

Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr Additional Learning Needs Policy

This policy is based on the City and County of Swansea's ALN policy and the principles in this policy are supported and reinforced by the general ALN aims and arrangements in place at Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr. The policy reflects Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child - the right to be the best that you can be.

1. Definition

Children are defined as having additional learning needs (ALN) if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Children have a learning difficulty if they:

- a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or
- b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority;
- c) if they are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them.

Special educational provision means:-

- a) for children of two or over, educational provision which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for children of their age in schools maintained by the Local Authority, other than special schools, in the area
- b) for children under two, educational provision of any kind.

(Education Act 1996, Section 312).

The 2002 Code of Practice refers to needs in the following areas:

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- behaviour, emotional and social development
- sensory and/or physical needs

(Section 7: Statutory Assessment of Special Educational Needs)

2. Aim

The school aims to ensure that all pupils are equally valued and to achieve this the school accepts that all individuals should have the opportunity to partake of a varied, balanced and differentiated curriculum, whatever their special educational needs may be, and to develop to the best of their ability within this curriculum. This policy is based on the principle of inclusion and is reinforced by the school's inclusion policy.

In order to achieve this the school will:

- i) integrate pupils to ensure mixed ability classes in year 7, and encourage the use of appropriately differentiated tasks where necessary and wherever possible.
- ii) from year 8 onwards, establish a procedure that enables pupils with difficulties to have the attention and support that they deserve, and to work at a suitable pace to enable them to achieve their potential.
- iii) employ specialist assistants for literacy and numeracy, in order to work with individuals and small groups to support their specific difficulties.
- iv) employ an Additional Learning Needs Coordinator who will
 - provide information, advice and training for teachers on specific pupils with various educational difficulties (please see the guidance on Various Difficulties).
 - evaluate the educational experiences of pupils with learning difficulties and monitor the school's provision in this respect.
 - be a link between the children, parents, school and all specialist professionals/agencies.
 - arrange the Individual Education Plan system.
 - Prepare the school for the new system entailed by the introduction of the new Additional Learning Needs Act from 2021 onwards.
- v) maintain assessment tools across the curriculum that recognise strengths and weaknesses of pupils with special educational needs, track the progress of those pupils and set appropriate targets in order to promote further development.
- vi) recognise that the individual pupil has a voice in discussing his/her educational needs.
- vii) accept that all teachers are teachers of ALN and all members of staff have a vital contribution to make to the education of ALN pupils at the school.

For specific details of arrangements within the ALN Department, assessment tools, alternative provision, Individual Education Plans; partnerships with external agencies, please see the ALN Handbook.

3. The Special Educational Needs Unit

The SEN Unit was opened at the school in September 2009. This unit provides for a maximum of nine pupils with General Learning Difficulties. The unit (Y Tŷ) aims to offer specific, specialist provision to the pupils in a quiet, homely environment, whilst promoting pupils' confidence and independence.

The unit has a strong integration policy, and pupils at the Unit (Y Tŷ) are given every opportunity to attend mainstream lessons and activities.

Please see the ALU handbook for further information about the curriculum, assessment, IEPs and collaboration with other agencies.

(Reviewed: November 2019)