

Moving to the additional learning needs (ALN) system: information for children



A new way of doing things

The Welsh Government has introduced new law and rules.

The law is called the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 (the ALN Act) and the new rules are explained in the [Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021 \(the ALN Code\)](#).

The new law and new rules are called the additional learning needs (ALN) system.

The ALN system is being put in place in a step-by-step way. This means that changes will not happen all at once. The changes will be done over 4 years. They started in September 2021 and will end for children in August 2025.



How things are changing

- People will stop saying special educational needs (SEN). They will start saying additional learning needs (ALN).
- Your school will now have an additional learning needs co-ordinator (ALNCo). Before the change, they were mostly known as special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCoS).
- The way people talk about the extra support you need to help you learn will now be called additional learning provision (ALP). Before the change it was called special education provision (SEP).
- You will have an individual development plan (IDP). This plan will say what extra help you need to learn. Before the change plans were called individual education plans (IEPs) and statements.



The new system

This video takes you through the new ALN system. You might find it useful to help you understand what is happening.

Additional Learning Needs An animation explaining the new system



When and how children with SEN will move to the ALN system

This will be done by your school. But for some children your local authority will do it. Your local authority is the organisation that looks after lots of things in your local area like services to support children with ALN.

Your school or local authority will let you know when you will move. They will also let you know how this will happen.

If you want to move to the ALN system before your school or local authority says, you can get in touch with them and ask them if it is possible to do this.

Most children will move onto the ALN system by a school or local authority giving you a notice.

There are two sorts of notices, an IDP notice or a No IDP notice.

An IDP notice means that it has been decided that you have ALN and an IDP will then be made.

A No IDP notice means that it has been decided that you do not have ALN. Sometimes, you might be given a No IDP notice because your needs have changed, and you no longer need extra help to learn.

For a few children, moving to the ALN system will happen in a different way. The local authority will explain how and when this will happen.



What if children disagree with decisions made about them?

Sometimes, you might not agree with what a school or local authority has decided. If this happens tell them straight away because most of the time, things can be sorted out by talking about it.

If you go to a school, speak to the school's additional learning needs co-ordinator (ALNCo). You, or your parents, should do this as soon as you have worries.

Working together will give everybody a chance to sort things out as quickly as possible.

If this has not worked, then you or your parent should talk to your local authority to ask them to help. Local authorities must work with you to help sort out things when you do not agree.

If you do not attend a school, then you can talk to the local authority about any concerns you have.



If you do not agree with some of the decisions made about you, you can appeal against certain things. An appeal is when you try and get a decision changed. You can ask the Education Tribunal for Wales to look at what you are unhappy about. The Education Tribunal for Wales is a special group of people whose job is to look at the decisions people in charge have made about you.

If you want more information about how to appeal against a decision you can talk to your local authority. They will explain how you can do this and help you.

