



FASD-Informed Toolkit ©

Glossary of Common Acronyms for Education, Health and Social Care

This **FASD-Informed glossary** explains common acronyms linked to FASD-informed practice in UK education, health, social care and benefits. It is written in plain English so professionals, parents, carers and learners can use the same language when planning support. It also includes common terms used in adoption, kinship care and foster care, where FASD-informed understanding is often especially important.

Preferred language note: This glossary aims to use stigma-free, blame-free and respectful language. Terminology should support dignity, avoid judgement and reflect individual preference wherever possible.

Many people prefer person-first language such as “child or adult with FASD”, while others may choose identity-based language. Where possible, respect how an individual chooses to describe themselves.

Education

Terminology in this section can vary across **England**, **Wales**, **Scotland**, **Jersey** and **Ireland**, so some acronyms may have slightly different meanings or local usage depending on the setting. In **Wales**, **ALN** has generally replaced **SEN** and **SEND** in formal education contexts.

Nation	Colour code
England	Blue
Wales	Red
Scotland	Teal
Jersey	Purple
Ireland	Green

- **AEN** – Additional Educational Needs. A term commonly used in **Ireland** for pupils who need extra support in education.
- **ALN** – Additional Learning Needs. The term used in **Wales** for children and young people who need extra or different support to learn.
- **ALNCo** – Additional Learning Needs Coordinator. The term used in **Wales** for the member of staff who leads and coordinates support for learners with ALN.
- **ALNET** – Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. The legislation that introduced the new ALN system in **Wales**.
- **ALNETA** – Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act. A shortened way of referring to the Welsh legislation that introduced the ALN system and the Education Tribunal for Wales.
- **ALP** – Additional Learning Provision. The extra support or provision needed to help a learner with ALN make progress in **Wales**.
- **AP** – Alternative Provision. In **England**, this commonly refers to education arranged for pupils who may need support outside a mainstream setting for some or all of their timetable.
- **APDR** – Assess, Plan, Do, Review. A graduated approach widely used in **England** to identify needs, put support in place and review progress.
- **ARB** – Additionally Resourced Base or Autism Resource Base. In some **England** settings, this means a specialist base or unit within a mainstream school that provides targeted support for pupils who need a higher level of provision.
- **ARP** – Additionally Resourced Provision. In **Jersey** and many UK areas, this means specialist support within a mainstream school for pupils who need a higher level of provision.
- **ASL** – Additional Support for Learning. In **Scotland**, this refers to the framework and support provided to help children and young people who face barriers to learning.
- **ASN** – Additional Support Needs. The term used in **Scotland** for children and young people who need more or different support to benefit from education.
- **CfE** – Curriculum for Excellence. The curriculum framework used in **Scotland** for learners aged 3 to 18.
- **CSP** – This acronym can mean different things depending on the nation. In **Ireland**, it often means Classroom Support Plan. In **Scotland**, it means Co-ordinated Support Plan, a statutory plan for a learner who needs significant support from education and other services.
- **CYPES** – Children, Young People, Education and Skills. The Government of **Jersey** department responsible for education and related children’s services.
- **DHT** – Depute Head Teacher. A term commonly used in **Scotland** for a senior leader who supports the head teacher.
- **DT** – Designated Teacher. In **England**, this is the teacher with responsibility for promoting the education of children in care and previously looked after children.
- **EHCP** – Education, Health and Care Plan. A legal plan used in **England** to describe a child or young person’s needs, outcomes and provision.

- **EP** – Educational Psychologist. A professional who helps understand learning, behaviour and development in education settings.
- **EOTAS** – Education Otherwise Than At School. In [England](#), this refers to education arranged for a child or young person who cannot attend school, including some pupils with complex needs or significant barriers to attendance.
- **ETW** – Education Tribunal for Wales. The independent tribunal that hears appeals about additional learning needs and claims of disability discrimination in schools in [Wales](#).

In [Wales](#), the ALN system applies across schools and further education settings, so terms such as **ALN**, **ALP** and **IDP** are especially important in cross-border work.

