



Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Policy

Policy reviewed: *Spring 2025*
Policy valid until: *Spring 2029*
Policy owned by: *The Headteacher*

Headteacher: _____

For and on behalf of the Governing Body: _____

Policy status

Statutory with review every 4 years, (reviewed by LA 27.03.2023).

Consultation

This policy was created in partnership with school staff and the governing body, representative staff, family members and children / young people. The policy reflects the statutory guidance set out in the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021.

Purpose and Mission Statement

- At Ysgol St George, we strive to provide a caring, Christian ethos where everyone in the school community feels safe, confident, respected and valued as individuals.
- By promoting an environment where everyone can live and work together supportively, all are enabled to reach their full potential, emotionally, socially and intellectually. The varying needs of all children are dealt with sensitively and effectively. We believe that each child receives a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum where self-esteem and confidence are enhanced and a positive attitude is developed.
- We are committed to the successful inclusion of pupils with Additional Learning Needs. At our school, every teacher is a teacher of all pupils, including those with ALN.
- We believe that every child is equal, valued and unique. We aim to provide an environment where all pupils feel safe and can flourish. We will respond to individuals in ways which take into account their varied life experiences and particular needs.
- We are committed to providing an education that enables all pupils to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives who make a successful transition into their next stage of education.

Definition of ALN

At Ysgol St George we use the definition of ALN from the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales 2021.

This states;

“Additional learning needs” (“ALN”) has the meaning given by section 2 of the Act, namely:

1. A person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision.
2. A child of compulsory school age or person over that age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she—
 - a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
 - b) has a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 (c. 15) which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities for education or training of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream maintained schools or mainstream institutions in the further education sector.
4. A person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language (or form of language) in which he or she is or will be taught is different from a language (or form of language) which is or has been used at home.

Objectives

- To develop effective whole school universal, targeted and additional learning provision
- To ensure a clear process for identifying, assessing, planning, providing, reviewing and evaluating for children and young people who have ALN with their family at the centre
- To provide a curriculum that is broad and balanced to engage all children and young people at all levels and to promote an inclusive culture of learning
- To ensure equality of provision for children and young people with ALN
- To enable children and young people with ALN to achieve their potential
- To ensure the family are fully engaged in decision making
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of child or young person
- To provide advice and support for all staff working with children and young people with ALN

Additional Learning Need Co-ordinator (ALNCo)

While all teachers and education staff at Ysgol St George are educators of children and young people with ALN, the ALNCo is the individual who at a strategic level ensures the needs of all learners with ALN within the education setting are met. The ALNCo has overall responsibility for ensuring that all learners who have ALN across the education setting have an IDP. ALNCo's identify a child or young person's ALN and ensure appropriate Additional Learning Provision (ALP) is in place to meet those needs.

The ALNCo at Ysgol St George is Cathy Leary

The provision for children with ALN is a matter for the school as a whole

Every teacher is a teacher of children and young people with additional learning needs. Teaching all children and young people is therefore a whole school responsibility. We adopt a "high-quality teaching" approach. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to children and young people who have or may have ALN. The key characteristics of high-quality teaching are:

- A broad, balanced and relevant curriculum with high engagement of children and young people
- High quality teaching that is differentiated
- High expectations of every child and young person
- Appropriate use of teacher questioning, modelling and explaining

Assess, Plan and Do

Where it is decided to provide a child or young person with provision, we will talk to the family. We will agree what adjustments, interventions and support will be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, along with a clear date for review. The class teacher will remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis.

Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the child or young person's progress will be reviewed on the agreed date. The class teacher or subject teacher, working with the ALNCo, will revise the support in light of the child or young person's progress. If a child or young person does not make expected progress over a sustained period of time school will seek specialist expertise. This will inform future provision. School liaises with the relevant education, health or family services, for example; Inclusion and Educational Psychology Service, CAMHS and Neurodevelopmental Service, Speech and Language Service.

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

A child or young person identified as having ALN will have a statutory plan called an Individual Development Plan prepared. An Individual Development Plan or "IDP" is a document that contains a description of a person's ALN and a description of the ALP which the person's learning difficulty or disability calls for.

Reviewing children or young people's needs

Formal review meetings of the IDP will take place at least annually, where families and the child or young person will be involved in reviewing progress and setting new outcomes. Class teachers are responsible for gathering evidence in relation to outcomes and provision described in the child or young person's IDP.

Partnership with Families

At Ysgol St George, the child or young person is at the centre of everything we do and we will work with families to achieve the best outcomes for their child or young person. Our school is committed to establishing and maintaining good working relationships with the families of all our children and young people and recognises the importance of a partnership between home and school. Parents/Carers are kept informed of their child or young person's progress and are encouraged to play an active part in their learning and support the implementation of the actions and outcomes outlined in the IDP. Families are encouraged to be fully involved in the review process. The family and child or young person are encouraged to provide feedback, share views and raise any concerns before a meeting. In addition to this, there will also be the opportunity to discuss and check understanding of all information and advice that has been gathered for the review.

