## Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-nedd

Democratic Services
Gwasanaethau Democrataidd

#### **Decision Notice**

### EDUCATION, SKILLS AND CULTURE - URGENCY ACTION, MONDAY, 6TH APRIL, 2020

Please see below approval of decision as follows:

1. Neath Port Talbot Admission to Community Schools 2021/2022
- 15 AM (Pages 3 - 38)

To obtain Education Skills and Culture Cabinet Board determination of the admission arrangements for community schools in relation to the 2021/2022 academic year.

That, having given due regard to the equality impact assessment, and in line with the School Admissions Code, 2013 and The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006, the admission arrangements for community schools in relation to the 2021/2022 academic year, as contained in the attached report, be approved.

For Immediate Implementation

Yours sincerely

## NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### **Education Skills and Culture Cabinet Board**

#### 5th March 2020

## REPORT OF HEAD OF TRANSFORMATION ANDREW THOMAS

#### MATTER FOR DECISION

WARDS AFFECTED - ALL WARDS

**ADMISSION TO COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: 2021/2022** 

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To obtain Education Skills and Culture Cabinet Board determination of the admission arrangements for community schools in relation to the 2021/2022 academic year.

#### **Executive Summary**

- 2. The Council is the admission authority for community schools in its area (the relevant area) and is required to determine by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 its admission arrangements in relation to the 2021/ 2022 academic year.
- 3. Proposed admission arrangements that detail the procedures to be followed when allocating school places have been consulted upon. These arrangements are the same as the previous year.
- 4. Consultation took place between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Consultees included head teachers & governing bodies of community and voluntary aided schools, neighbouring local authorities.
- 5. It is the officer recommendation that Members determine the proposed admission arrangements attached to this report.

6. These arrangements conform to the legislative requirements and the good practice guidelines set out in the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code, 2013.

#### **Background**

- 7. The Council, as local authority for the relevant area, is responsible for determining the admission arrangements for community schools<sup>1</sup> and has a duty to consult annually on those arrangements.
- 8. In drawing up admission arrangements, the Council must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide on the allocation of school places:
  - are clear in the sense of being free from doubt and easily understood
  - are objective and based on demonstrable fact
  - are procedurally fair and are also equitable for all groups of children
  - provide parents or carers with easy access to helpful admission information
  - comply with all relevant legislation and have been determined in accordance with the statutory requirements and the provisions of this Code
- 9. At its meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019, the Education Skills and Culture Cabinet Board approved consultation on proposed admission arrangements for community schools.

#### Proposed admission arrangements for determination

- 10. The proposed admission arrangements for Member determination are attached as Appendix A. These arrangements are the same as the previous year.
- 11. They include oversubscription criteria specific to secondary school admissions that support the principle of partner<sup>2</sup> schools. This reflects the need to ensure the admission arrangements give

\_

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> For the purpose of admission to community schools the term:

 <sup>&#</sup>x27;partner' school is defined as a school that has a catchment area in common with another school of the same category, e.g. an English-medium community primary with an English-medium community secondary or a Welsh-medium community primary with a Welsh-medium community secondary.

catchment area is defined as the geographical area served by a school, as determined by the Council.

suitable priority to partner schools at secondary school transfer. This is the same as the previous year.

- 12. These have been the subject of consultation. No responses were received.
- 13. If approved, the arrangements will be effective in relation to admission to community schools for the 2021/2022 academic.

#### Consultation

- 14. The Council, as local authority is required to consult each year on the admission arrangements for those schools which it is the admission authority.
- 15. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is the admission authority for community schools. Admission to voluntary aided (i.e. Faith) schools is the responsibility of the respective governing bodies.
- 16. The requirements of consultation are set out in the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code<sup>3</sup>.
- 17. In the case of this Council, consultation is required with:
  - the governing bodies of community schools
  - the governing bodies of voluntary aided (i.e. Faith) schools
  - all neighbouring local authorities.
- 18. In relation to the 2021/2022 academic year, those consultations are required to be undertaken no sooner than 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and completed by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020.
- 19. Once consultation has been completed the Council must determine by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020 its admission arrangements, either in their original form or with such modifications as seen fit.
- 20. Consultation took place between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 6<sup>tht</sup> February 2020. Consultees included head teachers & governing bodies of community and voluntary aided schools within the County Borough (the relevant area) and neighbouring local authorities.

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> School admissions code: Statutory Code document No. 005/2013

21. No comments were received.

#### **Financial Impact**

- 22. There is no financial impact directly associated with this proposal. The admission arrangements support the efficient and effective delivery of education across the County Borough.
- 23. Administration of the admission process is within the Council's staffing cost envelope and is a statutory function that falls to the Council.

