



Pupils with special educational needs in mainstream schools – a good practice report.

<p>Report title:</p> <p>Pupils with special educational needs in mainstream schools – a good practice report.</p>
<p>Report details</p> <p>The report was commissioned by the Welsh Government Education Directorate to review effective provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) in maintained primary, secondary and all-age schools under the current statutory framework and the arrangements set out in the SEN Code of Practice for Wales.</p>
<p>Summary of main findings</p> <p>Effective support for pupils with SEN In most of the schools that Estyn visited, they found that staff used a wide range of approaches to ensure they identified pupils' needs at an early stage. It was found that the schools most successful in ensuring specialist support was in place were those that advocated strongly for their pupils and provided robust challenge when the support provided did not meet pupils' needs.</p> <p>Engaging with others to support pupils with SEN The report sets out that in many of the schools Estyn visited, the monitoring of progress for pupils with SEN was based on a shared understanding of pupils' wellbeing and what was important to each child. In these schools, Estyn found that staff carefully considered the tracking of pupils' progress in areas such as behaviour, attendance and progress made towards Individual Educational Plan (IEP) targets. This provided staff with a more complete view of the pupils' progress.</p> <p>Effective leadership for SEN In nearly all the schools Estyn visited, it was found that senior leaders established a highly inclusive vision and ethos that set high aspirations for all pupils, whatever their abilities and needs. Estyn found that in most of the schools they visited, leaders provided well-planned specialist training for staff to support pupils with SEN.</p>
<p>The Welsh Government should:</p> <p>R5 - Assist schools and local authorities during the implementation of new statutory arrangements to support pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</p> <p>Accept – Implementation of the new ALN system will commence on a phased basis from September 2021, with the statutory roles created under the</p>

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Wales Act 2018 commencing in January 2021.

The Act is part of the ALN transformation programme which is already underway. We have committed a £20 million package of investment for the ALN transformation programme over the course of this Assembly.

Our ALN transformation leads provide advice, support and challenge to local authorities, schools, early years settings and further education institutions as they prepare for implementation of the new ALN system.

A significant proportion of the ALN transformation funding will be used to support activity to develop the skills of the education workforce to help build capacity within the system and improve outcomes for learners. Alongside a professional learning offer for all teachers, we are developing a specific professional learning offer for Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinators (ALNCos) who will provide a strategic leadership role and be the first port of call for professional ALN advice and guidance in schools and colleges.

The report sets out the following recommendations for schools and local authorities:

Schools should:

R1 Improve the quality of targets in pupils' IEPs to promote pupils' progress in learning and independence.

R2 Ensure self-evaluation arrangements give more attention to the progress pupils with SEN make in relation to their needs, abilities and individual starting points.

Local authorities should:

R3 Support schools to access the external specialist services they need to promote the wellbeing and progress of pupils with SEN.

R4 Promote partnership working between special schools and other maintained schools in the local authority.

The Education Directorate's Support for Learners Division will write to local authorities to draw their attention to the recommendations placed on them and on schools by this report.

Publication details.

The report was published on 23 January and can be found on Estyn's website: <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/>

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



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