

Ysgol Gynradd **Llanidloes** Primary School

# Additional Learning Needs Policy



This policy was adopted on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chair of Governors)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher)

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Objectives**

Our school aims to ensure that all pupils thrive, developing to their full potential socially, emotionally and intellectually. We aim to help every pupil develop their self-esteem with a sense of responsibility for themselves and towards others.

It has been estimated that nationally 20% of the school population will have Additional Learning Needs (ALN) at some time during their school career. Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes adopts an inclusive policy. Thus all pupils with ALN are members of the whole school community in every respect with all staff accepting responsibility for all pupils and a commitment to raising standards in basic skills of literacy and numeracy.

The Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCo) has responsibility for coordinating ALN provision within the school and for the day-to-day operation of the ALN policy.

*The ALNCo is Miss Ruth Davies.*

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for ALN provision within the school. Information relating to ALN is reported to the full Governing Body as part of the headteacher's report.

## **Admission arrangements**

The school's admission limit is 39 per year group (38 from Sept 2020). In line with the LA's admission policy the school has adopted the following criteria in order of priority:

- i. the presence of an older sibling in the school when the home remains in the allocation area of the school which applied in the year the elder child was first admitted;
- ii. the location of the home in relation to the school and alternative schools;
- iii. any special medical and social needs relating to the individual child;
- iv. the presence of a sibling at the school when the family home is not in the original or current allocation area for the school.

The school supports the LA's principle of meeting parental preferences wherever and whenever possible although it is recognised that it may not be possible to comply with all parental requests.

However, no child will be refused admission on grounds of any additional learning needs.

The Appeals procedure allows parents whose children are not granted a place at our school to appeal through the LA's official procedures.

## **Specialist Centre**

There is a Specialist Centre at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes which has provision for the equivalent of 12 full time pupils. The nature and level of the support provided is decided according to individual need, which varies widely. The Specialist Centre is staffed, managed and resourced through a partnership involving the LA, headteacher and the Governing Body. The Management Panel of the Specialist Centre consists of the Area Educational Psychologist, headteacher and the teacher in charge of the Specialist Centre. The Management Panel meets termly with the remit to:

- ensure acceptance against criteria for placement;
- prepare an appropriate programme for the child i.e. multi-agency assessment prior to consideration for appropriate pathway for future education; and
- approve referrals made in exceptional circumstances.

The Specialist Centre teacher is Mr Tony Costall. The Teaching Assistants (TAs) attached to the Specialist Centre are Miss Donna Williams (0.8) and Mrs Jane Hilliard (0.2).

Pupils at Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes, including those attached to the Specialist Centre are usually members of a mainstream class and spend at least part of each day there under the care of their class teacher. A Specialist Centre TA may support these pupils for part of their day. Where it is in the best interest of a child to be based entirely in the Specialist Centre then the school will take advice from the Educational Psychologist and make arrangements accordingly.

TAs provide support for named individuals in mainstream classes. Such provision is determined by the LA for a specific number of hours per week and funded by the LA directly.

## **Medical Room**

The school has a medical room containing a shower and toilet with wheelchair access.

The school is on one level with ramps for wheelchair access. The staff room which is on the first floor is accessible only by stairs.

## **Teaching Assistants**

The school receives a delegated ALN budget from the LA based on an annual audit of the number of pupils on the ALN register, the nature of their difficulties and the provision made in order to meet them.

This funding is used to pay for teaching assistants to support pupils with ALN. They provide extra help for children in a range of ways including individual and small group support. They also deliver specialised learning programmes.

## **Early identification and identification of need**

Early identification is important so that the class teacher can give appropriate support. This early intervention helps to maintain the child's access to the National Curriculum. Pupils are identified by the class teacher's observation, expression of concern by parents and information from any outside agencies or previous schools who have been involved with the child. This is supported by a range of screening and assessments carried out with all pupils from Nursery to Year 6.

The class teacher discusses the concern with the ALNCo. Parents are involved in discussions if this has not already been done and the ALN staff may make further observations or assessments (see Appendix 1). Once all relevant information is available a meeting will be held and a decision reached. It may be decided the child does not need an input which is 'additional to or otherwise different' (ALN Code of Practice) from that made for most children of the same age. If this is the case they will be noted "school concern" and progress monitored by the class teacher. This will be discussed at the next termly meeting between class teacher and ALN staff and either monitoring will be stopped or further action taken.

If it is felt that a child does have an additional learning need, the class teacher, ALN staff and parents may decide to place the child on one of two stages depending on the nature and degree of the need. These stages are School Action and School Action +.

If a child is not making progress and appears to have complex or long-term difficulties which cannot be met by the school, he or she may be referred to the Additional Learning Needs Panel where a decision will be made as to whether the child should receive further support.

If the child's additional learning needs meet the criteria, the child will be referred for statutory assessment. If the referral is accepted a multi-disciplinary assessment is carried out which may lead to a statement of ALN.

## **Access to the curriculum**

All pupils have access to a balanced and broadly based curriculum, including the National Curriculum, at a level appropriate to each child's needs. This is achieved by differentiated work, recognition of individual learning styles, TA support in class, individual or group withdrawal for support or withdrawal to the Specialist Centre for more differentiated support.

Very occasionally, a pupil may be disapplied from parts of the National Curriculum after consultation with parents and the Educational Psychologist.

If pupils are withdrawn from class to follow specific programmes, this is arranged so that there is minimal disruption to the curriculum.

## **Integration**

Ysgol Gynradd Llanidloes believes that all pupils should have the opportunity to participate in all aspects of school life whenever possible.