#### **Equality Impact Assessment**

- An equality impact assessment has been carried out and found that there is no adverse effect on any protected group and the process has checks and monitoring in place.
- The full equality impact assessment is attached to this report as Appendix B.

#### **Workforce Impact**

As a statutory function of the Council, the admission process is administered centrally. The current staffing complement associated with this function will be maintained and there will be no change to the staffing arrangements consequent upon the implementation of the proposal.

#### Legal Impacts

- 27 The Council, as an admission authority, has a statutory duty to act in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code, 2013.
- 28 In relation to the specific purpose of this report, there is a legal requirement that school admission arrangements must be determined by 15<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

#### **Risk Management**

There are requirements placed on the Council, as an admission authority, intended to ensure the admission system works for the Page 6

benefit of both schools and pupils. Admission authorities are required to consult on and determine their admission arrangements, and to offer places within timeframes and deadlines specified by legislation.

The proposed admission arrangements recommended for determination in this report conform to the legislative requirements and the good practice guidelines set out in the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code, 2013.

#### Recommendations

Having given due regard to the equality impact assessment, it is recommended that, in line with School Admissions Code, 2013 and The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006, Members determine the admission arrangements for community schools in relation to the 2021/2022 academic year, as attached to this report.

#### **Reasons for the Proposed Decision**

To enable the Council to meet statutory duties and good practice guidelines in respect of the admission of pupils to community schools.

#### Implementation of Decision

The decision is for immediate implementation.

#### **Appendix**

Appendix A: Proposed admission to community schools in Neath

Port Talbot County Borough, 2021/2022

Appendix B: Equality Impact Assessment

#### **List of Background Papers**

- a. Welsh Government: School Admissions Code (No. 005/2013).
- b. Welsh Government: Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales
- c. Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006
- d. Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999
- e. School Admissions (Common Offer Date) (Wales) regulations 2013
- f. The Education Act 2002 (Commencement No.8) (Wales) Order 2006

#### **Officer Contact**

Mrs H Lewis, School Admissions.

h.lewis@npt.gov.uk Tel: 01639 763580.



## Admission to Community Schools 2021/2022

#### 1. Introduction

The Council is the admission authority for all community maintained schools in the County Borough. As admission authority, the Council determines the criteria that will be applied when allocating places at community schools. This document sets out the admission arrangements that will apply during 2021/22 for: nursery classes based at community primary schools; community primary schools; and the Welsh medium sixth form at a community secondary school.

For voluntary aided (i.e. Faith) schools, it is each school's governing body that determines the admission arrangements, details of which can be obtained from the respective governing body.

This policy document sets out the principles underpinning the admission arrangements for community schools together with the procedures and the timetables for admission during the 2021/2022 school year (appendices 1, 2, 3 & 4). Further details to assist parents in applying for a school place choosing a school for their child will be set out in the 'Information for Parents Handbook 2021/2022' which will be available to parents in October 2020, prior to the application date. The handbook will contain important information about schools in the County Borough including their admission numbers, the catchment areas they serve together and their partner school arrangements. The handbook also contains the published admission arrangements for individual voluntary aided (i.e. Faith) schools. In this respect, the 'Information for Parents Handbook 2021/2022 forms an integral part of the information available to parents on school admission.

#### 2. Context

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council aspires to deliver an inclusive education service that celebrates diversity and respects everyone's right to education. The Council provides access to high quality learning experiences for every child and young person by encouraging and supporting individuals

to realise their ambitions, achieve their potential and become active and responsible members of society.

To meet the educational needs of children, the County Borough Council delivers a range of provision, including:

- part-time nursery education, available in all primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools. Successful learning begins in the nursery where children have access to rich experiences in a secure environment;
- **primary phase education** at primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools (including Welsh medium and voluntary aided schools), providing a broad education based on practical experiences designed to meet individual needs, including national curriculum areas of study.
- **secondary phase education** at secondary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools, (including Welsh medium and a Roman Catholic school), setting high standards in examinations, sport and cultural activities, and personal and social education. Pupils in all schools have access to a wide range of curricular opportunities and the national curriculum;
- special schools, providing rich and stimulating learning experiences for pupils
  with severe and complex difficulties. All pupils attending these schools have a
  statement of special educational needs. Specialist support for primary and
  secondary age pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties is available
  within the County Borough.
- learning support centres, based at a number of primary, secondary and 'all-through' schools, provide specialist support in mainstream schools for pupils with statements of special educational needs.

The Council's admission arrangements for community schools ensure that admission procedures do not unfairly advantage or disadvantage any groups through the application of the Welsh Government School Admissions Code 005/2013.

