

Ysgol Cambrian is a specialist school supporting pupils aged **3–19** with a broad range of learning disabilities and complex needs. We are committed to ensuring that every child and young person receives the support, care and opportunities they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our school community is built on respect, inclusion, and high expectations, and we work closely with parents and carers to create an environment where all learners can develop their independence and confidence.

### **What Will the New ALN System Do?**

The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system in Wales aims to transform the way children and young people receive support. The purpose of the new approach is to ensure that:

- All learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers and reach their full potential.
- Planning and provision are delivered in a more consistent, person-centred way from ages **0–25**.
- Pupils' views, wishes and feelings are central to every decision and every stage of support.
- Needs are identified early so that timely interventions can be introduced and adapted as required.
- Families feel well-informed, included, and able to contribute meaningfully to the planning process.

The updated system aims to create a more transparent, fair and effective process, ensuring that every learner receives the right support at the right time.

### **Key Changes to Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Wales**

The ALN system replaces the previous Special Educational Needs (SEN) framework. The key changes include:

- The term **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)** replaces **Special Educational Needs (SEN)** to create consistency and reduce stigma.
- The system now covers children and young people aged **0–25**, ensuring continuity of support beyond school age when required.
- Statements of SEN, IEPs and other plans are replaced with a single, clear plan called an **Individual Development Plan (IDP)**.
- Local authorities have responsibility for preparing, maintaining and reviewing IDPs in most cases.
- There is a greater focus on working collaboratively with pupils and families, ensuring that learners are genuinely involved in discussions about their needs and aspirations.
- Families and young people now have the right to appeal decisions through the **ALN Tribunal** if they feel their needs are not being met appropriately.

This new approach aims to streamline support, reduce complexity and ensure a consistent level of provision across Wales.

### **Parent Partnerships**

At Ysgol Cambrian, we believe services work best when pupils, professionals and families work together. We value the input of parents and carers at every step and encourage open communication so that support is meaningful and effective.

### **Person-Centred Planning (PCP)**

During meetings we use person-centred approaches to ensure the pupil's voice is always present.

We explore:

1. What's important **to** the young person — their interests, preferences, relationships, hopes and goals.
2. What's important **for** them — the support and provision needed to keep them safe, healthy and achieving.
3. What's working well — strengths, progress and positive strategies.
4. What's not working — any concerns, barriers or challenges, and how things can be improved.

This approach helps us shape meaningful plans that reflect each learner's individuality.

### **What Will Be Included in an IDP?**

An **Individual Development Plan (IDP)** is designed to be a clear, legally enforceable document that outlines:

- The pupil's identified needs based on assessments, observations and professional input.
- Agreed outcomes that describe what the pupil is working towards — academically, socially, emotionally or in terms of life skills.
- The additional provision required to meet these needs, such as therapies, interventions, adaptations or specialist support.
- An action plan that sets out:
  - **How** the support will be delivered
  - **When** the support will take place
  - **Who** will deliver it (staff, therapists, external professionals)
  - **How progress will be measured**
- Review dates and success criteria to ensure the plan remains relevant and effective.

### Further Information & Support

If you would like more information about the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) process, our school departments, or any aspect of your child's support, you are welcome to contact us at any time. Our team is always here to help.

We aim to work in partnership with families to build a shared understanding of each learner's strengths, needs, aspirations, and the provision required to help them achieve success.

### Our Ethos

Ysgol Cambrian is working towards being a Rights Respecting School and a Healthy School.

#### Rights Respecting School

We follow the UNCRC and ensure pupils learn about their rights and the rights of others.

Key articles include:

- Article 12: Every child has the right to be heard
- Article 28: Every child has the right to an education
- Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities
- Article 42: Children have the right to know their rights

#### Healthy School

We promote physical, emotional and social wellbeing for pupils, families and staff

#### **School contact:**

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**X @ysgolcambrian**

# Parents/Carers' Guide to Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act

**“Growing Confidence, Celebrating  
Differences, Becoming Our Best”**

