

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) in Wales

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Background

- The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act of 2018 (ALNET) replaced the former SEN framework (SEN Code of Practice 2002) (Ware, 2019; Welsh Government, 2018).
- Intends to develop one unified system to serve learners aged 0-25 with further learning requirements (Welsh Government, 2021).
- Highlights person-centred practice (PCP) and inclusive education, which are in line with the commitments to the UNCRC and the UNCRPD (Gray and Woods, 2022).
- The ALN has been noticed among approximately 12% of the learners in Wales (Keating et al., 2025).

Policy

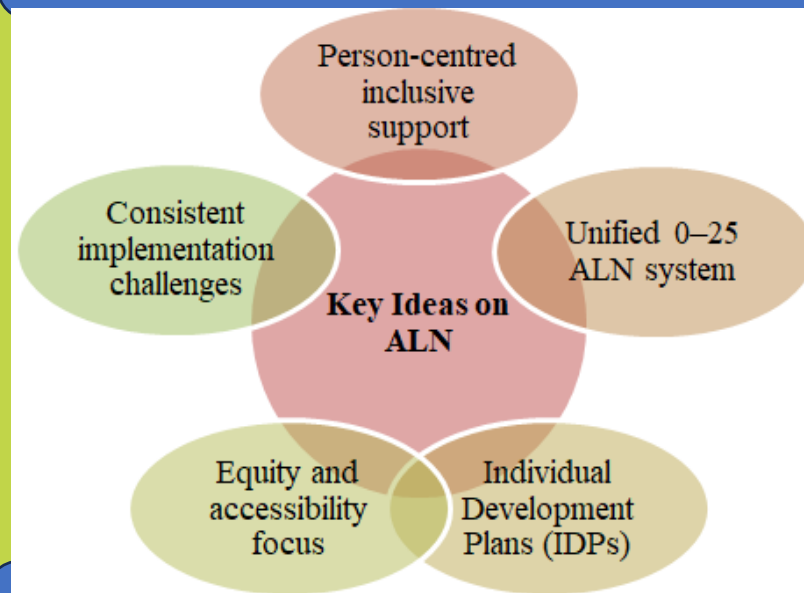
ALNET (Wales) Act (2018)



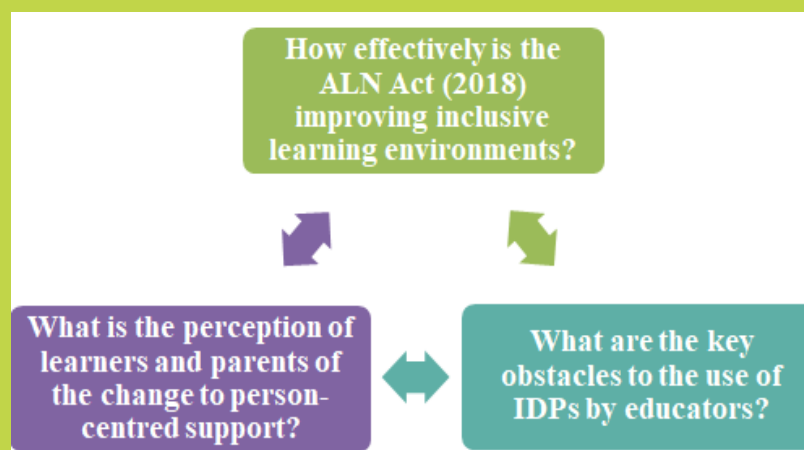
ALN Code for Wales (2021)



Key Ideas



Questions



Media Views

- lengthy queues and tiresome wrangles of ALN tests (BBC, 2022; BBC, 2024).
- Educators are under work pressure and are confused by the need to meet new IDP (Individual Development Plan) requirements (BBC, 2022).
- Unequal patchy access is still being experienced in Wales (estyn.gov.wales, 2024).
- Welsh Government has announced the investment of £20m to improve the ALN learning spaces and specialist facilities (Welsh Government, 2023).
- Media point out the necessity of more explicit guidelines, regular funding, and more responsibility in providing ALN (BBC, 2024).

<https://www.instagram.com/p/DPywhTCkcJm/>

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