

**YSGOL MAESGLAS**

*Our Pathway to Progress*

## Additional Learning Needs at Ysgol Maesglas

### “Our Pathway to Progress”

The aim of Ysgol Maesglas is to provide a safe, secure and happy environment, where each child is developed to their full potential socially, emotionally, and academically. Ysgol Maesglas is a school where all are valued and respected within a caring and co-operative community...’

The system for supporting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and disabilities in Wales has been going through a process of change. As a school we have been following the ALN (Additional Learning Needs) Transformation Programme which began in September 2021. Although we are now coming to the proposed end of this period of change, we are still striving to ensure that we support our children, parents and staff with the tools required to understand and use this new, simpler and more responsive system of meeting the needs of children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

The first step is to understand the terminology and abbreviations and we ask everyone to say when they don’t understand-we aim to ensure everyone is comfortable and confident when talking about ALN. We are in this together as a team, with the child at the heart of everything that happens. With this in mind, we all need to know what is happening, what is being said and what this means.



#### **The main two:**

ALN Additional Learning Needs

ALP Additional Learning Provision

#### **What does this mean?**

##### **ALN**

A child has Additional Learning Needs (ALN) if they have a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for Additional Learning Provision (ALP).

The child has a learning difficulty or disability if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other children of the same age or has a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities for teaching and learning opportunities generally provided for others of the same age in school.

We recognise that a child does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which they are or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which is or has been used at home.

As a school we know that many children are likely at some point to experience short term issues with their learning, for example because of a period of absence caused by a temporary illness, or because they have suffered a bereavement or some other trauma. In these circumstances, we may need to take action to help the child to catch up and/or to prevent the issue from escalating. These situations would not ordinarily amount to ALN on their own; but it is possible that in some cases, such events could result in a difficulty in learning which calls for ALP.

Those children who are considered 'more able and talented' do not have a difficulty in learning on the basis of their enhanced ability or talent. These children may require enhanced opportunities and challenge in order to reach their full potential, but this ought to be provided as part of differentiated teaching.

Learning difficulties or disabilities can be broadly split into the following four areas:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development
- Sensory and/or Physical

## **ALP**

As a school we use a person-centred approach which focuses on the individual needs of each child. Every child in school has a one page profile that provides personalised information gathered from the child and all who know them. Each child then adds this information to their one page profile, sharing:

- What people like and admire about me
- What's important to me
- How best to support me

At Ysgol Maeslgas, we recognise that each child has a unique style of learning, communicating, building relationships and making decisions. By using person-centred practice we put each child at the heart of our planning. By knowing our children, staff take responsibility for ensuring that their children's needs are identified and provided for.

Additional Learning Provision (ALP) means provision that is 'additional to' or 'different from' that provided for other children of the same age. This will be distinct from the teaching strategies and differentiated teaching that is generally available for all children of the same age.

We understand that all our children engage with their learning differently and that this can vary over time. As a school we provide carefully planned interventions to support a range of needs which are available as part of our universal provision for the benefit of all children's learning needs.

ALP (Additional Learning Provision) is considered on an individual basis and encompasses needs which are beyond this differentiated curriculum and targeted universal support. If a learner has ALN that requires ALP an Individual Development Plan will be created for them.

## **IDP**

A single statutory plan known as an Individual Development Plan (an IDP) is created for children who have additional learning needs and require additional learning provision. One part of the IDP is to record this provision. When an IDP is created it ensures consistency and continuity to ensure that the child is offered support that meets their needs to help them to reach their potential. These plans use a common format, using a Person Centred Practice approach and contain an action plan that must be reviewed regularly.

## **Who uses this ALN system?**

The new legislative system applies to all learners aged 0 - 25. This means the changes between settings that our child makes (their transitions) are easier as all settings within Wales use it therefore allowing for greater opportunities to work together, support and rights for the child. You will see this when your child moves between pre-school settings into primary school, then onto secondary High Schools.

We have strong links with all our children's transition settings whether this is at the start of their school life in nursery (pre-progression step one) or mid term or when leaving primary and moving into secondary, High Schools. We work together, following the code and using agreed Flintshire protocols that ensure an understanding of a child's additional learning needs immediately, therefore reducing any problems that can arise from lack of understanding and knowledge. This means enhanced transition programs can be introduced and tailored to the child's specific needs.

## **What if those involved disagree?**

The new system is designed to be easier to navigate and ensures all involved work together, focusing on the child's needs. The ALN Code has a set of clear, legally enforceable parameters and practical guidance for local authorities and other organisations delivering services for children with ALN. It should therefore reduce conflict however where conflicts cannot be resolved, the system ensures that children and their parents/carers will have the right to appeal to the tribunal.

An independent service which helps to avoid and resolve disagreements is available free of charge. This is provided by SNAP Cymru.

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

You can find further information and advice about how schools and Local Authorities work with parents and learners to support Additional Learning Needs (ALN) on the Flintshire County Council website

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

### **Who do we speak to about ALN?**

Your class teacher is always the first person to speak to when you have concerns about your child.

In school we have an Inclusion Team who work together to support all children who require additional support, including those with additional learning needs.

Mrs Kim Hiller is the ALNCo, the term used for the Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator. It is her responsibility to co-ordinate provision for learners with ALN

To contact Mrs Hiller,  
Ask for her by ringing: 01352 711 497

Or

Email her on: [ALNCOM5@hwbcymru.net](mailto:ALNCOM5@hwbcymru.net)

### **Some useful links:**

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-02/240215-easy-read-guide-for-children-parents-and-families.pdf>

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-09/implementing-the-additional-learning-needs-system-between-september-2021-and-august-2024-a-guide-for-parents-and-families.pdf>

<https://www.gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-transformation-programme-frequently-asked-questions-html>

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/220622-the-additional-learning-needs-code-for-wales-2021.pdf>


<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/PDFFiles/Lifelong-Learning/Schools/Children--Young-People-with-ALN/Early-Years-Inclusive-Practice-and-Additional-Learning-Needs-Provision-Map.pdf>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UiyMiS8Hu4s&t=16s>

<https://www.snapcymru.org/get-support/new-aln-system/>

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-12/person-centred-reviews-for-families.pdf>

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



**Additional Learning Needs**

**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 concerning 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 Additional Learning Provision**

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


**IDP is 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.


**Information Leaflet**



YS GOL MAESGLAS  
Yn Fyddu'n Fyddu



**Additional Learning Needs**  
An information guide for Parents and Carers.



CYNGOR  
**Sir y Fflint**  
**Flintshire**  
COUNTY COUNCIL