



Flintshire County Council Principles of Inclusion

- ✚ Flintshire County Council is committed to a policy of inclusion for everyone, with a drive for the ongoing development of inclusive cultures and communities in and around our schools to ensure all children and young people have access to high quality education which supports them to ultimately become active citizens.
- ✚ As a Council, we are committed to supporting and delivering the principles underpinning the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) system as described in Chapter 3 of The Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales, 2021. We recognise the importance and relevance of the Rights of Children and Young Persons (Wales) Measure 2011, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) across all areas of our work.
- ✚ We recognise that the child/young person's needs and wishes are of paramount importance and that early intervention is a key to providing relevant strategies and interventions to support individuals to develop, progress and achieve their desired outcomes.
- ✚ We believe there is a collective responsibility to maximise the educational opportunities of all Flintshire children and young people who are identified as having ALN. Barriers should be identified and removed, enabling all learners to participate and benefit from learning, each building on their particular areas of strength.
- ✚ We have a culture of high expectations of ourselves, our schools, children and young people and offer a broad continuum of provision for children with ALN. This continuum will be reviewed to ensure that it is responsive to the nature and extent of ALN experienced by our children and young people.
- ✚ The Council has a strong commitment to supporting access to Welsh medium education for all through its school network and also the availability of appropriate support services for children and young people with ALN, commissioning these where necessary.
- ✚ Person-centred practice is an important, integral part of our approach and as such, will be embedded across all services and settings to ensure the views, wishes and feelings of children, their parents and young people are at the heart of decision making and planning. The Council and its maintained settings will continue to work closely with parents, children and educational staff to ensure all children, parents, young people and staff feel equally valued.

- ✦ The Council recognises the importance of, and positive impact of collaboration and multi-agency working. Support and consideration will be given to facilitate effective participation and collaboration of all parties including providing access to information, advice and advocacy to support the full participation and engagement of children, young people and parents in processes and services relating to ALN.
- ✦ We will work collaboratively with schools to proactively promote parent knowledge and understanding of ALN system, including funding mechanisms, to enable parents to make informed choices and support their contribution to person-centred practices.
- ✦ The vast/greater majority of Flintshire children and young people will have their educational needs and ALN identified, met and monitored within mainstream schools or local further education institutes (FEIs). This will be through differentiation and access to appropriate strategies and targeted interventions within a universal offer of high quality education. Most children and young people with ALN will therefore have their Individual Development Plan (IDP) prepared and maintained by the school or FEI.
- ✦ The Council is committed to securing the best outcomes for all children and will take all reasonable steps to secure additional learning provision in Welsh, where required.
- ✦ Settings should make full use of the Flintshire ALN Toolkit, when planning and making provision for children and young people with ALN. Parents should be made aware of the Toolkit and its purpose to facilitate their engagement and understanding of the provision to be made for their child.
- ✦ The Council is in agreement with the principle of children attending their local school and becoming an integral part of their community. To facilitate and support this, funding for ALN is delegated to all maintained settings. It is the expectation of the Council that the ALP required to meet the majority of individual needs will be met through the delegated budgets which includes the provision of specialist Resource centres and specialist schools & Pupil Referral Units.
- ✦ Given the school budget formula and model of delegation for ALN, schools are normally expected to meet the staffing requirements of pupils with ALN. In cases where an individual's needs are significant, necessitating a high level of targeted, highly specialist intervention, e.g. specific therapeutic intervention not reasonably provided by an educational setting, then consideration will be made to provide additional funding to support the school to deliver.

- ✦ Settings are expected to provide access to IT equipment such as laptops, iPads etc in response to individual needs. Schools or the Council will be expected to purchase other specialist equipment in line with the Council's policy.
- ✦ All placements in Flintshire maintained specialist provision are determined by the Council's ALN Decision Panel following IDP consideration/reconsideration. In most circumstances, Flintshire County Council will prepare the IDP for these learners and direct the school to maintain the IDP.
- ✦ Placements in independent specialist settings are also agreed/commissioned by the Council and schools are not required to contribute funding towards these; a budget to fund provision in specialist settings not maintained by Flintshire is retained centrally.
- ✦ Flintshire County Council will prepare and maintain IDPs for children and young people with ALN who are Looked After, Dual registered, placed in a specialist Independent setting.
- ✦ The council retains a central budget to fund a range of specialist services to support children and young people with a range of individual needs including ALN. These are free at point of access to all Flintshire maintained settings. The extent and duration of advice is particular to each service area and also the individual's needs. Additional information on services is available on the Flintshire County Council Hwb pages.