



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

23 March 2022

Dear colleagues,

I am immensely grateful for the way those supporting children and young people with SEN in Wales have worked together during the pandemic and have engaged with Welsh Government officials to ensure a smooth transition from the special educational needs (SEN) system to the additional learning needs (ALN) system.

Through regular dialogue with you, and other key partners, we have listened carefully over recent months, as has the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, to your concerns regarding the continued disruptive impact of the pandemic and its impact on moving children from the SEN system to the ALN system. It is important that schools, pupil referral units (PRUs) and local authorities have the time to undertake the ALN process in a person-centred way – putting the views of children and their families at the centre of the decision-making process.

To ensure that schools, PRUs and local authorities have the necessary time to move children from the SEN system to the ALN system, the Minister has today [announced his decision to extend the time available to move children during the first year of implementation by one year](#).

This means that children who were due to move to the ALN system between January 2022 and August 2022, will now move to the ALN system between January 2022 and August 2023. This extension will be accommodated within the existing three year timeframe.

There is now a clear plan for which year groups of children with statements, school action, school action plus, and early years equivalents will move from the SEN to the ALN system. We have made this plan to create more space for you to apply a person-centred, multi-agency approach.

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

[Address]

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre  
0300 0604400

**School year 2022/23**

- **children with provision via school action/school action plus:** Year 10 (and any children who were in Nursery, Year 1, Year 3, Year 5, Year 7 and Year 10 in 2021/22 who were not moved to the ALN system during 2021/22)
- **children with provision via statements:** Nursery, Reception, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 11.

**School year 2023/24**

- **children with provision via school action/school action plus:** Nursery, year 2, Year 4, Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10.
- **children with provision via statements:** Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5, Year 6, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10.

I know that by working together, we can ensure that children with SEN experience a smooth transition to the ALN system and receive the support they need to thrive in their education. I would be grateful if you could share and disseminate this information across your partner organisations.

Thank you once again for the incredibly important work you are doing to support our most vulnerable learners through what has been an exceptionally difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Owain Lloyd - Director of Education and the Welsh Language