## 3. Admission to nursery classes at community primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools

The Council is the admission authority for all nursery classes in community primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools.

Children can access a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday. Parents/carers who require a place in a nursery class will be required to submit an admission application. Application forms are available from (and, when completed, to be returned to) the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ.

Parents/carers can apply for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school.

Admission to a nursery class prior to the start of the term following the child's third birthday can only be agreed in consultation with the Admissions Officer.

The number of nursery places available may differ to the admission number of full-time year groups within a school (Reception).

Children who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs/ IDP which identifies mainstream nursery education within a community school will be guaranteed a place at that setting. Schools have a duty to admit children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs who have been placed in a school by the LA and these pupils are counted towards the number of pupils to be admitted unless their placement is within a school based Learning Support Centre.

The Council will consider each individual application received. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria below, listed in priority order.

#### Oversubscription Criteria

- a) Children looked after<sup>1</sup> or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales, as defined in section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
- b) Children who live within the catchment area of the nursery class for which an application is made.
- c) Children who have an older sibling who will be on the register at the school at which the nursery class is based when they are admitted. A "sibling" is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person. Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all children a place in the nursery class, the parents will be asked to decide which child should be offered a place first or the parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A looked after child refers to a child who is looked after by the local authority, in accordance with section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or under Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application to a school is made and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school. Previously looked after children: looked after children who cease to be so because they were adopted or become subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.

If children are equally entitled to a place in the nursery in categories a) to c) above, priority will be given to the child living nearest. This is measured by the shortest walking/travel route between the home and the school. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young person has started at the school, except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place, the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, the application will be considered afresh, and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parents' principal place of residence on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered in relation to application for admission to schools in Neath Port Talbot.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with each parent for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

No account will be taken of the particular primary school the child is likely to attend subsequently or to the length of time the school has been aware of the parental intention to apply for a place at the school.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application forms will be processed in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability.

As nursery education is non-statutory provision parents have no statutory right of appeal. If they are unsuccessful in gaining a nursery place, wherever possible, children will be offered a place within two miles of the child's place of residence.

Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a place at a reception class in the same school. A separate application will have to be submitted for admission to the reception class at the school the parent wishes their child to attend.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's Home to School Travel policy when applying for a place at a school for their child. The policy is available at <a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk">www.npt.gov.uk</a>

#### 4. Admission to community primary, secondary and 'all-through' schools

The County Borough Council is the admission authority for all community maintained primary, secondary and 'all-though' schools, (including Welsh-medium schools and sixth form provision).

All admissions to mainstream schools are approved by the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team. Children are admitted to reception classes in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents may defer entry until the term following their child's fifth birthday. Children transfer to secondary phase education in the September following their eleventh birthday.

Application forms are available from the School Admissions Section, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which the parent should complete and return to the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ or parents can apply online at <a href="www.npt.gov.uk">www.npt.gov.uk</a>. Requests for a place will be granted unless to do so would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

Those parents who apply on time for a place at any school will be given priority over those who apply late.

The closing date for applications is 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Parents of pupils due to transfer from one educational phase to another at the end of the academic year will be sent an admission application letter by the Council during the Autumn Term. Parents will be advised of their child's allocated secondary phase education place on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and primary phase education place on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception class place in the same school.

Children who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs/ IDP which identifies mainstream education within a community school will be guaranteed a place at that school.

#### Oversubscription criteria primary phase education

Parents have the right to express a preference which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible. Some schools have more requests for places than there are places available. Where a school is oversubscribed preferences will still be considered but the priorities set by the Council will be applied. In deciding which children to admit to a school the Council applies the criteria set out below in the order of priority shown - a) being the highest priority.

The Council will only admit up to a school's admission number and will not breach the Infant Class Size Regulations of 30 or less, save exceptional circumstances.

- a) Children looked after or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales, section as defined in 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
- b) Children who live within the catchment area of the nursery class for which an application is made.
- c) Children who have an older sibling / a sibling of statutory school age (statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between the age of 5 and 16 i.e. pupils in any year group between and including reception to year 11) who will be on the register at the school at which the nursery class is based when they are admitted. A "sibling" is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person. Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all children a place in the school, the parents will be asked to decide which child should be offered a place first or the parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all children.
  - d) Children who live outside the preferred school's catchment area

If children are equally entitled to a place in the school in categories - a) to d) above, then priority will be given to the child living nearest. This is measured by

the shortest suitable walking/travel route between the home and the school. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability.

In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent or young person (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child or young person with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young person has started at the school except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information the application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parents' principal place of residence on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

#### Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an Independent Admission Appeals Panel. In the case of Primary phase education admission appeals to be submitted by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council If the appeal is not successful a further application for a place at the same school will not be considered for the same academic year unless the

Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, determines that there are significant and material changes to the circumstances.

