

Additional Learning Needs



Information Leaflet



What is ALN

The additional learning needs (ALN) system is the new system for supporting children and young people aged 0 to 25 in Wales with ALN.

This replaces the system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disability in Wales.

The ALNET Act of 2018 replaces previous legislation surrounding SEN which was established nearly 30 years ago.

ALN means Additional Learning Needs

In order to prepare for a new system, Wales is currently undergoing an ALN Transformation Programme.

Starting in September 2021, the Welsh Government is now bringing in a new, simpler and more responsive system of meeting the needs of children with ALN.

The new system puts the learner at the heart of everything that happens.

It will be brought in gradually over the next few years (2021 -2024).

What is additional learning provision?

Children with ALN need extra support to learn. This is because they:

- find it harder to learn than other children of the same age
- have a disability that means they cannot use, or find it difficult to use, facilities for learning in their local nursery or school

Some children who need extra help in nursery or school do not have an ALN. This may be children or young people who just need some help catching up.

The extra support given to children with ALN to help them learn is called additional learning provision (sometimes called **ALP**).

ALP is the Additional Learning Provision

This must be written into a support plan called an individual development plan (IDP).

An IDP is an Individual Development Plan

ALP for a person aged 3 or over is education usually in a nursery or school that is additional to, or different from, what is made available to most children of the same age.

What are the main changes?

- The Welsh Government are determined to deliver a fully inclusive education system for learners in Wales, a system where
 - needs are identified early and addressed quickly,
 - and where all learners are supported to reach their potential.
- The new single system, **A**dditional **L**earning **N**eeds or **ALN**, will replace the old SEN system (Special Educational Needs).
- It will support learners from 0—25 with ALN.
- This will ease transition between all educational settings, allowing the changes to be managed together whilst being supportive and providing rights for learners.
- The new ALN system strengthens the importance of providing information and support so that children and their parents are involved as much as possible in the process and in decisions that affect them.
- A statutory plan known as an **I**ndividual **D**evelopment **P**lan or an **IDP** is created for those children with ALN. This sets out a description of a child's ALN and the ALP called for by their learning difficulty or disability and other related information. This ensures consistency and continuity
- IDPs are provided to children with ALN regardless of the severity or complexity of their needs and the statutory status of the IDP is the same, with the same rights of appeal to the Education Tribunal for Wales (ETW) for anyone with an IDP.

What does this mean?

**The new system puts
the child at the heart of everything
that happens.
It is **person-centred**.**

- It is expected that school take a person-centred approach to planning for, and supporting children.
- You and your child's views, wishes and feelings are listened to at all stages of the IDP process, especially when decisions are being made about how to help your child.
- The IDP process includes a one-page profile to make sure that the IDP reflects your child's needs and personality, including what is important to, and for, them.
- The right support is put in place quickly to help your child with ALN.
- Everyone will work together to help your child with ALN, including education and health services.
- Children and their families are able to access learning support even before they start school or nursery.
- Both you and your child understand the ALP being offered.
- If you or your child are not happy with decisions, there are rights in law to help you do something about it.
- You and your child with ALN get help in Welsh wherever possible if they need it.

When and how children will move to the new system

Moving children from the SEN system to the ALN system is known as the 'Transformation Programme' and will take place over 3 school years to make sure there is enough time for nurseries and schools to discuss the support needed and to prepare plans.

Children will move from the SEN system to the ALN system in groups identified by the Welsh Government who have a plan in place.

The first groups changed between September 2021 and August 2022.

We must continue to follow the transformation programme to move all children from the SEN system to the ALN system between September 2022 and August 2024.

If your child is in one of the year groups moving to the new ALN system you will be provided with information on when and how this will happen.

The following websites and publications may also be useful:

<https://gov.wales/additional-learning-needs>

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Children--Young-People-with-Additional-Learning-Needs.aspx>

<https://www.snapcymru.org/contact/>

Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our school ALN Co-ordinator (ALNCo)

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