



**23 May 2023**

## **Extension to the ALN Implementation Timeline Period: Commencement of The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018**

Dear Colleague

Thank you for everything that you are doing and continue to do to make the ALN reforms a success in Wales.

On March 20, 2023, Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and Welsh Language [announced an extension to the implementation period of the ALN Act](#) from three years to four years (September 2021 – August 2025). The extension aims to give schools, PRUs and local authorities the discretion and flexibility to move the remaining children from the SEN system to the ALN system over a longer period.

I have set out below and in Annex A further information to clarify the arrangements.

### **What the extension means in practice**

- Most children who were due to move to the ALN system between September 2023 and August 2024, can now move to the ALN system between September 2023 and August 2025.
- An exception to this will be for children who will be in year 6 and year 10 in the 2023/24 school year (current year 5 and year 9 learners). An IDP notice or No IDP notice must be given during the 2023/24 school year for children in year 6 so they arrive at secondary school with an IDP in place or already on the ALN system. For children in year 10, this will ensure no disruption to the flow through approach for post-16.
- Changes aim to give schools, PRUs and local authorities flexibility to determine how to make best use of the additional time. Decision making bodies may wish to keep to their current plans to maintain momentum where possible or may decide to ease pressures to help ensure the system is implemented effectively.
- The rights for children, and their parents, to request a child moves to the ALN system is unaffected. Children who want to move to the ALN system can still request to do so at

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*We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.*

any time and will not be affected by the extension and reorganisation.

Please note:

- We expect the arrangements for the implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (ALN Act) for the school year 2022/23 as detailed in the '[A practitioner guide to the implementation of the Act from 1 September 2021 to August 2024](#)' (published June 2022) to be adhered to.
- Where a school or PRU has not given an IDP notice or a No IDP notice to a child and their parent who are due to receive a notice in the school year 2022/23 by 30 August 2023, the child will automatically move to the ALN system on 31 August 2023. This means the old law will cease to apply on 31 August 2023 and the new law will apply on that date. The duties provided for in the ALN Act and subordinate legislation, including the ALN Code, will apply.

### What happens next?

Welsh Government will amend the current published guidance to reflect the implementation period extension and republish in the summer term, 2023.

It's likely you are already speaking to parents about these changes but if not, may I ask you to consider sharing some information via your communication forums.

As we all move forward together, I remain extremely grateful for your ongoing work and support to ensure that every child and young person with ALN can thrive and fulfil their potential.

Please address any enquiries you have about the implementation of the ALN system to:  
ALN [ALNImplementation@gov.wales](mailto:ALNImplementation@gov.wales)

Yours sincerely



Hannah Wharf  
Deputy Director, Support for Learners Division  
Senior Responsible Officer for ALN Implementation

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## Children with provision via school action/school action plus

### Current Published Arrangements

School Year 2023/24
Nursery, Year 2, Year 4, Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10

### New Arrangements

School Year 2023/24	School Years 2023/24 to 2024/25
Year 6 and Year 10	All remaining children not already moved (those in Nursery, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 8 in the school year 2023/24).

## Children with provision via statements

### Current Published Arrangements

School Year 2023/24
Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10

### New Arrangements

School Year 2023/24	School Year 2023/24 to 2024/25
Year 6 and Year 10	All remaining children not already moved (those who are in Year 2, Year 3, Year 4 Year 5, Year 8 and Year 9 in the school year 2023/24)

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