

**Outcomes  
First  
Group.**

# **Additional Learning Needs Support Policy**

**Policy Folder:  
Children's  
Education**

CONTENTS	Page
<a href="#">1.0 DEFINITION OF ALN</a> .....	2
<a href="#">2.0 AIMS OF THE SCHOOL</a> .....	2
<a href="#">3.0 WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT US</a> .....	3
<a href="#">4.0 WHAT ALN'S DO OPTIONS KINSALE CATER FOR?</a> .....	3
<a href="#">5.0 WHAT DO WE PROVIDE &amp; HOW IS IT DELIVERED?</a> .....	3
<a href="#">6.0 PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS</a> .....	3
<a href="#">7.0 LEARNERS VIEWS</a> .....	4
<a href="#">8.0 HOW IS THE PROVISION EVALUATED?</a> .....	4
<a href="#">9.0 PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD</a> .....	4
<a href="#">10.0 WHAT TRAINING IS PROVIDED FOR STAFF?</a> .....	4
<a href="#">11.0 LA LOCAL OFFER</a> .....	5
<a href="#">12.0 COMPLAINTS POLICY</a> .....	5

## Legislative Framework

The policy is informed by the Additional Learning Needs Code for Wales (2021), and the Equality Act 2010 (Disabled School Pupils) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

### 1.0 DEFINITION OF ALN

A person has additional learning needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability (whether the learning difficulty or disability arises from a medical condition or otherwise) which calls for additional learning provision.

A child of compulsory school age or person over that age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she—

- (a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- (b) has a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities for education or training of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream maintained schools or mainstream institutions in the further education sector. (ALN Code Wales 2021)

### 2.0 AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

- To ensure that all learners have access to a broad and balanced curriculum appropriate to their individual needs
- To provide a differentiated curriculum appropriate to the individual needs, ability and interests of each student
- To ensure that all learners take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To ensure that parents/carers of all learners are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
- To ensure that all learners are involved, where practicable, in decisions affecting their future provision

Whilst many factors contribute to the range of difficulties experienced by our learners, we believe that much can be done to overcome them or lessen their effect, by parents, teachers and learners working together.

The school is registered with Estyn as an independent school for children and young people with additional learning needs. All of our learners have either a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN), Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP, or Individual Development Plan (IDP).

### 3.0 WHAT PARENTS SAY ABOUT US

---

*“Options Kinsale has transformed my child's life in the short space she's been there. Nothing is too much trouble for all staff, and they all have such genuine love for the children. My child is enjoying her learning, developing new skills, learning life skills and experiencing things I could never give her; the whole environment is one of love, growth and support - I can't put into words how utterly fabulous it is at Options Kinsale. They are changing lives for entire families. My daughter is happier than she has ever been since moving to Kinsale and it has helped at home with our other children as well. As a unit our family is thriving because of the support that my daughter receives and the amazing people that provide it. The whole team is amazing. Thank you so much”*

*“I can only tell you that I am sitting speechless with admiration. What an outstanding quality of care and education Kinsale provides for G. I can see her smile and happiness on her face when she is at school, I feel it is going very well and she learned so much being with you. Since September when she was placed in Kinsale, each time I take her for a weekend I see on my own eyes her behavioural improvements. I just want to say this - G was so lucky to be placed with you”*

*“When we looked at his work it is clear that you have chosen activities that allow A to access the curriculum and are enjoyable for him to do. He is taking pride in trying new things such as the gorge walking. There has been far more achieved during the last academic year than the previous nine years put together. We are very pleased”*

### 4.0 WHAT ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS DO OPTIONS KINSALE CATER FOR?

---

Options Kinsale caters for learners with Autistic Spectrum Conditions and associated learning difficulties. This includes comorbid diagnoses such as Dyspraxia, ADHD, sensory processing disorder and anxiety disorders.

The learners have difficulties in one or more of the four areas of need as defined by the ALN Code (Wales) and SEN Code of Practice (England): -

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

All of our learners have either a Statement of Special Educational Need (SEN), Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or Individual Development Plan (IDP).

