

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Education and Inclusion Services
Agenda Item No. 9.1
Admissions Policy/Starting School

1. Admission Arrangements

1.1 This report forms the LA's consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2021/22. These arrangements will be largely the same as the arrangements for the academic year 2020/21 and are detailed in a publication entitled, "Starting School" which is made available to all parents who have children starting school and is available on line at www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schooladmissions (click on 'related documents' and 'Starting School' booklet). Your attention is drawn to the following areas of that document:-

- i. Admission numbers for each school
- ii. Application procedures/ timetable for the admissions process.
- iii. The oversubscription criteria
- iv. Information on how waiting lists operate
- v. Applications which miss the deadline and making /processing applications outside the normal admissions round
- vi. Admissions decisions and the right of appeal
- vii, Catchment areas can be found by visiting the Council's Website www.rctcbc.gov.uk and typing find a school into the search box.

Known changes are identified in this report (see paragraphs 2 and 3 below).

Also contained within the Starting School document is the Council's Learner Travel policy, which outlines our policy on the provision of home to school transport. Any questions, queries or requests for information relating to the Learner Travel Policy should be referred to the Council's Integrated Transport Unit (ITU), which is based at Sardis House, Pontypridd.

2. Welsh Government (WG) Code of Practice on School Admissions

2.1 In line with relevant legislation the WG has issued a Code of Practice on School Admissions (the Code), it came into force on 8th July 2013 and applies to arrangements for intakes from September 2014 onwards. It replaces the previous Code published in 2009 and all LA's and Governing Bodies of Voluntary Aided schools must comply with it.

2.2 The Code states that in order to ensure consistency between admission authorities and avoid confusion on the part of parents, all admission authorities in any LA must have common dates of return for primary and secondary applications for the normal year of entry, different common dates may be agreed for primary and secondary

applications. In accordance with the Code, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council will forward offer letters to parents to ensure they are received by:-

Secondary Schools - 2 March 2020.

Primary Schools – 16 April 2020.

3. Changes for the Academic Year 2020 - 2021

3.1 The catchment areas of Gelli and Bodringallt Primary School are now included in the catchment area of Treorchy Comprehensive School. If there are siblings in Years 9 – 11 attending Treorchy Comprehensive School in September 2020, they will be treated as being Priority Category 2 and not Priority Category 4.

3.2 The catchment area of Pontygwaith Primary School are now included in the catchment area of Ferndale Community School. If there are siblings in Years 9 – 11 attending Ferndale Community School in September 2020, they will be treated as being Priority Category 2 and not Priority Category 4.

3.3 The catchment area of Williamstown Primary School is now included in the catchment area of Ysgol Nantgwyn. If there are siblings in Years 9 – 11 attending Ysgol Nantgwyn in September 2020, they will be treated as being Priority Category 2 and not Priority Category 4.

4. What do Governors Need to Do?

Governors are invited to submit any comments, on the Authority's admission arrangements (policy), to:

The Director of Education and Inclusion Services, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ by 30 December 2019.