



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

January 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Welsh Government is changing the way that children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) will be supported. The new system defines SEN as Additional Learning Needs (ALN). The law is changing for several reasons, but the main one is to make the process simpler and more transparent for all involved. These changes mean that children and parent(s)/ carer(s) and young people will:

- access the support they need earlier;
- be more involved in making decisions about the support they need;
- be able to find information more easily;
- be supported if they disagree with decisions.

### How will this happen?

**From September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021** the Additional Learning Needs ('ALN') system set out in the Act will be fully implemented over the school years 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. Local Authorities, Schools and Pupil Referral Units ('PRUs') will move children who fall into mandated years, from the existing Special Educational Needs ('SEN') system to the ALN system during a three-year implementation period as follows:

- Spring and Summer terms, school year 2021/22: Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, **Year 7 and Year 10 (at St Richard Gwyn).**
- School year 2022-23: Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Year 1, Year 5, **Year 9 and Year 10 (at St Richard Gwyn).**
- School year 2023-24: Year 4 and **Year 8 (at St Richard Gwyn)** and any other pupils with SEN on 1 January 2022 who did not move to the ALN system during years one and two of implementation.

**From 1st January 2022**, the ALN system will begin for children who attend maintained schools (including PRU's), are in the school years highlighted above and have special educational provision via early years action / early years action plus or school action / school action plus, and in the school years highlighted above.



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The ALN system will follow the person-centered approach and schools, PRUs and in some cases local authorities will make a decision about how best to meet your child's needs within the meaning of the new Act.

Following a collaborative decision making process, schools, PRUs or sometimes the local authorities will issue an 'IDP notice' or a 'no IDP notice'. It is the IDP notice, or the no IDP notice, that moves a child from the SEN system to the ALN system.

## What happens now?

We will work hard with your child and yourselves to ensure everyone understands these changes. If your child is in one of the pupils that will move to the new Additional Learning Needs ('ALN') system starting in January 2022 and phased in gradually over the Spring and Summer Term 2022 we will get in touch with you and provide you with information on when and how this will happen.

At any point during the three year implementation period, from 1 January 2022, you or your child can ask to move to the new ALN system earlier than the local authority, school or PRU had planned. This can be done by asking for an IDP notice to be issued.

Families will have access to impartial information advice and support. This is statutory, which means it must be provided by law.

Every local authority in Wales must have arrangements for providing children and their families and young people with impartial information, advice and support. In this local authority SNAP Cymru (0808 801 0608) provides this service.

Please also be assured, that we or the local authority can also provide any advice or support as necessary. Speak to us as soon as you have any worries or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

*S. Dowd*

(Mrs Sharon Dowd – ALNCo)