



Changing the information we collect about children and young people with additional learning needs

We want to know what you think



How to use this document



This is an Easy Read version of: **Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Data Consultation.**



You might need help to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

Website: www.gov.wales/data-monitor-additional-learning-needs-aln-system

Email: SchoolDataCollectionsConsultation@gov.wales



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

About this consultation

We are the Welsh Government.



This is a consultation. A consultation is when we ask people for their views so they can have a say.



This consultation is on the information we collect about ALN.



ALN stands for Additional Learning Needs.



This includes collecting information about:

- children and young people with ALN
- schools



We collect information from schools and councils about many different things.

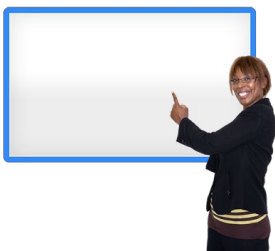


Councils means local government - the people who run services in your area.

We must collect this information by law. The information we collect is used to:



- help children and young people get better support



- help schools and councils to do their jobs well



- plan for the future - for example, where to spend money and how to help more children and young people



- make sure everyone knows what is happening



- spot problems early - by looking at the information, we can see if something needs to be changed



We need to change the information we collect about ALN.



Why do we need to make changes?



We have been changing the system we use to support children and young people with ALN.



The old system was called special educational needs or SEN for short.



We have been making changes over the past few years.



SEN was the old name for what we now call Additional Learning Needs - ALN.



The ALN system is fully in place from September 2025.



The ALN system supports children and young people aged 0 to 25 in Wales with ALN.



ALN means some children and young people need extra help to learn because of certain needs. For example:

- they may find it hard to talk, listen, or understand others
- they may find it hard to learn, remember, or understand information
- they may struggle with feelings, behaviour, or getting along with others
- they may have difficulties with hearing, seeing, moving, or using learning spaces



The aim of the ALN system is to make sure all children and young people with ALN are given the support they need to do well.



We need to change the information we collect to help us make sure the system works well.



We would like to know what you think.



What this consultation covers

This consultation is about the information we collect from schools, pupil referral units and councils each year.



Consultation means asking for your views.



This includes different schools and places where children and young people learn.



We already collect some information about:



- whether a child or young person has a support plan called an Individual Development Plan (IDP). These describe what help and support a child or young person with ALN has



- the kind of needs children and young people with ALN have



- staff who provide support to children or young people with ALN



We want your views on the new information we are thinking about collecting.

What new information might be collected

Information we might collect about a child or young person's support:



- whether a school or council has decided in the last year if a child or young person has ALN



- if a child or young person who lives in England but goes to school in Wales receives support for their ALN



- what kind of needs a child or young person has (like help with talking, learning, behaviour or physical needs)



- if a child or young person gets help from health services, like speech and language therapy or psychology support



- whether a child or young person needs help in Welsh and if they are getting it



- whether a child or young person spends time in a special class in a mainstream school. Mainstream schools provide education for students of all abilities



Information we might collect about schools:



- how many special classes a mainstream school has



- how many children or young people get help in special classes



- the jobs Additional Learning Needs Coordinators do. We call them ALNCoS for short. ALNCoS help to support ALN learners in schools



- how quickly schools or councils make decisions about children or young people's needs and the help they will need to have



- how often children or young people's IDPs are reviewed

This information helps:



- schools plan the right support for children and young people



- check if the ALN system is working well



- make sure children and young people get help quickly



- see if children and young people can get support in Welsh when they need it



We will make sure the changes we make do not put extra pressure on school staff.

A child or young person's privacy and rights



All information is kept safe and secure.



When reports are published, no one can tell which children **or young people** the information is about.



Published means shared with the public.



We follow UK Data Protection laws when collecting information.



More information about the data we collect about children and young people in schools, what we do with it and why, can be seen in our [Privacy notice](#).

How to tell us what you think



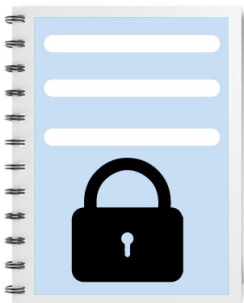
Please send us your answers by **Wednesday 3 December 2025**.



You can answer the questions in this form and email it to: schooldatacollectionsconsultation@gov.wales



You can write to us at:
ALN Policy Team
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ



Please ask us if you want Easy Read information about how we use your personal information.

Questions

Question 1: On pages 11 and 12 we talk about information we might collect about a child or young person's support:



- whether a school or council has decided in the last year if a child or young person has ALN



- if a child or young person who lives in England but goes to school in Wales receives support for their ALN

- what kind of needs a child or young person has (like help with talking, learning, behaviour or physical needs)



- if a child or young person gets help from health services

- whether a child or young person needs help in Welsh and if they are getting it



- whether a child or young person spends time in a special class in a mainstream school



Do you have any comments about information we might collect about a child or young person's support?

Question 2: On page 13 we talk about information we might collect about schools:



- how many special classes a school has
- how many children and young people get help in special classes



- the jobs ALNCoS do
- how quickly schools or councils make decisions about children or young people's needs and the help they will need to have



- how often children or young people's IDPs are reviewed



**Do you have any comments about
information we might collect about schools?**



Question 3: Is there any other information you think we need to collect to:

- help improve support for children and young people with ALN?
- better understand how well the ALN system is working?