



# Putting in place the new additional learning needs system between September 2021 and August 2025

Easy read guide for children, parents and families



This guide was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of the **guide for parents and families: implementing the additional learning needs (ALN) system between September 2021 and August 2025**.

**September 2023**

# How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. If you want more information you can contact:

**Address:** Additional Learning Needs Branch  
Support for Learners Division  
The Education Directorate  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

**E-mail:** [ALNimplementation@gov.wales](mailto:ALNimplementation@gov.wales)

**Facebook:** EducationWales

**Twitter:** [@WG\\_Education](https://twitter.com/WG_Education)



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# About this guide



This is an easy read guide for children, parents and families.



It is about how a new law is going to work in Wales for children with additional learning needs.



The law is called the **Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018**. It is also known as the **ALN Act**.



The new law will change the way children with special educational needs (SEN) are supported.



The new system will be called the **additional learning needs (ALN)** system.



Most children will move from the SEN system to the **ALN** system over four years.



This guide explains how this will happen.

## About the ALN system

**We want to make sure that:**



- All learners are given the support they need to do well.



- Children and families are listened to.



- Children get the right support.



- Most children can use schools close to them.



- Children can get support before they start school or nursery.



- Children and families understand about the support they are being offered.



- There are ways children and families can speak up if they are not happy.



- Children get support in Welsh if they need it.

# What is changing

These are the new words that will be used:



Special educational needs (SEN) will become **additional learning needs (ALN)**.



Special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs) will become **additional learning needs co-ordinators (ALNCOs)**.



Special educational provision (SEP) becomes **additional learning provision (ALP)**.



Plans like individual education plans (IEPs), statements and learning and skills plans (LSPs) will be changed to **individual development plans (IDPs)**.



# How children will move to the ALN system



Children are moving from the SEN system to the **ALN** system in groups.

In January 2022, the first group of children started to move to the **ALN** system.

This group of children went to a local authority nursery, school or **pupil referral unit (PRU)**. But they did not have a statement.

More children in this group who did not move before will move in the school year 2023 to 2024. These are children who are in Year 6 and Year 10.

All remaining children not already moved in the school year 2023-24 in 2024-2025 are Nursery, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 8





From **1 September 2022** other groups of children will start to move from the SEN system to the **ALN** system.

These are:



- Children with SEN who do not go to a local authority nursery, school or **PRU**.



- Children who have a statement of SEN.

**The box below shows when children who have statements will move to the ALN system.**

### **School year 2022 to 2023**

Children who are below statutory school age, Reception, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 11.

### **School year 2023 to 2024**

Year 6 and Year 10.

### **School year 2024 to 2025**

All remaining children not already moved in the school year 2023 to 2024. Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 8 and Year 9.



- Children where something is happening under the SEN system. This could be the local authority making a statement or there is an appeal to tribunal.



When children move to the ALN system the child's nursery, school, **PRU** or in some cases the local authority will say how and when this will happen.



If a child has support under the SEN system, this will continue until the child moves to the **ALN** system.



This is to make sure children get the support they need.

# How nurseries, schools, PRUs and local authorities will move children to the ALN system



Moving from the SEN system to the **ALN** system can happen in one of three ways.

It can happen by:

- An **IDP** notice or a No **IDP** notice being given to a child and their parents.
- An **ALN** notice being given to a child and their parents.
- Or automatically moving – this means that a notice is not given. The move to the **ALN** system happens because something has changed.



## IDP and No IDP notices



An IDP notice means that it has been decided that a child has **ALN** and an **IDP** will be made.



A No **IDP** notice means that it has been decided that a child does not have **ALN**. Sometimes, a child may be given a No **IDP** notice because their needs have changed, and they no longer need extra help to learn.

## An automatic move



Where children move automatically from the SEN system to the **ALN** system, the child's nursery, school, **PRU** or local authority will let children and their families know.

## ALN Notice



Sometimes a local authority can give an **ALN** notice.



An **ALN** notice allows a local authority to move a child from the SEN to the **ALN** system at any time.



An **ALN** notice is different from an **IDP** notice. An **ALN** notice does not involve making a decision about a child's **ALN**.



When an **ALN** notice has been given, a nursery, school, **PRU** or local authority can make a decision about if a child has **ALN**.



This would happen if the nursery, school, **PRU** or local authority thinks a child may have **ALN**.

# How children and their families can ask to move to the ALN system



From 1 September 2022, most children up to Year 11 who get SEN support have a right to ask to be moved to the **ALN** system.



This can happen earlier than the nursery, school, **PRU** or local authority planned to move the child.

## What to do if you don't agree with something



The views of children and families are very important.



If you are not happy or do not agree with a decision made you can say so.



Talking about your worries might help sort out any concerns or differences of opinion.



If your child goes to a local authority nursery, school or PRU it would be good to talk about your concerns with the **ALNCo**.



If your child does not go to a local authority nursery, school or **PRU** you can contact the local authority for help. They will have people to support families to work out something that everyone is happy with.



You can contact the **Education Tribunal for Wales** about some things you're not happy with.



**Website:**

[specialeducationalneedstribunal.gov.wales](https://specialeducationalneedstribunal.gov.wales)





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



**Phone:** 0300 025 9800



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

Here are some other organisations who can help:



- [SNAP Cymru](#)
- [National Deaf Children's Society](#)
- [National Autistic Society Cymru](#)
- [Royal National Institute of Blind People \(RNIB\) Cymru](#)
- [Children's Commissioner for Wales](#)

You can get more information from your local authority or the Welsh Government:



You can find your local authority contact information here: [gov.wales/find-your-local-authority](http://gov.wales/find-your-local-authority)

Or go to the Welsh Government website here: [gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-transformation-programme](http://gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-transformation-programme)