#### Waiting lists

The Council will keep a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants ranked in order of priority according to the Council's oversubscription criteria. As places become available these will be offered on the basis of the ranked order of priority. A waiting list will be maintained until 30<sup>th</sup> September in the school year in which the applicants applied.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's Home to School Travel policy when applying for a place at a school for their child. The policy is available at <a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk">www.npt.gov.uk</a>

#### Oversubscription criteria secondary phase education

Parents have the right to express a preference which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible. Some schools have more requests for places than there are places available. Where a school is oversubscribed preferences will still be considered but the priorities set by the Council will be applied.

In deciding which children to admit to a school the Council applies the criteria set out below in the order of priority shown - a) being the highest priority.

The Council will only admit up to a school's admission number.

Parents/carers can apply for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school. Requests for a place will be granted unless to do so would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources

Those parents who apply on time for a place at any school will be given priority over those who apply late.

- a) Children and young people looked after or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales as defined in section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
- b) Children and young people attending a partner primary school<sup>2</sup> who live within the catchment area of the school for which the application is made.

<sup>2</sup> Reference to a partner primary school is in relation to the school for which the application is made. For the definition of a partner primary school see para. 8

- c) Other children and young people who live within the catchment area of the school for which the application is made but do not attend a partner primary school.
- d) Children and young people who have an older sibling who will be on register at the school when they are admitted. A "sibling" is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person. Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all children a place in the school, parents will be asked to decide which child should be offered a place first or parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all children.
  - e) Children and young people attending a partner primary school<sup>3</sup>, but who live outside the catchment area of the school for which the application is made.

If children are equally entitled to a place in the school in categories - a) to e) above, then priority will be given to the child living nearest. This is measured by the shortest suitable walking/travel route between the home and the school. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability. In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent or young person (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child or young person with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young person has started at the school except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information the application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Reference to a partner primary school is in relation to the school for which the application is made. For the definition of a partner primary school see para. 8

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parents' principal place of residence on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child/young person and the child/young person lives with both parents for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

#### **Right of Appeal**

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an Independent Admission Appeals Panel. In the case of Secondary phase education admission appeals to be submitted by **26**<sup>th</sup> **March 2021**. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council. If the appeal is not successful a further application for a place at the same school will not be considered for the same academic year unless the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, determines that there are significant and material changes to the circumstances.

The Council will keep a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants ranked in order of priority according to the Council's oversubscription criteria. As places become available these will be offered on the basis of the ranked order of priority. A waiting list will be maintained until 30<sup>th</sup> September in the school year in which the applicants applied.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's Home to School Travel policy when applying for a place at a school for their child. The policy is available at www.npt.gov.uk

#### 5. Admission to Sixth Form

There are two sixth forms within the County Borough - a community school Welshmedium sixth form at Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur for which the Council is the admission authority and a voluntary aided school sixth form at St Joseph's RC School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre for which the school's governing body is the admission authority

Young people who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs which identifies a particular sixth form provision will be guaranteed a place at that school.

#### - Oversubscription criteria (Welsh-medium 6th Form)

Parents and pupils have the right to express a preference which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible. In the event of the number of requests for places exceeding the number of places available, preferences will still be considered but the priorities set by the Council will be applied. In deciding which young people to admit to the sixth form, the Council applies the criteria set out below in the order of priority shown - a) being the highest priority. The Council will not normally exceed the sixth form's admission number.

- a) Young people looked after or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales, as defined in section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or, or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
- b) Young people who have an older sibling who will be on register at the sixth form when they are admitted. A "sibling" is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person. Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all young people a place in the sixth form, the parents will be asked to decide which young person should be offered a place first or parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all young people.

If young people are equally entitled to a place in the sixth form in categories a) and b) above then priority will be given to the young person living nearest. This is measured by the shortest suitable walking/travel route between the home and the sixth form. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application

forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability.

In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied if required.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent or young person (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young person has started at the school except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information the application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

The home address is considered to be the young person's along with their parent's principal place of residence (or the young person's alone if they are living independently) on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a young person is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a young person and the young person lives with both parents for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the young person lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents and young people living independently will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

If a parent or young person is dissatisfied with the result of an application for a particular sixth form an appeal may be submitted to the independent Admission Appeals Panel by **26**<sup>th</sup> **March 2021**. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council. If the appeal is not successful, further applications for a place at the same sixth form will not be considered for the same academic year unless the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team determines that there are significant and material changes the circumstances.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's Home to School Travel policy when applying for a place a school for their child. The policy is available at www.npt.gov.uk

#### 6. Admission during the academic year

Requests for children and young people to transfer between schools at periods other than at the normal transfer age will be determined by applying the above arrangements. Application forms are available from the School Admissions Section, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which the parent (or young person in the case of a sixth form application) should complete and return to the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ. Successful applicants will receive a leaving date from the school at which they are currently enrolled and a start date for the receiving school. Moving children and young people during the academic year is not encouraged and, unless otherwise stated, admission to the receiving school will be from the beginning of the following term.

