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

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Education and Inclusion Services Directorate

Agenda Item 8.1

Admissions Policy / Starting School 2028/2029

1. Admission Arrangements

1.1 This report forms the LA's consultation on the proposed admission arrangements for the academic year 2028/29. These arrangements will be largely the same as the arrangements for the academic year 2027/28 and are detailed in a publication entitled, "Starting School" which is made available to all parents who have children starting school and is available online 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).

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 2027.
Primary Schools – 16 April 2027.

3. Changes for the Academic Year 2026 - 2027

3.1 Craig Yr Hesg Primary School and Cefn Primary School will close during the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

3.2 Ysgol Gynradd Glyn-coch will open during the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

3.3 Ysgol Cambrian will open during the 2026-2027 Academic Year.

4. Changes for the Academic Year 2027 – 2028

4.1 Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements 2027-2028
In line with new Welsh Government regulations, The Education (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024 all local authorities in Wales are required to formulate a coordinated school admissions scheme for all maintained mainstream schools in their area from the 2027-2028 school year. Co-ordinated schemes are intended to simplify the admissions process for parents/carers whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination establishes a mechanism that ensures that, as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent/carer of a child living in a local authority area, who submits an application within the normal admissions round, is sent one, and only one, offer of a school place by their local
authority.

The local authority will co-ordinate admission arrangements for applications in the normal admission rounds, that is, Reception and Year 7. The coordinated admissions arrangements do not apply to applications for nursery places, sixth form places, or places at maintained special schools. The co-ordinated school admission arrangements do not apply to in-year admissions/transfer applications.
The co-ordinated school admission arrangements for Reception and Year 7 include all community schools and the following voluntary-aided schools:

- Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School;
- Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School;
- St Gabriel & St Raphael Catholic Primary School
- St Michael's Catholic Primary School;
- St Margaret's Catholic Primary School;
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School;
- Cardinal Newman Catholic School; and
- St John Baptist Church in Wales High School.

Parents will need to complete an online 'Common Application Form' and can express up to three preferences for community and/or voluntary-aided schools. Parents/carers are able to complete the relevant application online at
https://oneonline.rctcbc.gov.uk Parents applying for a voluntary-aided school may also need to complete a supplementary application form for the individual school and provide a baptism certificate, if the school wishes to implement this form they will contact the parent direct regarding this.
Parents/carers who submit an application by the published closing time and date of an admission round will be notified by the local authority, in writing of the outcome of their application.
Late applications can be obtained from the School admissions team.

Timetable for Reception admissions for September 2027

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications.	1st September 2026
Closing date for receipt of applications.	6th November 2026
Notification to be sent by the local authority to applicants of offer or refusal of places (that is, the 'offer date').	16th April 2027

Timetable for Year 7 secondary school admissions for September 2027

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications.	1st September 2026
Closing date for receipt of applications.	9th October 2026
Notification to be sent by the local authority to applicants of offer or refusal of places (that is, the 'offer date').	1st March 2027

5. 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 2026.