

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

October 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act (ALN ET 2018)

I am writing to tell you that your son/daughter has been identified as being in one of the mandated cohorts of 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.

The mandated cohorts are pupils who are in **Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7, Year 10 in the current academic year 21/22.**

Your child, who is in _____(insert year group) is expected to move to the new ALN system during the _____ term (insert Spring or Summer). Using a person-centred approach and in collaboration with your child, yourself and other appropriate professionals, the school or Pupil Referral Unit ('PRU') will consider the progress of your child. After taking into account advice and available information, the school or PRU will decide whether your child has an ALN within the meaning of the Act. Having reached its decision, the school or PRU will issue an 'IDP notice' or a 'no IDP notice'. It is the IDP notice, or the no IDP notice, that will move your child from the old Special Educational Needs ('SEN') system to the new ALN system.

If the school or PRU issues an IDP notice, they will work with you and your child to create an Individual Development Plan ('IDP'). An IDP is a legal document that focuses on what your child needs for them to reach their educational potential. The information provided in the IDP will be used to inform the Additional Learning Provision ('ALP'). The type of support outlined, and the detail within the plan, will depend on the extent of your child's ALN.

If the school or PRU issues a No IDP Notice, please rest assured that your child will receive the support they need in the classroom via reasonable adjustments and high quality differentiated learning. Your child's needs will also be monitored in case your child's needs change.

If you or your child are not happy with the decision, in the first instance, a discussion should take place with the school or PRU. If you are still dissatisfied, then you can consider talking to your Local Authority to seek further advice. If you are still unhappy, the Local Authority can point you towards SNAP Cymru, the region's ALN Information and Support Service, who offer free independent advice and support to parents, children and young people.

All children and their parents have the right to appeal to the Education Tribunal Wales against decisions.

At any point during implementation, from 1 January 2022, you or your child can ask to move to the ALN system earlier than had planned. This can be done by asking for an IDP notice to be issued. This request can be made either verbally or in writing.

If you would like any additional information or advice, please contact your child's ALN Co-ordinator. Please also be assured, that your Local Authority can also provide any advice or support as necessary.

Yours sincerely