

A Guide to identifying **ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)**



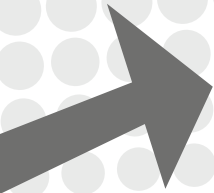
Cardiff Local Authority actively encourages partnership working between learners, parents, school, settings and professionals.





a **CHILD** means a person not over compulsory school age

a **YOUNG PERSON** means a person over compulsory school age, but under 25



Many children and young people are likely at some point to experience some short-term difficulties with their learning, for example because of a period of absence from an education setting caused by a temporary illness, bereavement, or some other trauma.

In these circumstances schools and Further Education Institutes (FEIs) may need to take action to help the child or young person catch up and/ or to prevent the issue from escalating. These situations would not ordinarily amount to ALN on their own.

Those children and young people who are considered 'more able and talented' do not have a difficult in learning on the basis of their enhanced ability or talent. These learners may require enhanced opportunities and challenge in order to reach their full potential, but this should be provided as part of differentiated teaching.



The Additional Learning Needs (ALN) code gives a clear definition of ALN for children of compulsory school age and young people. To establish whether a child or young people has Additional Learning Needs (ALN) two tests must be applied. These tests are explained further on the opposite page.

Every school in Cardiff offers comprehensive provision at a universal and targeted level that can help children with their needs. If you have any questions regarding ALN or provision in your school, please talk to your class teacher or the schools' Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo).

Healthcare Needs

Not all children and people with a medical condition will have ALN. If the learner requires treatment or a medical procedure in school, they may require an Individual Healthcare Plan (See leaflet 11).




THE TWO TESTS

Test one: Does the child or young person have a learning difficulty or disability?


The school and local authority will consider these key questions when they are making a decision:

- Does the child or young person have a greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age?
- Does the child or young person have a disability (within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010) which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities for education or training of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in a mainstream maintained school or mainstream Further Education Institute (FEI).




If the answer to either question is **YES**, it is necessary to apply the second test. If the answer is **NO** to both questions, the child or young person does not have ALN.

Test Two: Does the learning difficulty or disability call for ALP?

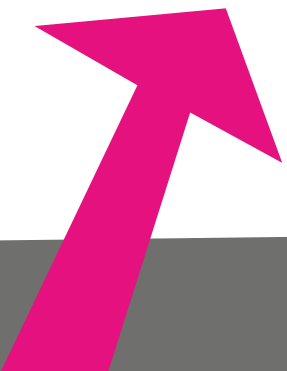


The second test is whether the child or young person's learning difficulty or disability calls for ALP. ALP can take many forms; it might include any support that takes place inside or outside the mainstream classroom, where it is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age. ALP might also be delivered in settings outside of the school or FEI in some circumstances and/or by external professionals.

If the child or young person has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for ALP, the child or young person has ALN for the purposes of the Act.



If the answer to both questions is **YES**, the learner has ALN and therefore requires an Individual Development Plan (IDP).



Not all children and young people who have a disability will have ALN.

There are a wide range of learning difficulties or disabilities , which can be broadly classified into the following four areas:

- Communication and Interaction;
- Cognition and Learning;
- Behaviour, Emotional and social development;
- Sensory and/ or physical.



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 used at home.

For more information or help around any matters relating to ALN, please speak to your school's Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) in the first instance.

Following this, If you still have question or require further help you can contact the Local Authority's ALN Help and Advice line on;
Tel: 02920 872 731
Or
Email: ALNHelpline@cardiff.gov.uk
The helpline is monitored Monday to Friday, including school holidays.

If you need additional help and support around Additional Learning Needs, it can be sought from an advocate. An advocate is someone who will attend meetings with you and speak on your behalf. If you need a professional advocate, you can contact SNAP Cymru, a national charity working across Cardiff that offers free and independent information, advice and support for parents of children and young people who have/or may have additional learning needs. Please visit www.snapcymru.org for more information or you can contact them on; Tel: 0808 8010608