



CYFLAWNI TEGWCH A RHAGORIAETH  
MEWN ADDYSG A GWELL LLES I BAWB  
EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
AND ENHANCED WELLBEING FOR ALL

## Education and Inclusion Services Directorate

### Agenda Item No. 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 2026/27. These arrangements will be largely the same as the arrangements for the academic year 2025/26 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).

#### 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 - 3 March 2025.

Primary Schools – 16 April 2025.

### **3. Changes for the Academic Year 2025 - 2026**

- 3.1 The new school building for Penygawsi, Pontyclun and Llanilltud Faerdref Primary Schools open in the Academic Year 2024-2025.
- 3.2 Since September 2023, there has been 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.
- 3.3 All of Maesycoed catchment area transferred to the catchment area of Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf) from September 2024.
- 3.4 All of Coedpenmaen catchment area transferred also to the catchment area of Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf) from September 2024.
- 3.5 Heol Y Celyn Primary, Cilfynydd Primary School, Hawthorn Primary School and YGG Pontsionnorton closed in September 2024.
- 3.6 The new Welsh Medium Primary School (Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf) opened in September 2024, is based on the old Heol Y Celyn School site.
- 3.7 YGG Pontsionnorton catchment and the Welsh medium catchment of Heol Y Celyn has transferred to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Arwel Taf.
- 3.8 All of Heol Y Celyn's English catchment area has become part of the new Ysgol Afon Wen (Hawthorn High School) catchment.
- 3.9 Hawthorn High School and Pontypridd High School closed in August 2024.
- 3.10 The two new All through schools, Ysgol Bro Taf and Ysgol Afon Wen with an age range of pupils of 3-16 years, opened in September 2024 on the sites of the former Pontypridd High School and Hawthorn High School respectively. Children attending these schools were 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.
- 3.11 Children already attending an all through school do not need to apply for a secondary school place, as they are automatically transferred. Parents who wish to apply for an alternative Secondary school place, are able to do so by completing a Secondary application form.

3.12 YGG Llyn Y Forwyn moved to a new location during the Academic Year 2024-2025 and the catchment remained 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, Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN by 31 December 2024.