Transfer into a school within the County Borough from another local authority, or a change of school necessitated by a change of address, will be authorised as soon as possible but within 15 school days or 28 calendar days whichever is the sooner.

Children and young people who transfer due to being in receipt of a statement of special educational needs will be admitted into the named school as soon as possible but within 15 working days.

#### 7. Admission number and class sizes - community schools

The admission number means the number of pupils that the Council can admit to a school. Each school has an admission number which is calculated using the Welsh Government's 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales' assessment. Admission to a school cannot be refused unless the admission number has been reached (appendix 5)

Legislation requires the class size for classes containing pupils the majority of whom will attain the age of 5, 6 and 7 during the course of the school year not to exceed 30 pupils save for 'excepted pupils' as specified by Regulation. The relevant age group is the group at which children and young people are normally admitted, i.e. reception for primary schools and Y7 for secondary schools.

#### 8. Catchment areas and partner schools - community schools

For the purpose of admission to community schools, the term catchment area is defined as the geographical area served by a school, as determined by the Council.

For the purpose of admission to community schools, the term 'partner' school is

defined as a school that has a catchment area in common with another school of the same category, e.g. an English-medium community primary with an English-medium community secondary or a Welsh-medium community primary with a Welsh-medium community secondary (voluntary aided schools excepted). An indicative list as at 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 is attached as appendix 4.

Copies of school catchment area maps may be obtained from the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team.

#### 9. Admission Process overview - Community Schools

All applications for admission into a community school (including sixth form) within the County Borough **must** be made on the appropriate form to the Council and **not** to the school. Parents can apply online at **www.npt.gov.uk** 

Head teachers do not have the authority to admit children to their school. Applications have to be made to the admission authority which, for community schools, is the Council / LA.

All parents of children known to the Council and residing within the County Borough will be forwarded an admission application letter and accompanying admission arrangement notes during the Autumn Term prior to entry into school in September of the following academic year.

Parents should request an admission application form and, when completed, return it to the Admissions Officer or apply online, by the date given on the admission arrangements.

The outcome of all admission applications will be notified to parents in writing or by email as appropriate, with all outcomes sent from the central office on the date given on the admission arrangements.

Parents who are satisfied with the placement offered should confirm acceptance of the offer in writing to the Council or via the school admission website. Unfilled places will be allocated to children and young people whose parents have applied for admission ahead of those who have not formally accepted the initial offer of a place.

Parents who are not satisfied with the placement offered have a right of appeal.

Information regarding appeals will be within the contents of the letter received. Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeal Panel constituted for the sole purpose of hearing appeals.

Requests for admission to the relevant age group submitted on or before the

administrative closing date will be processed collectively. In this respect, no advantage shall be gained from the early submission of an admission request. Requests submitted after the closing date will be processed on a weekly basis.

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the sitting of tests, viewing of school reports, interviewing pupils, with or without parents for the purpose of assessing ability or aptitude.

Where requests for admission exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated by applying the Council's oversubscription criteria.

The Council will keep a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants ranked in order of priority according to the Council's oversubscription criteria. As places become available, these will be offered on the basis of the ranked order of priority. A waiting list will be maintained until 30<sup>th</sup> September in the school year in which applications were received applied.

#### Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an Independent Admission Appeals Panel. In the case of primary phase education admission appeals to be submitted by 14th May 2021. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council. If the appeal is not successful a further application for a place at the same school will not be considered for the same academic year unless the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, determines that there are significant and material changes to the circumstances.

Children attending the nursery class will not have an automatic right of admission to full time education at the same school. Similarly, children transferring from primary phase education to secondary phase education do not have an automatic right of admission to any school<sup>4</sup>.

The Council will be under no duty to comply with preferences expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

Separate admission arrangements apply to pupils for whom the Council holds a statement of special educational need. Pupils with a statement of educational needs must be admitted to the school named on their statement.

Looked after and previously looked after children must, after children with a statement of educational needs, be given first priority in the case of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Children admitted to the primary phase of an 'all-through' school do not have to apply for a place at the same school at secondary transfer.

oversubscription.

