



## Education and Inclusion Services Directorate

### Agenda Item 8.5

#### 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 2025/26. These arrangements will be largely the same as the arrangements for the academic year 2024/25 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](http://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](http://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 - 1 March 2024.

Primary Schools – 16 April 2024.

### **3. Changes for the Academic Year 2024 - 2025**

- 3.1 The new school buildings for Penygawsi and Llanilltud Faerdref Primary Schools are due to open in the Academic Year 2023-2024.
- 3.2 The new school building for Pontyclun Primary School is due to open in the Academic Year 2024-2025.
- 3.3 From September 2023, there will be no Year 12 admissions to Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf from Sept 24) and Hawthorn High School (Ysgol Afon Wen from Sept 24). As a result of this, the catchment school for Year 12 admissions for both these schools' catchment area's will be Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School.
- 3.4 All of Maesycoed catchment area shall transfer to the catchment area of Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf) from September 2024.
- 3.5 All of Coedpenmaen catchment area shall transfer also to the catchment area of Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf) from September 2024.
- 3.6 Heol Y Celyn Primary, Cilfynydd Primary School, Hawthorn Primary School and YGG Pontsionnorton will close in September 2024.
- 3.7 The new Welsh Medium Primary School (Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf) will open in September 2024, which will be based on the old Heol Y Celyn School site.
- 3.8 YGG Pontsionnorton catchment and the Welsh medium catchment of Heol Y Celyn will transfer to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf.
- 3.9 All of Heol Y Celyn's English catchment area will be part of the new Ysgol Afon Wen (Hawthorn High School) catchment.
- 3.10 Hawthorn High School and Pontypridd High School will both close August 2024.
- 3.11 The two new All through schools, Ysgol Bro Taf and Ysgol Afon Wen with an age range of pupils of 3-16 years, will open September 2024 on the sites of the former Pontypridd High School and Hawthorn High School respectively. Children attending the schools that will close, are automatically transferred to the new schools, with the children in Heol Y Celyn being split according to which language stream they are in i.e. English to Ysgol Afon Wen and Welsh to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf.

3.12 Children attending the Primary department of both these schools will automatically transfer to its Secondary Department subject to parental preference.

3.13 YGG Llyn Y Forwyn is changing location in the Academic Year 2024-2025 and the catchment remains the same.

#### **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 31 December 2023.