### 5.0 WHAT DO WE PROVIDE & HOW IS IT DELIVERED?

---

All learners are taught within small groups with a high staffing ratio. All learners follow an adaptive and flexible curriculum which utilises the skills and knowledge of school staff.

Outcomes First Group uses the Ask, Accept, Develop (AAD) Autism strategy to support learners. The Autism Strategy is about celebrating difference, not deficit. This means we embrace the neurodiversity positivity culture and the uniqueness of each autistic individual.

We use a range of strategies and support mechanisms (including structured teaching, PECs, and Intensive Interaction) while recognising the individual and unique needs of each student, with the emphasis on all planning and intervention being organised on that basis.

Learners also have access to range of facilities, onsite and offsite, where relevant, including a sensory room, Sports Hall facilities, Creative Arts Room, on-site shop and café, Horticulture Area, Independent Living Skills area and Food Technology room, as well as neighbouring community facilities.

### 6.0 PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER PROFESSIONALS

---

Options Kinsale firmly believes that partnership with parents plays a key role in promoting a culture of co-operation between parents, schools, Local Authorities and others. This is important in enabling our learners to achieve their potential.

Parents should be supported so as to be able and empowered to: -

- Recognise and fulfil their responsibilities as parents and play an active and values role in their child's education
- Have knowledge of their child's entitlement within the ALN framework
- Make their views known about how their child is educated
- Have access to information, advice and support during assessment and any related decision-making processes about special education provision

When learners attend Options Kinsale on a residential basis or are 'looked after' by local authorities and living away from home, every effort is made to ensure that parents are encouraged to continue to play an active role in their children's education.

## **7.0 LEARNERS VIEWS**

---

Options Kinsale involves learners in their education and decision making as much as possible.

Learners are given opportunities on a daily basis to make choices about aspects of their education, at a level appropriate to their developmental and communication needs.

Regular student surveys take place to give students the opportunity to have a say in key areas of their education. Pre-verbal learners are encouraged to have their say in whole school development through using appropriate alternative methods of communication.

## **8.0 HOW IS THE PROVISION EVALUATED?**

---

To ensure provision is appropriate we continually monitor and evaluate approaches through: -

- IEP target data
- Progress against end of year targets, and assessment data through the use of B Squared
- Annual Reviews
- School development plan
- Company governance through the school improvement partner and scrutiny group
- Clinical reports
- Estyn inspections

## **9.0 PREPARING FOR ADULTHOOD**

---

The curriculum focuses on developing life skills in particular accessing the community, functional communication and numeracy skills, work experience and increasing independence in areas such as cooking and self-care skills. Learners across the school also work towards accredited qualifications, Arts Award, Functional Skills qualifications in Literacy and Numeracy, and employability qualifications, delivered at a developmentally appropriate level. Learners are also offered work experience opportunities and experiences, where appropriate.

The aim of this skills based curriculum is to prepare learners for adulthood.

## **10.0 WHAT TRAINING IS PROVIDED FOR STAFF?**

---

All staff undertake an induction prior to beginning their role at Options Kinsale.

This includes: -

- Awareness of Autism and of Autism Specific strategies via Ask, Accept, Develop
- Copies of key policies and procedures and knowledge of where all policies are located for reference

- Safeguarding and Child Protection
- Mandatory training in key areas

Ongoing staff training is also completed in a range of areas including support to implement a range of approaches, awareness of new policies and procedures, health and safety, and safeguarding as well as individualised professional development.

## **11.0 LA LOCAL OFFER**

---

Although the learners come from a range of local authorities, Options Kinsale is based in Flintshire North Wales. For their local offer, which sets out how to access services, the pathway and processes your child, young person, or family might travel through, you can visit their website.

## **12.0 COMPLAINTS POLICY**

---

Concerns will be dealt with under the terms of our Complaints Policy which is available on the school website, and on request from the school.

We are part of the Outcomes First Group Family, by working together we will build incredible futures by empowering vulnerable children, young people and adults in the UK to be happy and make their way in the world

**Outcomes  
First  
Group.**

**Acorn Education And Care  
National Fostering Group  
Options Autism**