



Parent Partnership Service



The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Transformation Process

The way children who receive additional support for their learning in Wales is changing. New legislation including the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (ALNET) Act 2018, and the ALN Code will be implemented over a 3 year period, starting from 1 September 2021.

Who will these changes be affecting?

From 1 September 2021, the ALN system will commence for all children up to, and including, Year 10, **and** who are newly thought to have, or are newly identified as having, ALN on or after 1 September 2021, regardless of how their education is delivered. This is also referred to as emerging needs.

That is, children who do not have a statement of SEN, do not have Special Education Provision via early years action/early years action plus school action/school action plus nor are they involved in any SEN statement process.

The ALN system commences for these newly identified children regardless of how their education is delivered. This includes, for example, children who attend a maintained school, a PRU, an independent nursery, an independent school, an FEI or children who are electively home educated.

In addition, the ALN system will commence on 1 September 2021 for any child of compulsory school age who is detained.

From 1 January 2022, the ALN system will commence for children up to, and including, Year 10 who currently have Special Education Provision via school action/school action plus, attend a maintained school or a PRU **and** who are in Nursery Years 1 or 2, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 or Year 10. This includes children who are looked after and children who are registered at more than one setting.

The ALN Act will also come into force, on 1 January 2022, for some children who are new to the system. This group of children are those who had SEN, or who were involved in an SEN statement process, on 1 September 2021 but who did not have SEN, or were no longer involved in a SEN statement process, on 1 January 2022.



The Act comes into force for this group of children regardless of how their education is delivered.

What about children with a Statement?

This means that children who currently have special educational provision via a Statement of SEN, and those who are in any form of post-16 education, will **not be** included in the first year of implementation.

What does emerging needs mean?

Children who are 'newly' raised as possibly having Additional Learning Needs, can be described as having emerging needs. Parents as well as professionals can raise concerns about a child having ALN. Any children for whom ALN concerns are raised from September 2021 will be assessed and supported by the 'new' ALN system.

What about the SEN Code of Practice?

Over the ALN Transformation period, learners who are NOT included in the groups above AND who are already identified as having ALN, will **continue** to be supported by the existing legislation as set out in the Education Act and the SEN Code of Practice. This means that over the 3 year transformation period, the 2 sets of legislation will run 'side by side'. Therefore learners who have existing Statements, and who are not in the year groups identified above, and others, will continue to have their provision protected and supported by the SEN Code and the existing legislation.

The right to request an IDP notice.

Children or their parents, up to and including Year 10, who are early years action/early years action plus/school action/school action plus on 1 January 2022, who attend a maintained school or a PRU, and who are not looked after by the local authority or who are not registered at more than one setting, have a right to make a request, at any time, to the school or PRU that they move to the ALN system.

Children or their parents, can be make the request for an IDP notice either verbally or in writing.

Further information is available on the Welsh Government website
<https://gov.wales/additional-learning-needs-special-educational-needs>

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