- **GIRFEC** – Getting It Right For Every Child. [Scotland](#)'s national approach to supporting children and young people's wellbeing and coordinating help at the right time.
- **IDP** – Individual Development Plan. The statutory support plan used in [Wales](#) for a learner with Additional Learning Needs.
- **IEP** – Individualised Educational Programme or Individual Education Plan. A support plan used in some settings to record learning targets and strategies.
- **NCSE** – National Council for Special Education. The national body in [Ireland](#) that supports the delivery of special education services.
- **NEPS** – National Educational Psychological Service. The [Irish](#) education psychology service that supports schools, pupils and families.
- **PEP** – Personal Education Plan. In [England](#), this is a statutory education plan for a child in care to support school progress and outcomes.
- **PLAC** – Previously Looked After Child. In [England](#), this refers to a child who was formerly in care and is now adopted or living under a Special Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order.
- **PP+** – Pupil Premium Plus. Additional school funding used in [England](#) to support the education of children in care and previously looked after children.
- **PRU** – Pupil Referral Unit. In [England](#), this is a type of provision for pupils who need education outside a mainstream school setting.
- **PSA** – Pupil Support Assistant. A term often used in [Scotland](#) for a member of staff who supports pupils with learning, care or wellbeing needs in school.
- **RP** – Resource Provision or Resourced Provision. In some [England](#) settings, this means a specialist unit or base within a mainstream school that offers enhanced support for pupils with SEND.
- **SEN** – Special Educational Needs. A term still commonly used in [Jersey](#) and in some other education contexts for additional learning needs.
- **SENCO** – Special Educational Needs Coordinator. In [England](#), this is the member of school staff who leads and coordinates support for pupils with additional needs.
- **SEND** – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The umbrella term commonly used in [England](#) for additional learning needs and disabilities.

- **SENO** – Special Educational Needs Organiser. In **Ireland**, the local NCSE contact who helps coordinate supports and resources for pupils with additional needs.
- **SET** – Special Education Teacher or Special Education Teaching allocation. In **Ireland**, this refers to special education teaching support in schools.
- **SNA** – Special Needs Assistant. In **Ireland**, a member of school staff who supports pupils with care needs in education settings.
- **SRP** – Specialist Resource Provision. A specialist provision within or linked to a mainstream school for pupils who need a more structured or specialist level of support.
- **Staged Intervention** – A **Scottish** approach used to identify, plan, review and increase support in steps according to a learner’s level of need.
- **VS** – Virtual School. In **England**, this is the local authority service that promotes the education of children in care and many previously looked after children.

Health

- **A&E** – Accident and Emergency. The hospital department for urgent and emergency care.
- **ADHD** – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. A neurodevelopmental condition affecting attention, impulsivity and activity levels.
- **AHP** – Allied Health Professional. A group of registered health professionals such as occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and physiotherapists.
- **ASD** – Autism Spectrum Disorder. A neurodevelopmental condition affecting communication, social interaction and sensory processing. Some people may prefer the term autism.
- **CAMHS** – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. NHS services that assess and support children and young people with mental health and emotional wellbeing needs.
- **CCN** – Children’s Community Nurse. A nurse who supports children with health needs in the community or at home.
- **CP** – Clinical Psychologist. In health contexts, this usually refers to a practitioner psychologist who assesses and supports emotional, behavioural and mental health needs using psychological approaches.
- **CYP** – Children and Young People.
- **FASD** – Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. A brain-based and lifelong condition associated with prenatal alcohol exposure.
- **GP** – General Practitioner. A family doctor working in primary care.
- **MDT** – Multidisciplinary Team. A group of professionals from different services working together around the individual.
- **NICE** – National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. Produces evidence-based guidance and quality standards used in health and care.
- **OT** – Occupational Therapy or Therapist. Support to develop everyday living, sensory, motor and functional skills.