The Specialist Centre is situated at the centre of the school. Staffing arrangements ensure that pupils can rely on it as a place to work and socialise with a high level of support. It makes inclusive education a possibility for pupils who may not be able to otherwise cope with the demands that mainstream education places upon them.

Staff spend time on the playground to encourage social integration. Individual pupils with 1:1 support in school are provided with support on school trips, including residential visits, depending on the level of need.

## **Evaluating the success of the school's ALN policy**

The ALN policy is evaluated by monitoring:

- standards achieved by pupils with ALN;
- effectiveness of systems of identifying and assessing pupils, including early identification;
- progress made by pupils matched to the identification of their needs and targets as set in IEPs;
- communication with parents;
- the views of those implementing the policy;
- effective record keeping;
- annual review procedures; and
- the involvement of outside support services.

## **Complaints**

Close cooperation with parents is a high priority and the school urges parents to voice any concerns regarding the ALN of their children as early as possible.

In the first instance this would be with the class teacher. Issues can be raised with the Specialist Centre teacher or the Headteacher.

If it is not possible to reach a satisfactory agreement, the school's complaints procedure will be followed.

## **ALN training**

Staff regularly attend LA training courses in aspects of ALN.

## **Support services**

Support services play an important part in helping to identify, assess and make appropriate provision for pupils. A referral can be made from school, with parents' permission, to the physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy services via the class teacher and ALNCo or Specialist Centre teacher. The appropriate LA teachers may see children with hearing and vision difficulties. Initial hearing tests can be requested from the school nurse.

The Educational Psychologist can provide advice, if requested by the ALNCo, the Specialist Centre teacher or the Headteacher, regarding children at School Action + and may carry out assessments if difficulties are complex and persistent. He also assesses and reviews pupils who have, or who meet the criteria for, a statement of ALN at the request of parents and Headteacher.

## **Partnership with Parents**

The school aims to work in close cooperation with the parents of all pupils. Parental knowledge, views and experience are vital where children with any kind of additional need are concerned. A partnership approach is fostered from the outset with both school and parents having a responsibility to work closely together in order to meet the needs of the child.

Informal, regular contact with the class teacher is encouraged. If concerns are raised a meeting between the class teacher, parents and possibly ALN staff, will be arranged to discuss them. Parents will be consulted if it is deemed appropriate that a child is placed on the ALN register and parents will be given the opportunity to review progress and agree home/school targets. Parents of pupils with a Statement of ALN and those on Extended School Action + will be invited and encouraged to attend a formal annual review.

## **Pupil Participation**

The school aims to give clear and accurate information to each child on the ALN register about their ALN and the purpose of any assessment of intervention. If appropriate, pupils are made aware of what additional support is being provided, what assessments are being carried out and which outside agencies are involved. Arrangements may be made in consultation with pupils so that interventions are timely and sensitive and pupils are able to participate as fully as possible in their learning and development. Pupils are invited to review their progress and to contribute to setting targets for their Individual Education Plan.

The school is aware that some pupils may be in contact with other professionals in child health, mental health, social services or other agencies. The school aims to be sensitive about this and to respect confidentiality.

## **Links with other schools**

Links between Llanidloes High School and all Year 6 pupils are established throughout the year. The high school ALNCo attends the annual review meetings of Year 5 pupils with statements of ALN. She also attends IEP review meetings of pupils with a Note in Lieu of a Statement and of pupils attached to the Specialist Centre during Year 5 and / or Year 6. All pupils with ALN are discussed during the summer term in a meeting between the ALNCoS of both schools and the Year 6 teachers. This ensures that transition arrangements are made, including arrangements for contact between parents and high school if appropriate and that appropriate provision is put in place ready for pupils entering Year 7.

When a pupil with ALN transfers to another school their ALN records are forwarded to the receiving school.

## **Appendix 1**

### ***Assessments***

#### ***Phonological Processing***

- Phonological Assessment Battery
- Phonological Awareness Test
- Sound Linkage
- Dyslexia Early Screening Test
- COPS/LASS

#### ***Reading / Listening Comprehension***

- Neale Analysis of Reading Ability
- Profiles in Listening and Reading (Pilar)
- New Salford Reading Test
- NFER Reading Test

#### ***Speech and Language***

- British Picture Vocabulary Scale
- Teaching Talking
- Derbyshire Language Scheme
- Social Use of Language Programme

#### ***Visual Skills***

- Motor Free Visual Perception Test

#### ***Early Skills***

- Small Steps Summative Assessment
- COPS

#### ***Maths***

- Early Mathematics Diagnostic Kit
- NFER Maths Assessments



## **Appendix 2**

### **Outside Agencies and Support Services**

Educational Psychologist  
Education Welfare Officer  
Advisory Support

Simon Vincent  
Margaret Jones  
Anne Kenyon

### **Community Health Offices**

Ynys Y Plant,  
Plantation Lane,  
Newtown,  
Powys

Telephone: 01686 617500

#### ***Services at above address:***

Occupational Therapy

Hilary Kaye

Physiotherapy

Lynda Rowe

Consultant Paediatrician

Dr M Mann

School Nurse

Dawn Owen

Consultant Psychiatrist  
Children and Adolescent  
Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Dr Helen Hayes

Speech and Language Service

Hayley Bernard

#### ***Sensory Service***

Lynette Higgs  
Powys County Council  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Telephone: 01597 826513

#### ***LA ALN Administrative Officer***

Liz Jones  
Powys County Council  
County Hall  
Llandrindod Wells  
Telephone: 01597 826000