



Development Through Care



Penyffordd Abermorddu Ysgol Derwenfa Ysgol Derwen Castell Alun Ysgol Estyn St John the Baptist Parc Y Llan

25<sup>th</sup> March, 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Welsh Government is introducing a new system of meeting the needs of children with special educational needs or disabilities. These changes will happen gradually over the next few years following the timeline below:

**December 2019** – Final ALN Code issued

**January 2020** – Implementation training on the new ALN Code rolled out

**September 2020** – The new ALN system goes live

**Summer 2023** – SEN/LDD system comes to an end

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act (ALNET) has been passed and will be supported by a new code. This sets out how the ideas from the act will work in practice. Therefore we would like to raise awareness of the key messages surrounding these changes which are outlined below:

**Key Messages:**

- The term Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will replace the terms Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD). Children with ALN will be supported through additional learning provision (ALP).
- The SENCos(Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)will now be called an ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator).
- The new code will cover 0 – 25 year olds which means further education colleges will now also be included (although not higher education or apprenticeships.)
- There will be an emphasis on high aspirations and improved outcomes for children and young people with ALN.
- The graduated system of school action, school action plus and statements is being replaced and all children who are identified as having ALN will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP). The IDP will replace IEPs, IBPs or IPPs.
- Most students' IDPs will be maintained by the school but those with more severe or complex ALN will be maintained by the Local Authority.
- There will be an increased participation from children, young people, parents and carers in the creation and maintenance of IDPs through Person Centered Planning.
- It is hoped that closer collaboration and working together in partnership should help to avoid disagreements.
- All reasonable steps will be taken to secure provision in Welsh if required.
- All children and young people who have an IDP will have an equal right to appeal to tribunal.

To read the draft code there is both a full version and an easy read version available by following this link:

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-additional-learning-needs-code>.

If you would like any additional information or advice please contact me at school, or you can contact SNAP Cymru who offer free, independent advice and support to parents by visiting: [www.snapcymru.org](http://www.snapcymru.org) or calling their helpline on: 0808 801 0608.

If you live in **Flintshire** you can also contact Parent Partnership Service, Citizens Advice Flintshire, who offer free, independent advice and support to parents by visiting: <http://flintshirecab.org.uk> or calling: 01352 706840.

Yours sincerely,