#### 10. Admission to Voluntary Aided (i.e. Faith) Schools

Although voluntary aided (i.e. Faith) schools are their own admission authority, through its on-line application system the Council assists the application process for St Joseph's RC School & 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre.(This applies to year 7 applications only) Requests for admission will be determined by reference to admission criteria set by the governing body. (The governing bodies of Voluntary Aided Schools are responsible for determining their own admission arrangements)



# Schedule of Events Community Schools Secondary Phase Education & Sixth Form Admission 2021/22

#### 5th October 2020

Application forms / School Prospectus / Information for Parents Handbook distributed to parents. Parents of young people entering a new school (Year 7) have a minimum of 6 weeks to apply to a school of their choice.

#### Application forms to be returned to:

Mrs H Lewis, Schools Admissions Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

#### 27th November 2020

Closing date of submission of Admission Application Forms

Applications processed

#### 1st February 2021

Children with statements of special educational needs/idp have placements confirmed.

#### 1st March 2021

Parents and schools informed of allocation of secondary places to mainstream pupils.

#### 26th March 2021

Appeals against refusal to admit

# Schedule of Events Community Schools Primary Phase Education Admission 2021/22

#### 5th October 2020

Application forms / School Prospectus, Information for Parents Handbook distributed to parents. Parents of children entering a new school (Reception) have a minimum of 6 weeks to apply to a school of their choice.

#### Application forms to be returned to:

Mrs H Lewis, Schools Admissions Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

#### 27th /November 2020

Closing date of submission of Admission Application Forms Applications processed

#### 1st /February 2021

Children with statements of special educational needs/idp have placements confirmed.

#### 16th /April 2021

Parents and schools informed of allocation of primary places to mainstream pupils.

#### 14th /May 2021

Appeals against refusal to admit

#### Schedule of Events for Community Schools Nursery Class Admission 2021/22

#### 5th October, 2020

Application forms distributed to parents.

#### **Application forms to be returned to:**

Mrs H Lewis, Schools Admissions Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

#### 22rd /March 2021

Closing date of submission of Admission Application Forms Applications processed

#### 14<sup>h</sup> /May 2021

Parents and schools informed of allocation of nursery places.

## Partner Community Schools (Indicative list as at 01/09/19)

PARTNER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS					
Secondary	<b>Secondary</b> Primary				
CEFN SAESON	Crynallt Primary, Gnoll Primary, Melin Primary, Tonnau Primary.				
CWMTAWE Alltwen Primary, Godre'rgraig Primary, Llangiwg Primary Rhos Primary, Rhydyfro Primary, Tairgwaith Primary.					
YSGOL BAE	Awel Y Mor Primary, Ysgol Carreg Hir, Baglan Primary,				
BAGLAN	Blaenbaglan Primary, Sandfields Primary, Tywyn Primary.				
DWR Y FELIN	Abbey Primary, Blaenhonddan Primary, Coedffranc Primary, Crymlyn Primary, Waunceirch Primary.				
YSGOL CWM BROMBIL	Central Primary, Coed Hirwaun Primary, Cwmafan Primary, Eastern Primary, Croeserw Primary, Cymer Afan Primary, Glyncorrwg Primary, Pen Afan Primary.				
Blaendulais Primary, Blaengwrach Primary, Catwg Primary, Cilffriw Primary, Creunant Primary, Cwmnedd Primary, Maesmarchog Primary, Ynysfach Primary.					
YSGOL Gymraeg Ystalyfera – Bro Dur	YGG Blaendulais, YGG Castell-Nedd, YGG Cwmllynfell, YGG Cwmnedd, YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen, YGG Pontardawe, YGG Rhosafan, YGG Trebannws, YGG Tyle'r Ynn.				

NB: Attendance at a partner school does not guarantee a place at the preferred school nor does it prevent parents applying to alternative schools of their choice.

This table does not include voluntary aided schools which are subject to separate admission arrangements.

### Admission Number<sup>5</sup> September 2020

Name of school	Primary Phase
	Admission Number
Abbey Primary	53
Alderman Davies CIW Primary	59
Alltwen Primary	34
Awel Y Mor Primary	42
Baglan Primary	38
Blaenbaglan Primary	40
Blaendulais Primary	23
Blaengwrach Primary	20
Blaenhonddan Primary	32
Bryncoch CIW Primary	31
Catwg Primary	29
Central Primary	55
Cilffriw Primary	30
Coed Hirwaun Primary	22
Coedffranc Primary	62
Creunant Primary	19
Croeserw Primary	25
Crymlyn Primary	8
Crynallt Primary	57
Cwmafan Primary	60
Cwmnedd Primary	30
Cymer Afan Primary	12
Eastern Primary	26
Glyncorrwg Primary	19
Gnoll Primary	48
Godre'rgraig Primary	23
Llangiwg Primary	21
Maesmarchog Primary	16
Melin Primary	34
Pen Afan Primary	18
Rhos Primary	25
Rhydyfro Primary	24
Sandfields Primary	53
St Joseph's Infant	34
St Joseph's Junior	39
St Joseph's Primary	29

