



NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (ALN ET 2018)

The system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disability in Wales is changing. The Welsh Government is bringing in a new more flexible and responsive system of meeting the needs of children with special educational needs or disabilities and are striving to deliver a fully inclusive education system for the learners of Wales.

The new system will ensure that:

- needs are identified early, addressed quickly and all learners are supported to reach their potential;
- our professionals are skilled and confident in identifying needs and deploying strategies to help learners overcome their barriers to learning;
- the learner is at the centre of everything we do and that they and their parents and carers are equal partners in their learning. (Person Centred Approach)

From September 2021 the new system will be **brought in gradually** over the next few years (2021 -2024). Here are some of the key messages about these changes.

- The term Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will replace the terms Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD).
- Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) in schools will now be called Additional Learning Needs Coordinators (ALNCOs).
- The mandatory ALN Code for the new system will cover children and young people aged 0-25. This means that early years and further education colleges will have duties under the Act, but this does not include higher education or apprenticeships.
- The current graduated system of Early Years/School Action, Early Years/School Action Plus and Statements is being replaced over the course of the next 3 years. All children and young people with an identified additional learning need (ALN) that requires additional learning provision (ALP) will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP). The IDP will replace all other individual plans. IDPs for children under compulsory school age, who require them, i.e.in the early years will be maintained by local authorities.
- Most Individual Development Plans will be maintained by the school but may also be maintained by the Local Authority for those learners with the most complex needs.
- The Act expects that all partners such as Education, Health and Social Care will work in collaboration to support children and young people with ALN.
- There will be increased opportunities for children, young people, parents and carers to contribute to the creation and maintenance of Individual Development Plans through Person Centred Planning.
- It is expected that working together more closely should help to avoid disagreements.
- All reasonable steps will be taken to ensure additional learning provision will be provided in Welsh, if required.



Pupils who are currently on the SEN register at school action, school action plus and SAPRA thresholds will have their learning needs reviewed by the school. Those who are identified as having additional learning needs and are in **nursery 1, nursery 2, year 1, year 3, year 5, year 7, year 10** will move gradually to the new ALN system from January to July 2022. Those pupils in the remaining year groups as well as those with statements of SEN will continue to have their needs identified and met through the current special educational needs system which remains statutory for them.

Pupils who are newly identified as having additional learning needs during the autumn term 2021 will commence under the new ALN system.

Pupils who currently have SAPRAs and annual review meetings during the current autumn term will have their learning needs reviewed. Where their needs meet the criteria for ALN under the new ALN Act, IDPs will be developed but these will not become statutory until January 2022. Until then, the SAPRA will remain in force.

Some pupils currently have an IDP that was developed, with parental agreement, as part of a trial for the introduction of IDPs. These will become statutory in January 2022.

We will inform you in writing if your child is identified as having an additional learning need that requires additional learning provision (ALP), and an individual development plan (IDP). We will also invite you to attend a person centered review in order to collaborate and ensure joint planning.

<insert name> is the school ALNCo who you should contact for information or advice with regards to your child. Also, Ceredigion have an ALN Pupil and Family Support Co-ordinator who is available to provide information and advice with matters relating to additional learning needs. To contact please telephone 01545 570881 or email pps@ceredigion.gov.uk

Additional information on the ALN Code can be found on the following websites –

Welsh Government – [Additional learning needs \(special educational needs\) | Sub-topic | GOV.WALES](#)

Ceredigion County Council - [Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\) - Ceredigion County Council](#)

There is also an interactive e-learning course giving an introduction to the new ALN system which is now available on the Welsh Government's Hwb platform: <https://hwb.gov.wales/news/articles/20686965-8669-40ac-bdc5-599f4a4dfe8b>

Yours sincerely

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