THE FLOURISH FEDERATION
Brookfield Infant School, Swallow Road, Larkfield,
Aylesford, Kent. ME20 6PY
Tel: 01732 840 955

Brookfield Infant School Headteacher: Miss C Smith
Brookfield Junior School Headteacher: Mr N South
Chair of Governors: Mrs H Perrotton & Mrs E Cross

Paediatric Referral Process: A Guide for Parents

If your child needs extra support for their health, development, or behaviour, they may be referred to a paediatrician (a doctor who specialises in children's health).

Below is a rough timeline and steps to expect during the process*.

*Please be aware that depending on the amount of cases – both for us and with specialist services, times can vary.

Step 1: Identifying Concerns (0-2 Months)

Concerns may be raised by parents, teachers, school staff, or a GP.

Common reasons for referral include developmental delays, speech and language issues, behavioural concerns, or medical conditions.

Speak to your child's teacher or Mrs Freeman, our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), if you have concerns. If we have concerns, we will communicate these to you.

Step 2: Seeking Advice (1-3 Months)

Parent/Carer books an appointment with the child's GP to discuss concerns.

We, the school, may recommend a referral via the school nurse or other professionals like an educational psychologist.

Keep a record of your child's difficulties, including any changes in behaviour, learning, or health. This helps you to share any patterns, behaviours or needs your child is presenting with.

Step 3: Referral to a Paediatrician (2-6 Months)

The GP, or us as a school, submits a referral to Community Paediatrics (local NHS children's services).

The referral is reviewed, and you should receive a letter confirming if it's accepted.

Waiting times can vary, but it may take a few months for an appointment depending on the reason for the referral and current waiting times.

In Kent, you can use the "Right to Choose" option for ADHD and Autism assessments. Please speak to Mrs Freeman regarding this.

Step 4: The Paediatrician Appointment (3-12 Months)

You and your child will meet with the paediatrician at a hospital or community clinic.

THE FLOURISH FEDERATION
Brookfield Infant School, Swallow Road, Larkfield,
Aylesford, Kent. ME20 6PY
Tel: 01732 840 955

Brookfield Infant School Headteacher: Miss C Smith
Brookfield Junior School Headteacher: Mr N South
Chair of Governors: Mrs H Perrotton & Mrs E Cross

They may ask about medical history, development, behaviour, and school progress.

Further assessments may be recommended, such as blood tests, hearing tests, or speech and language therapy.

Step 5: Follow-Up and Support (6-18 Months)

The paediatrician may:

Offer diagnosis (if applicable).

Refer to specialists (e.g., Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy).

Recommend Educational Support Plans at school.

Arrange follow-up appointments.

They will write a report and send this to yourself and us at school. When you receive the report, please let us know in case we haven't received it. We may ask for a copy.

Step 6: Ongoing Care and School Support (Ongoing)

The paediatrician will guide you on next steps and possible treatments or strategies. We may invite you for a meeting to discuss report recommendations.

It's important to remember, even if a child receives a diagnosis, that it isn't a magic pill, nor does it mean access to additional areas of support in class (i.e. access to a 1-1). Support may not actually need to change much within school as from the start we support the child and how they present, irrespective of a diagnosis. It does often mean though that we can access further guidance and use paediatrician advise to ensure we are best supporting their learning journey, especially as they progress through the educational system, and particularly in the instance of more complex needs.

As a school, we may provide extra support (e.g., an Education, Health, and Care Plan - EHCP) if applicable.

Tips for Parents:

- ✔ Keep a diary of your child's symptoms and challenges.
- ✔ Follow up on appointments if you experience delays.
- ✔ Ask questions—you are your child's best advocate!