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Voluntary aided (i.e. Faith) schools admission numbers included

St Therese's Primary	28
Tairgwaith Primary	21
Tonnau Primary	30
Tywyn Primary	52
Waunceirch Primary	30
Ysgol Bae Baglan Primary Phase	40
Ynysfach Primary	25
Ysgol Carreg Hir	60
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Primary Phase	30
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur Primary	
Phase	26
Phase YGG Blaendulais	26 17
YGG Blaendulais	17
YGG Blaendulais YGG Castell Nedd	17 48
YGG Blaendulais YGG Castell Nedd YGG Cwm Nedd	17 48 26
YGG Blaendulais YGG Castell Nedd YGG Cwm Nedd YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen	17 48 26 25
YGG Blaendulais YGG Castell Nedd YGG Cwm Nedd YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen YGG Pontardawe	17 48 26 25 51
YGG Blaendulais YGG Castell Nedd YGG Cwm Nedd YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen YGG Pontardawe YGG Rhosafan	17 48 26 25 51 45
YGG Blaendulais YGG Castell Nedd YGG Cwm Nedd YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen YGG Pontardawe YGG Rhosafan YGG Tyle'r Ynn	17 48 26 25 51 45 29

Name of School	Secondary Phase	Sixth Form
	<b>Admission Number</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Cefn Saeson Comprehensive	184	
Cwmtawe Community	256	
Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive	220	
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Secondary Phase	210	
Llangatwg Community	233	
St Joseph's RC School and 6th Form Centre	144	143
Ysgol Bae Baglan Secondary Phase	220	
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur	240	130

#### **Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Report Form**

This form should be completed for each Equality Impact Assessment on a new or existing function, a reduction or closure of service, any policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project which has been screened and found relevant to Equality and Diversity.

Please refer to the 'Equality Impact Assessment Guidance' while completing this form. If you would like further guidance please contact the Corporate Strategy Team or your directorate Heads of Service Equality Champion.

Whe	ere do you w	ork?					
Serv	rice Area: A	dmission to	Community	Schools ir	n Neath Po	rt Talbot 20	21/2022
Dire	ctorate: Educ	cation Leisu	re and Life	Long Learr	ning		
(a)	This EIA is	being compl	eted for a				
	Service/ Function	Policy/ Procedure	Project	Strategy	Plan	Proposal	
Talbo Educ	licy to set ou ot in respect cation(Detern	ne and descri t the admissi of the 2019/2 nination)of Ad nt School Ad	on arrangen 020 academi dmission Arı	c year, in ac	ccordance v	vith the	
(c)	It was initia	Illy screened	for relevanc	e to Equality	y and Divers	sity on 28	/01/2020
(d)	Age Disability Gender reass Marriage & co	d to be relevant		Religi Sex Sexua	on or belief		
(e)	Lead Office	er		(f)	Approve	d by Head of	Service
	Name: Hele	en Lewis			Name: M	Ir Andrew T	homas
	Job title:- S	Senior Award	s Officer		<b>Date:</b> 28	/01/2020	
	Date: 28/0	1/2020					

### Section 1 – Aims (See guidance):

Briefly describe the aims of the function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan, proposal or project:

project:					
What are the aims? Po Neath Port Talbot in re Education (Determinal Welsh Government So	espect of the 26 tion of Admiss	021/2022 Acad ion Arrangem	demic year, ents) (Wales	in accordance wi	th The
Who has responsibilit Transformation and th				ife Long Learning	, The Head of
Who are the stakehold school within Neath P schools.					
Section 2 - Information in Section 2 - Information 2 - Informatio	ation you know		•	•	evidence
Age		🖂	Race		
Disability		<u> </u>		ef	<u> </u>
Gender reassignme			· ·		<del></del>
Marriage & civil par		<u> </u>		on	
Pregnancy and ma	•	_		ə	_
What information do y collected? Information annual PLASC return,	n is provided v	ia the school	admission a	pplication form.	Γhe
Any Actions Required	?				
Information continues		nd under the u	eual data da	athoring activities	
imormation continues	s to be collecte	ea unaer the u	Suai data ya	amering activities	•
Section 3 - Impace Please consider the post based on service user in (e.g. comments and corrections)	ssible impact on nformation, data	the different p	rotected cha	racteristics. This co	ould be
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Needs further	
Age Disability Gender reassignment Marriage & civil partnership Pregnancy and maternity Race				investigation	

