

Education and Inclusion Services Directorate

Agenda Item No. 7.7

Admission Policy / Starting School

Admission Arrangements

1.1 This report forms the LA's consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2024/25. These arrangements will be largely the same as the arrangements for the academic year 2023/24 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 - 1 March 2023.

Primary Schools – 17 April 2023.

3. Changes for the Academic Year 2023 - 2024

3.1 The new school building 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.

3.2 From September 2023, there will be no year 12 admissions to Pontypridd High School and Hawthorn High School. As a result of this, the catchment school for Year 12 admissions for both these schools' catchment area's will be Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School.

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 1 March 2023.