

Your child and the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act 2018



New legislation – The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act

Welsh Government have reviewed the processes and systems in place for Children and Young People with Additional Learning Needs (ALN). There is new legislation in place from September 2021, which will be fully implemented by September 2025. This new legislation means there are some changes that may impact you and your child.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) to Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Moving forwards, we will be using the term 'Additional Learning Needs / ALN' instead of the previous description 'Special Educational Needs / SEN'. All Schools will have an Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO). Children or Young People have an ALN when:

- They have a significant difficulty or disability that means they need targeted or sustained

support (i.e. additional learning provision).

- They find it much harder to learn than others of the same age nationally.
- They have a disability that means they cannot access their local school/college.

What this means for you and your child

The ALN Act 2018 offers an inclusive and equitable system where the needs of all individuals can be met to ensure successful, independent and resilient children and young people.

Caerphilly Local Authority will implement a rights-based approach where the views, wishes and feelings of children, young people and their parents/carers are central to the planning and provision of support, and where you and your child are enabled to participate as fully as possible in the decision making process.



Individual Development Plans (IDP)

Children or young people identified as having an ALN and required additional learning provision (ALP) will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP) to show their needs and the support in place.

Additional learning provision is support which is additional to that provided to the majority of children or young people of the same age.

The IDP will include the advice of a range of professionals supporting the child or young person (where relevant). IDP's will be reviewed annually or when anything significant changes for the child or young person.

0 to 25 years old

Children and Young People with ALN will have one system from the age of 0 to 25 years old.

Participation of children and young people

What children and young people think, feel and would like will be central in our planning. The children and young people will be part of developing their Individual Development Plans.

Collaboration

The thoughts, feeling and wishes of Parents and Carers will be gathered as an on-going process. Where relevant schools will work with health, social services and anyone else who supports the child or the young person.

Disagreement resolution and rights of appeal

Whenever possible, disagreements will be dealt with as quickly as possible with the school and the key people involved. An appeal is when you request that a decision be changed. Independent support groups will be able to listen and help if there are disagreements which cannot be

resolved. Children, young people, parents and carers have the right to appeal decisions made by the school and the Local Authority about the child or young person's additional learning needs or additional learning provision.

If you have any questions regarding the new ALN Act or the process of the IDP, please visit:

[https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Additional-learning-needs/Additional-Learning-Needs-\(ALN\)-Transformation](https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Services/Schools-and-learning/Additional-learning-needs/Additional-Learning-Needs-(ALN)-Transformation)

Or contact the team on:

LEIStatutoryTeam@caerphilly.gov.uk

