

## **Agenda Item 9.1**

### **Admissions Policy/Starting School**

#### **Admission Arrangements**

1.1 This report forms the LA's consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2017/18. These arrangements will be largely the same as the arrangements for the academic year 2016/17 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 (p. 47 - 63)
- ii. Application procedures/ timetable for the admissions process. (p. 4 - 14)
- iii. The oversubscription criteria (p. 5)
- iv. Information on how waiting lists operate (p. 6)
- v. Applications which miss the deadline and making /processing applications outside the normal admissions round (p. 4)
- vi. Admissions decisions and the right of appeal (p. 4).
- vii. Catchment areas can be found by visiting the Council's Website [www.rctcbc.gov.uk](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk) and typing find my nearest 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 as follows:-

Secondary Schools - 1 March 2017.

Primary Schools – 17 April 2017.

### **3. Changes for the Academic Year 2016 - 2017**

- 3.1 The catchment areas of Y Pant and Bryncelynnog Comprehensive Schools have been reviewed following consultation; most of the areas that fall into the catchments of two associated Primary Schools, namely Llantrisant and Penygawsi Primary Schools shall transfer from the Y Pant catchment to Bryncelynnog with effect from 1st September 2015. This change primarily affects children resident in the communities of Llantrisant Old Town, Cross Inn and Penygawsi. Any child living in the areas which transferred to the Bryncelynnog catchment area, who has an older sibling still attending YPant in September 2016, will have their application considered as if they still resided in the Y Pant catchment area, i.e. their application will fall into Category 2 of the Authority's Published admissions criteria and not Category 4. This protection will continue until older siblings have left the school.
- 3.2 The catchment areas of Treorchy Comprehensive, Ferndale Community School, Porth County Community School, Tonypany Comprehensive School and Tonyrefail School have been reviewed. Changes were outlined during consultation and any implementation is subject to the outcome of the consultation.

### **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 Lifelong Learning, Ty Trevithick, Abercynon, Mountain Ash, CF45 4UQ by 31 December 2015.**