

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

Dear Parent / Carer

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALNET)

The system for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities in Wales has changed. The Welsh Government has introduced a more flexible and responsive system to meet the needs of children with special educational needs or disabilities.

The new system ensures 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 using strategies to help learners.
- The learner is at the centre of everything we do and they and their parents and carers are equal partners in their learning. This is called a Person Centred Approach.

The new system is being brought gradually over the next few years (until 2024) in accordance with Welsh Government guidance. Here are some of the key messages about these changes and what they may mean for you and your child.

- The current graduated system of Early Years/School Action, Early Years/School Action Plus and Statements are being replaced over the course of the next 2 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 Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN).

- Most Individual Development Plans will be the responsibility of the school but in some circumstances, they may be the responsibility of the Local Authority. IDPs for children under compulsory school age who require them (for example in the early years), will be the responsibility of local authorities.
- The Act expects that everyone involved with your child e.g. Childcare settings, 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 Individual Development Plans.
- 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

Key Messages

Pupils who will move to the new system this academic year (2022-2023) include:

- Pupils who are currently supported by Early Years/School Action or Early Years /School Action Plus in Nursery, Reception, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6, Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11
- Pupils who have a Statement of SEN in Nursery, Reception and Year 6, Year 10 and Year 11

Your school will inform you when your child will transfer to the new system by writing to you directly and inviting you to attend a person centred meeting.

Additional Information

The interactive e-learning course giving an introduction to the new ALN system is available on either of these links:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/news/articles/20686965-8669-40ac-bdc5-599f4a4dfe8b>

<https://hwb.gov.wales/repository/publishers/9fb2afc9-6408-4aa3-9474-3c745006535b/resource/c8033263-aaa0-42fc-9511-ab7d33bd8084/en>

Swansea LA has appointed a team of ALN Caseworkers to support families of children with Additional Learning Needs who can provide you with advice and support. If you think you will need support from this service please speak to your ALNCo or Headteacher. Alternatively, you can email the caseworker team directly on: caseworker@swansea.gov.uk

Leaflets explaining the changes in more detail can be requested from the school.

If you would like any additional information or advice, please visit the Swansea Local Authority website at www.swansea.gov.uk/aln

Your school has its own information on their website at

<https://www.ygg-gellionnen.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,



Helen Morgan-Rees

Director of Education