speak to the School or SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)**

* Discuss results of observations at home and parental questionnaire.
* Discuss support strategies which can be put in place at school.
* SENCO to meet with/observe student if applicable.
* SENCO to seek teacher feedback if applicable.
* Share feedback with teachers if behaviours are evidenced across both settings.

**Stage 2**

**Choosing a Referral Pathway**

When all the steps above have been completed, school can then support with a referral. There are two pathways to choose from here.

**Option 1: School referral to the Owl Centre who are commissioned by Hampshire CAMHS to complete ASC assessments (Standard NHS Route)**. **Please note this waiting list is currently around 2 years from referral.**

1. Parents attend a meeting with the SENCO in order to complete this form.
2. If accepted, your child will be placed on the waiting list for assessment.

**Option 2: NHS Right to Choose (RTC) Pathway- This process is typically faster than CAMHS and takes weeks to months rather than two years.**

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/about-the-nhs/your-choices-in-the-nhs/>

The following link takes you to the National Autistic Society which talks you through the process and has a form you can complete in advance of your GP appointment so that you are fully prepared for your discussion.

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/diagnosis/before-diagnosis/how-to-request-an-autism-assessment>

**The process largely follows the following steps:**

1. Book a GP appointment
2. Discuss concerns with your **GP**, providing supporting evidence (example form provided in the link above)
3. Request a **referral for an autism assessment** under **Right to Choose (RTC)**.
4. Research **NHS-funded independent providers** that accept RTC referrals for autism.

Examples of RTC providers include (subject to availability):

* + Psychiatry UK- <https://psychiatry-uk.com/right-to-choose-asd>
  + Healios- <https://healios.org.uk>
  + Clinical Partners- <https://www.clinical-partners.co.uk/nhs-services/right-to-choose>

1. **GP Makes the Referral-** The GP must **refer directly to the chosen RTC provider**, not local NHS autism services. Referral should include relevant background information, observations, and reports.

**Stage 3**

**Post-Diagnosis Support**

Once you have a diagnosis, this is where the hard work can often begin. While there is a wealth of reading and research on post-diagnosis support, there is not any automatic follow up from a clinician but there are lots of courses parents can complete and support which can be accessed through charities and other organisations.

As a starting point, we recommend that that the family look at the National Autistic Society (NAS) website : <http://www.autism.org.uk>

The National Autistic Society has lots of useful information and resources to support families and children following a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, including how to discuss the diagnosis with your child.

Following your child’s diagnosis, we will also add your son/daughter to our school SEN register, if required, and produce an SEN profile detailing their needs and strategies teachers can use to support them in class. But support from home regarding boundaries and expectations is essential for students to succeed.