November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

**Implementing the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (2018)**

The method of supporting children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities is changing. The Welsh Parliament has passed new legislation, called the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (Wales) supported by the Additional Learning Needs Code (the Code). The Act and the Code replace the present legislation and guidance regarding special educational needs. The Welsh Government is introducing a more flexible and responsive system in order to meet the needs of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and striving to introduce a fully inclusive education system for learners in Wales.

The new system will ensure:

* that needs are identified early and are met rapidly, and that each learner is supported to reach his or her potential
* that professional workers are skilled and confident in identifying needs and use strategies to help learners to overcome barriers to learning.
* that the learner is at the heart of everything, that the learners and their parents and carers are equal partners in their learning (person-centred practice)

Since 1 September 2021, the Additional Needs System brought in by the Act has been introduced gradually – over school years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. Local Authorities, Schools and Pupil Referral Units will move children from the present Special Educational Needs system to the ALN system over an implementation period of three years as follows:

* Spring and Summer terms 2021/22 school year: Nursery 1, Nursery 1, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, Year 10
* School year 2022-23: Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Year 1, Year 5, Year 9, Year 10
* School year 2023-24: Year 4 and Year 8 and any other learners with SEA on 1 January 2022 that have not moved to the ALN system during the first and second years of implementing the system.

These are some of the main messages about the changes and what they will mean for you and your child.

* The term Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will replace the term Special Educational Needs and Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.
* Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators in schools will be called Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCo).
* The ALN statutory Code will support children and young people between the ages of 0-25. This means that there are duties within the Act for Early Years and Further Education. This does not include Higher Education or any apprenticeship.
* The present graduated system of Early Years/Schools Action, Early Years/Schools Action Plus and Statements is being replaced over the next three years. Each child and young person with identified ALN and who need Additional Learning Provision within the meaning of the Act, will receive an Individual Development Plan (IDP). The IDP will replace every other individual plan. The Individual Development Plans for children under compulsory school age that require them, i.e. in the early years, will be maintained by local authorities.
* Most IDPs will be maintained by the school, but where it is considered unreasonable for the school to maintain them, the Local Authority can maintain them.
* The Act expects each partner e.g. Health, Education and Social Services to co-operate in order to support children and young people who have ALN.
* There will be more opportunities for children, young people, parents and carers to contribute to drawing up and maintaining IDPs through Person-Centred Planning.
* It is expected that closer co-operation will assist to avoid disputes..
* Each reasonable step will be taken to ensure additional learning provision in the medium of Welsh, if required.

**Additional Information**

There will be a sequential approach to implementing the system during school year 2021/22 and the ALN system has started amongst specific groups of children since 1 September 2021 and 1 January 2022. During the process of implementing the system, the ALN system will be operated side by side with the SAE system, that will cease during the implementation period.

**From 1 January 2022,** the ALN system will commence for children that attend maintained schools (including Pupil Referral Units) in **Nursery 1 and 2 and Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 10** that have special educational provision through Early Years Action/Schools Action Plus or Schools Action/Schools Action Plus **(this does not include pupils with statements in the first year).** The schools and pupil referral units will decide whether children within these years have ALN that are within the meaning of the Act or not, the school or pupil referral unit will issue a ‘CDU Notice’ or a No IDP Notice’. The IDP notice, or the No IDP Notice, that moves a child from the SEN system to the ALN system.

At any time during the three years implementation period, from 1 January 2022, you or your child can request to move to the ALN system earlier than was the intention of the Local Authority, the school or the pupil referral unit. You can do this thereby asking for a IDP Notice to be issued.

If you would like more information or advice, in the first place contact your ALNCo or you can contact the ALN team in Blaenau Gwent, or by visiting our website

[Additional Learning Needs (ALN) | Blaenau Gwent CBC (blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk%2Fen%2Fresident%2Fschools-learning%2Fadditional-learning-needs-aln%2F&data=05%7C01%7CGill.Smith%40blaenau-gwent.gov.uk%7Ccd3dce46c7664670f61508dac7dc0a52%7C2c4d0079c52c4bb3b3cad8eaf1b6b7d5%7C0%7C0%7C638042045113374898%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=X%2FjCNJk3KF7jSkJq4cOTQcJshl0KORuB0PAdNNh%2B0b0%3D&reserved=0)

**Welsh Government |** [www.wales.gov.uk](file:///\\www.wales.gov.uk)

Education Tribunal Wales (ETW)

The address and contact details for ETW have been provided below.

Education Tribunal for Wales  
Welsh Tribunals Unit  
PO Box 100  
Llandrindod Wells  
LD1 9BW

**E-mail:** [**educationtribunal@gov.wales**](mailto:educationtribunal@gov.wales) or [**tribunal.Enquiries@gov.wales**](mailto:Tribunal.Enquiries@gov.wales)

**Telephone:** 0300 025 9800   
Rydym yn croesawu galwadau yn Gymraeg. / We welcome calls in Welsh.

SNAP Cymru also offer free independent advice and support, visit: [www.snapcymru.org](http://www.snapcymru.org) or phone the helpline on: 0808 801 0608.

Leflets are available that explain in more detail – Person-Centred Practice, Individual Development Plan, Dispute Resolution and the Tribunal System.

If you would like more information or advice, contact the school or the Additional Learning Needs team on [ALNEnquiries@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:ALNEnquiries@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely