



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Education, Skills and Culture Scrutiny Committee

2nd September, 2021

Report of the Head of Education Development – Chris Millis

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: ADMISSION/CAPACITY IN SCHOOLS

Purpose of the Report:

At the request of Members as part of their forward work programme this report provides Members with information and data in relation to the admission and capacity of pupils and placements to Neath Port Talbot schools.

Executive Summary:

The number of admission applications for pupils entering or moving schools in Neath Port Talbot has increased in recent years. The vast majority of applicants are offered their first choice of school with just 1.45% of applicants being offered their second preference of choice. More than three-quarters of applications made are now online.

Background:

Members of the Scrutiny Committee have asked officers to provide a report outlining the results of the annual admission round of pupils entering Neath Port Talbot schools.

Members will be aware that each year permission is sought from Education, Skills and Culture Cabinet to firstly carry out a consultation process with interested parties regarding the Council's Admissions Policy for the year ahead and then in again to the responses to the consultation Cabinet is asked to approve an annual Admissions Policy.

Whilst today marks the first day of the 2021/22 academic year, the admission round to enable parents apply for a school place for their child for the academic year 2022/23 will commence in a matter of weeks. Officers will also be starting the process of drafting the Admissions Policy for the 2023/24 academic year over the next few months for submission to Cabinet for consideration prior to Christmas.

Over the past three years the service has been rolling out the ability for parents to apply for a school place online in place of the completion of a traditional paper application form. This academic year saw the final phase of digital rollout with the inclusion of nursery admission applications. 884 applications were received, with 658 being made online (74.4%).

Academic Year 2021/22

Members have previously requested data in relation to the number of pupils who were offered their first and second place choice of school within the county borough and also to be provided with information in relation to school capacity.

- Number of applications received: 2,965
- Number allocated first choice preference: 2,922 / 98.55%

- Number allocated second choice preference: 43 / 1.45%
- Number of independent appeals: 7
- Number of successful appeals: 2
- Number of applications processed online: 76.3%

A list of individual schools along with the capacity and pupil admission number is attached as Appendix A. Members should note that whilst these figures represent the overall surplus or over capacity of the school as a whole, admission might be still be denied based on an application to a particular year group which is at full capacity. Interpretation of these figures comes with a health warning that they can fluctuate on a daily basis depending on the fluid movement of pupils.

In addition to the application figures above, the Admissions Team also process in-year transfers. These are applications for admissions to a school that are outside of the normal admission round, usually mid-year transfers. Numbers under this category have increased substantially in recent years. For the 2020/21 academic year, despite the Covid pandemic and restrictions placed on individuals, some 716 applications were processed for pupils to move schools. Although today is the first day of the new academic year, already the service has received and processed 167 transfer requests. All-bar 5 have been offered their first choice of school.

The majority of reasons provided on the application forms for wishing to change their child's school mid-year are relating to accommodation moves within the county and new families moving into the Neath Port Talbot area.

Financial Impacts:

No implications

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment as this report is for monitoring / information purposes only.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications

Workforce Impacts:

No implications

Legal Impacts:

No implications

Risk Management Impacts:

No implications

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item

Recommendations:

That Members note the contents of this update report

Appendices:

Appendix A, School Capacity Numbers

List of Background Papers:

None

Officer Contact:

John Burge, Manager of the School & Family Support Team,
Ext: 3599, j.burge@npt.gov.uk

Helen Lewis, Principal Officer Admissions and Awards,
Ext: 3580, h.lewis@npt.gov.uk

School Capacity Numbers, September 2021		
School	Available Capacity (No's)	Pupil Admission Number
Primary		
Abbey Primary	-1	372
Alltwen Primary	-2	239
Awel Y Mor	-13	300
Baglan Primary	-40	270
Blaenbaglan Primary	+7	282
Blaendulais Primary	-80	166
Blaengwrach Primary	-11	146
Blaenhonddan Primary	-13	226
Ysgol Carreg Hir	-75	420
Catwg Primary	-9	204
Central Primary	+8	388
Cilffriw Primary	-37	213
Coed Hirwaun Primary	-8	159
Coedffranc Primary	-81	435
Creunant Primary	-26	134
Croeserw Primary	-41	178
Crymlyn Primary	0	90
Crynallt Primary	-125	480
Cwmafan Primary	-20	363
Cwmnedd Primary	-35	216
Cymer Afan Primary	-26	90
Eastern Primary	-36	182
Glyncorwg Primary	-65	137
Gnoll Primary	-32	338
Godre'rgraig Primary	-34	161
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Primary Phase	-4	210
Llangiwig Primary	-52	176
Maesmarchog Primary	-20	112

Melin Primary	-40	238
Pen Afan Primary	-24	129
Rhos Primary	-34	180
Rhydyfro Primary	-15	168
Sandfields Primary	-80	372
Tairgwaith Primary	-53	150
Tonnau Primary	-32	210
Tywyn Primary	0	366
Wauanceirch Primary	-33	211
Ynysfach Primary	-25	176
Ysgol Bae Baglan Primary Phase	+11	252
Welsh Medium		
YGG Blaendulais	-36	124
YGG Castell Nedd	-5	340
YGG Cwmllynfell	-29	92
YGG Cwm Nedd	-70	185
YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen	-23	178
YGG Pontardawe	-80	359
YGG Rhosafan	+3	318
YGG Tyle'r Ynn	+20*	206
YGG Trebannws	-49	132
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur	-53	200
Secondary		
Cefn Saeson Comprehensive	-94	924
Cwmtawe Community	-98	1284
Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive	+16	1100
Ysgol Cwm Brombil Sec. Phase	-75	1200
Llangatwg Community	-402	1169
Ysgol Gymraeg Ystalyfera Bro Dur	-18	1200
Ysgol Bae Baglan Sec. Phase	0	1100
Voluntary Aided Schools		
Alderman Davies CIW	-138	417
Bryncoch CIW	-106	219
St Joseph's Infants	+13	104
St Joseph's Junior	-3	156

St Joseph's Primary	-100	205
St Therese's Primary	-3	196
St Joseph's RC School and 6th Form	-60	910

*Revised increased school capacity to be agreed in September, 2021 following completion of building works on site.