

# **Ysgol Gynradd Porthcawl**

## **Primary School**



# **Additional Learning Needs Policy**

The UN Convention on the Rights of the child, Article 29 states that “You have the right to be the best that you can be”

## Introduction

A Policy for children with ALN must involve the whole school staff and reflect the vision and values of Porthcawl Primary School. The current policy has been written in response to the new ALNET Act for Wales and should be seen as part of a process of change.

In line with the Additional Learning Needs Code, our Additional Learning Needs policy has been developed through a whole school approach to ensure that children with ALN are consistently identified provided for and monitored, and that staff, parents and governors are aware of the current policy and can play an active part in its development. It seeks to provide a clear and consistent baseline for the development of an effective education programme, building on existing good practice, to meet the needs of children experiencing learning difficulties.

The Additional Learning Needs Policy is not an isolated document but is contained within existing school policies and is complementary to them. At the heart of the work of every class lies a cycle of planning, teaching and assessment. These arrangements take account of the wide range of abilities and interests that children bring to school and the majority of children will learn and progress within these arrangements. Those who have difficulty in doing so may have additional learning needs.

Principles underpinning the ALN system aim to support the creation of a fully inclusive education system where all learners are given the opportunity to succeed and have access to an education that meets their needs and enables them to participate in, benefit from, and enjoy learning.

To establish whether a child of compulsory school age or young person has ALN, the following definitions, taken from the ALN Code, must be addressed:

A child of compulsory school age or a person over that age has a learning difficulty or disability if:

they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age

Or

they have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities for education of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

A person does not have a learning difficulty or disability solely because the language in which they will be taught is different from the language used at home.

A child or young person would not have ALN if their lack of progress or difficulties can be addressed through differentiated teaching. Teaching which recognises and responds to the needs of individual learners is a key component of all high-quality education; most children and young people will require a differentiated approach in some aspect of their education at some point. A child or young person would not have ALN if they receive support through universal provision.

Porthcawl Primary School adopts the fundamental principles outlined in the code of practice for Wales:

The additional needs of children will normally be met in mainstream school settings. The views of the child should be sought and taken in to account. Parents have a vital role to play in supporting their child's education. Children with additional learning needs should be offered full access to a broad, balanced and relevant education, based on the current curriculum.

All schools should 'recognise and respond to the diverse needs of their pupils, while also having a continuum of support and services to match those needs'; and wherever possible all children should learn together.

### Aims and Objectives

- To ensure that the statutory and non-statutory parts of the ALNET Act for Wales are implemented at Porthcawl Primary School.
- To ensure children with ALN are included within the mainstream classroom wherever possible
- To ensure that all children have access to a relevant broad and balanced education, differentiated by their teachers to meet their individual needs
- To ensure the responsibility for educating children with ALN lies with the whole staff.
- To ensure that Additional Learning Needs are identified and assessed as early as possible
- To ensure pupils' needs are met as soon as is practicable
- To work in close partnership with parents/carers and encourage pupil participation
- To work proactively with the LA and other agencies in identifying, assessing and meeting additional learning needs.
- To maintain and develop a range of expertise within the school
- To monitor, review and evaluate policy and provision on a regular and

systematic basis.

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## Individual Development Plan's (IDPs)

The new ALNET code of practice will use the Person- centred approach to develop an Individual Development Plan (IDP) for pupils who have been identified by the school as having additional learning needs

All children and young people with ALN will have the same plan, regardless of how severe their need is.

IDPs will replace:

- Statements of Special Educational Needs
- Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

Learners identified as having additional learning needs will require additional learning provision 'educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in mainstream maintained schools in Wales' (ALN Code).

Learners receiving support through universal provision will not be considered as having additional learning needs, however their progress will be monitored and reviewed and early action taken when appropriate.

## Inclusion

Here at Porthcawl Primary School we recognise that all learners are unique and display a range of abilities and talents. Therefore, we aim to provide a curriculum that is inclusive to each pupils' individual learning requirements and value the success of all our children. Work is sufficiently planned, differentiated and supported to enable all learners to challenge their thinking and skills in a respectful environment.

## Equal Opportunities

At Porthcawl Primary School we aim to ensure equal access and experience to all areas of the curriculum regardless of ethnic, cultural origin, gender or ability. We will endeavour to provide opportunities pupils towards activities in which they can succeed.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator (ALNCO) is Mrs Jennifer Blackmore, who has overall responsibility and will carry out the role as defined within the ALN code. The progress of children, including those who are identified as having additional learning needs, is also the responsibility of the class teacher. Where there are any

concerns about the progress of a child, or about the provision that should be made, the class teacher will complete a graduated response and share these concerns with the ALNCo, who will work in partnership with classroom staff and specialist services to offer advice and support.