- **PAE** – Prenatal Alcohol Exposure. Alcohol exposure before birth, which may affect brain and body development.
- **Paeds** – Paediatrics or paediatrician. A common shorthand for children’s medical services or a doctor specialising in child health.
- **Psych** – Psychiatry, psychiatrist or psychology, depending on the context. It is useful to check what the speaker means.
- **SALT** – Speech and Language Therapy or Therapist. Support for speech, language, communication and related needs.
- **SIOT** – Sensory Integration Occupational Therapy. Occupational therapy support that focuses on how sensory processing affects regulation, participation and everyday functioning.

Social Care

- **ADM** – Agency Decision Maker. The senior person who makes the final decision following recommendations from adoption or fostering panel.
- **ASC** – Adult Social Care. Services that support adults with care and support needs.
- **ASGSF** – In [England](#), the Adoption and Special Guardianship Support Fund may help pay for therapeutic support for eligible adoptive and special guardianship families.
- **CAO** – Child Arrangements Order. A court order that sets out where a child lives and who they spend time with.
- **CIN** – Child in Need. A social care term used for a child who needs services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development.
- **CLA** – Child Looked After. A term increasingly used instead of LAC for a child in the care of the local authority.
- **CP** – Connected Person. In social care contexts, this means a relative, friend or other person connected to the child who may care for them, often in kinship foster care.
- **DBS** – Disclosure and Barring Service. Criminal record checks required for foster carers, adopters and some other adults involved in caring roles.
- **FGC** – Family Group Conference. A meeting that brings together family and professionals to make plans for a child’s care and support.
- **FASD-informed practice** – An approach that understands the brain-based impact of prenatal alcohol exposure and adapts communication, expectations and support in a person-centred way.
- **IFA** – In [England](#), Independent Fostering Agency refers to an agency that recruits, assesses, trains and supports foster carers.
- **IRO** – Independent Reviewing Officer. The professional who oversees the child’s care plan and chairs statutory reviews for children in care.
- **LAC** – Looked After Child. The legal term traditionally used for a child in the care of the local authority.

- **PR** – Parental Responsibility. The legal rights, duties and authority a person has in relation to a child.
- **RAA** – In [England](#), Regional Adoption Agency refers to a regional service that brings together local authority adoption teams.
- **SGO** – Special Guardianship Order. A court order giving a carer enhanced parental responsibility for a child, often used in kinship care.
- **VAA** – In [England](#), Voluntary Adoption Agency refers to an independent, not-for-profit adoption agency that assesses and supports adopters.

Benefits

- **AA** – Attendance Allowance. A benefit for older people who need help with personal care or supervision because of illness or disability.
- **CA** – Carer’s Allowance. A benefit for some people who spend a significant amount of time caring for a disabled person.
- **CB** – Child Benefit. A payment to help with the cost of bringing up a child.
- **CC** – Carer’s Credit. A National Insurance credit that helps protect a carer’s State Pension record.
- **CTR** – Council Tax Reduction. Help with council tax costs for people on a low income or certain benefits.
- **DLA** – Disability Living Allowance. Mainly used for disabled children and, in some cases, adults who remain on existing awards.
- **DWP** – Department for Work and Pensions. The UK government department responsible for benefits, pensions and employment support.
- **ESA** – Employment and Support Allowance. A benefit for some people whose health or disability affects their ability to work.
- **FSM** – In [England](#), Free School Meals are support for eligible pupils, often linked to low income and sometimes relevant to wider educational support.
- **HB** – Housing Benefit may help with rent for some people on a low income or certain benefits.
- **PIP** – Personal Independence Payment helps with extra living costs for some disabled people aged 16 and over.
- **SEN Transport** – In [England](#), this means Special Educational Needs transport, which may be provided when a child or young person cannot reasonably be expected to get to school without help because of SEND or mobility needs.
- **UC** – Universal Credit. A benefit that helps with living costs for people on a low income or out of work.

Use language with care

Use language that is respectful, stigma-free and blame-free. Avoid defining a person by behaviour alone, avoid language that blames parents or birth families, and use wording that focuses on support, strengths and understanding. Where possible, respect how an individual chooses to describe themselves.

Good FASD-informed practice is person-centred, strengths-based and stigma-free. It looks beyond behaviour to understand underlying needs and encourages education, health, social care and family support services to work together.



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