Religion or belief

Sex Sexual orientation Welsh language	
Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why including details of any consultation (and/or other information) we undertaken to support your view.  The policy is in relation to the process and procedure of admitting a puracess a school place within a community school. Primary education is aged between 3-11 years old, only pupils in this age frame may apply in Neath Port Talbot. Pupils aged between 11-16 years can apply for some two schools in Neath Port Talbot that provide Post 16 education for which the Governing Body of the school is the admission other is a welsh medium community school. There is no English medium providing post 16 education, however post 16 education is available vith College. In accordance with the Welsh Government School Admission priority in relation to the oversubscription criteria is given to looked after after pupils.  Each school within Neath Port Talbot has been assessed for accessibility may be assessed on an individual basis and any relevant moor reasonable adjustment can be made where applicable. Pupils who is statement will have a specific school identified and named on the state requires a maintained school that is named on the statement of SEN to All schools are inclusive for pupils of all ethnic groups. Ethnicity is not Admission to community schools policy.  A pupil's religion or faith is not applicable in regards to a community schools are inclusive for pupils of all ethnic groups. Ethnicity is not Admission to community schools policy.  A pupil's religion or faith is not applicable in regards to a community schools within Neath Port Talbot admit both girls and be Neath Port Talbot provides education, for nursery, primary and second English and Welsh.  Consultation on the proposed policy was undertaken between January 2020.	upil, who wishes to s for those pupils for primary education secondary education. Action, one school is a sion authority and the sum community school as Neath Port Talbot as Code 005/2013 for or previously looked wility. Any pupil with a podifications, adaptions are supported by a sement .Section 324 to admit the pupil. A criterion within the school. It dium of Welsh or the code of the c
What consultation and engagement has been undertaken (e.g. with members of protected groups) to support your view?  Consultation in accordance with the Welsh Government School admiss undertaken with neighbouring Local Authorities, Headteachers and go schools within Neath Port Talbot CBC.	sion code was
Any actions required (to mitigate adverse impact or to address id knowledge)	entified gaps in
To monitor the oversubscription and other admission criterion against	protected groups.

**Section 4 - Other Impacts:** Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.

You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).

Foster good relations between
different groups
Elimination of discrimination,
harassment and victimisation

#### Advance equality of opportunity between different groups Reduction of social exclusion and poverty

#### (Please see guidance for definitions)

Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council aspires to deliver an inclusive education service. All community maintained schools have policies in place to prevent racism, harassment and victimisation.

Consultation process has been undertaken with Headteachers, governing bodies and neighbouring authorities.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council aims to tackle poverty and social exclusion through various initiatives, including free school meals and the administration of the PDG Access Grant.

Priority is given to pupils who are looked after or previously looked after.

#### What work have you already done to improve any of the above?

Neath Port Talbot CBC continually review educational inclusion.

Monitoring the performance of schools

Is the initiative likely to impact on Community Cohesion?

#### How will the initiative treat the Welsh language in the same way as the English language?

Parents/carers and pupils can request to access education via the medium of Welsh or English.

Actions (to mitigate adverse impact or to address identified gaps in knowledge).

To monitor the oversubscription and other admission criterion against protected groups.

#### Section 5 – Post Consultation

Please explain the impact of the consultation process on the issues stated above.

#### **Section 6 - Monitoring arrangements:**

Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this function, service, policy, procedure, strategy, plan or project:

**Monitoring arrangements:** To be reviewed on an annual basis. Data collection by Welsh Government. Submission to Welsh Government report provided by the Neath Port Talbot School Admission Forum.

Page 34

Section 7 – Outcomes: Having completed sections 1-5, please indicate vigour initiative (refer to guidance for further inform	• •
Outcome 1: Continue the initiative Outcome 2: Adjust the initiative Outcome 3: Justify the initiative Outcome 4: Stop and remove the initiative	
For outcome 3, detail the justification for proceed	ling here
Section 8 - Publication arrangeme On completion, please contact the Corporate Str	

The policy relating to Admission to community school in Neath Port Talbot requires an equality

To monitor the oversubscription and other admission criterion against protected groups.

**Actions:** 

to publish the findings of EIAs.

impact assessment as part of the publication process.

### **Action Plan:**

Objective - What are we going to do and why?	Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?	When will it be done by?	Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?	Progress
A Policy to set out the admission arrangements for Community Schools in Neath Port Talbot in respect of the 2021/2022 Academic year, in accordance with The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 and the Welsh Government School Admissions Code 905/2013	Helen Lewis	By 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020	Policy will be determined by 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2020 and published.	

	τ	
	تو	
(	0	
	$\square$	
	Ċ	
	<u> </u>	

This page is intentionally left blank