Complaints Procedure

Initially an attempt will be made to resolve a complaint about ALN provision at school level. Parents/Carers who are dissatisfied with the school's provision for additional learning needs should in the first instance report this to the class teacher - if they remain dissatisfied, they should make an appointment to see the ALNCo/Headteacher. Should this fail to resolve the problem, the matter can be reported to the school's Governor for additional learning needs, who may be contacted through the School Office. If parents/carers are still not happy after using the school's complaints procedure, parents/carers should contact the Local Authority for advice, support and information. School will inform parents/carers of the local authority's commissioned independent disagreement resolution service.

Child or Young Person Participation

The views, wishes and feelings of all children and young people are valued. Children and young people with ALN are supported to be involved in decision making and to be able to express any concerns. The child or young person's contribution to the process is important to ensure that their needs are correctly identified. Whether a child has capacity or not, they can still make significant contributions when decisions are being made about their ALN.

Supporting children with a medical condition

Each case will be discussed on an individual basis to ensure appropriate and personalised care is in place. Healthcare Plans will be put in place where appropriate, please see separate Healthcare Needs Policy. Where a child or young person also has ALN, their provision will be planned and delivered in a coordinated way with their healthcare plan.

Staff development

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all children and young people, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development. The Senior Leadership Team reviews the training needs of staff through Performance Management to plan appropriate CPD in relation to ALN. The ALNCo ensures staff are informed of local and national developments in relation to ALN and Inclusion. Where appropriate, specialists are used to deliver the training.

Monitoring and Evaluating ALN

Provision for children and young people with ALN is a matter for the school as a whole. The governors, in consultation with the Headteacher, has a legal responsibility for determining the policy and provision for pupils with ALN.

Admission Arrangements

Please refer to the information contained in the school's Admissions Policy which can be accessed on the school website. The admission arrangements for all children and young people are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children and young people with any level of ALN.

Transition Arrangements

Transition is carefully planned in order to ensure successful transition both within school and from setting/school to setting/school. Children and young people alongside parents/carers will be fully involved in the planning for the transfer to the new setting. Key information about ALN provision will be shared with the next school / setting through the review process.

Children in Care / Children Looked After

The ALNCo and designated teacher meet on a half termly basis to ensure that arrangements are in place for supporting children and young people that are looked after who also have ALN.

The CLA Co-ordinator at Ysgol St George is Sian Wilkinson

Roles and Responsibilities

Governors will ensure that;

- the necessary provision is made for any child or young person with ALN
- all staff are aware of the need to identify and provide for child or young person with ALN
- children or young people with ALN join in school activities alongside their peers, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with their needs
- parents/carers are involved with any decisions regarding additional learning provision for their child or young person
- they are fully informed about ALN issues, so that they can play a major part in school self-review
- they meet termly with the ALNCo
- the ALN Policy is subject to a yearly cycle of monitoring, evaluation and review by the ALN governor and approval by the Full Governing Body

The ALN governor at Ysgol St George is James Sheldon

The Headteacher is responsible for;

- the management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for children and young people with ALN
- keeping the governing body informed about ALN issues
- working closely with the ALNCo

The Headteacher, Sian Wilkinson, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school

The ALNCo is responsible for;

- promoting a child or young person's inclusion in the school and access to that school curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities
- advising teachers at the school about differentiated teaching methods appropriate for children and young people with ALN
- working with the head teacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- the strategic co-ordination of ALN resources, such as in deploying and supporting staff and working with colleagues on the senior leadership team to plan and decide on the appropriate resources required to support staff within the setting
- contributing to in-service training for teachers at the school
- supervise and arrange for the training of learning support workers who work with children and young people with ALN
- monitoring the effectiveness of any ALP
- ensuring IDPs are developed and reviewed
- keeping records of decisions about ALN and IDPs
- liaising with specialist services and securing them when there is agreement to provide such services
- acting as the key point of contact with the relevant local authority's inclusion and support services
- liaising closely with parents of children and young people with ALN
- overseeing the appropriate transfer of information between education settings about the learner's ALN and ALP

Classteachers are responsible for;

- the day-to-day process of supporting every learner with ALN
- providing high quality differentiated teaching for all children and young people
- setting high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge children and young people
- assessing children and young people's needs and planning reasonable adjustments, interventions and provision to match the outcomes identified for them
- regularly reviewing the impact/effectiveness of the reasonable adjustments, interventions and provision in place
- making themselves aware of the school's procedures for identification, monitoring and supporting children and young people with ALN
- managing behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment

This policy is available on the school website, and in translation, on request.