

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

31 OCTOBER 2017

REPORT BY THE INTERIM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY AND ARRANGEMENTS 2019 – 2020 PROPOSED CHANGES TO SCHOOLS' ADMISSION NUMBERS

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to consult on proposed changes to the published admission numbers for schools, as required by Welsh Government's School Admissions Code July 2013.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 The admission of pupils is a statutory responsibility which supports the raising of educational standards and the wellbeing of children, young people and their local communities. In particular, it contributes to the following corporate priority:

- Supporting a successful economy

3. Background

- 3.1 Welsh Government's School Admissions Code 2013 (the Code) requires admission authorities to act in accordance with the Code. The Code includes practical guidance and imposes requirements on local authorities and admission authorities, regarding the discharge of duties in respect of school admissions.
- 3.2 The local authority has a statutory duty to consult with the governing bodies of schools who have delegated admission powers, all neighbouring local authorities, the admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the county borough and the governing bodies of all other schools (ie community and voluntary controlled schools which do not have delegated admission powers) in Bridgend County Borough.
- 3.3 The local authority is required to publish both an admission policy and guidance on the admission arrangements for its schools. Guidance is contained within the Council's information guide "A Guide to Bridgend Council's Policy and Admission Arrangements for Schools" (the Guide).
- 3.4 The published admission number (PAN) for a school is published each year in the Guide. The PAN identifies the number of pupils that can be admitted to a year group. Admission authorities must have regard to the PAN for each year group. The PAN for each school is calculated in accordance with the capacity assessment method set out in the Welsh Government's guidance document 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales'.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 Admission arrangements for the 2019-2020 academic year must be consulted on for each maintained school between 1 September 2017 and 1 March 2018, and set by 15 April 2018.
- 4.2 Cabinet determined on 3 October 2017 to agree that the consultation for the 2019-2020 Schools Admission Policy and Arrangements takes place between 9 October 2017 and 31 December 2017.
- 4.3 In order to ensure that the PAN for each school is accurate, the local authority has recently undertaken a review of the PAN for each school for the 2019-2020 academic year using the aforementioned guidance 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales'.

4.4 Proposed changes to published admission numbers

- 4.5 Table 1 below details the proposed changes to the current PAN for each school and the new proposed PAN for the 2019-2020 academic year. No reduction to the PAN of any school has been proposed. Where an increase in PAN is identified these are highlighted in bold in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed changes to schools' published admission numbers for the 2019-2020 academic year

Name of School	Current PAN for 2017-2018	Proposed PAN for 2019-2020
Abercerdin Primary	30	30
Afon y Felin Primary	19	19
Archdeacon John Lewis Primary	30	30
Betws Primary	30	30
Blaengarw Primary	24	24
Brackla Primary	45	45
Bryncethin Primary	30	34
Brynmenyn Primary	22	60*
Bryntirion Infants	40	40
Caerau Primary	45	45
Cefn Cribwr Primary	20	20
Cefn Glas Infants	66	66
Coety Primary	60	60
Corneli Primary	46	46
Coychurch Primary	19	19
Croesty Primary	30	30
Cwmfelin Primary	30	30
Ffaldau Primary	27	30
Garth Primary	30	30
Litchard Primary	60	60
Llangynwyd Primary	11	11
Llangewydd Junior	90	90

Name of School	Current PAN for 2017-2018	Proposed PAN for 2019-2020
Maes y Haul Primary	69	70
Mynydd Cynffig Primary	46	47
Nantffyllon Primary	40	40
Nantymoel Primary	30	30
Newton Primary	33	34
Nottage Primary	60	60
Ogmore Vale Primary	53	53
Oldcastle Primary	50	50
Pencoed Primary	70	72*
Penybont Primary	45	45
Penyfai Primary	30	30
Pil Primary	30	30
Plasnewydd Primary	45	45
Porthcawl Primary	25	25
St Mary's Primary	30	30
St Mary's and St Patricks Primary	25	25
St Roberts Primary	22	22
Tondu Primary	42	42
Trelales Primary	30	30
Tremains Primary	65	65
Tynyrheol Primary	10	10
West Park Primary	55	55
Ysgol Bro Ogwr	54	54
Ysgol Cwm Garw	30	30
Ysgol Cynwyd Sant	45	45
Ysgol y Ferch O'r Sger	33	33
Archbishop McGrath	131	131
Brynteg School	333	333
Bryntirion Comprehensive	210	210
Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen	276	276
Cynffig Comprehensive	180	180
Maesteg School	228	228
Pencoed School	214	214
Porthcawl Comprehensive	246	246
YGG Llangynwyd	165	165

* School size has increased through an agreed school organisational change

- 4.6 Following consultation with the stakeholders identified in paragraph 3.2 changes to the amended PAN would be included within the Guide to Bridgend Council's Policy and Admission Arrangements for Schools Guide for the 2019-2020 academic year.
- 4.7 In general, for schools with increased PANs, the local authority as admission authority has a statutory duty to admit pupils up to the new PAN. However, it is reasonable for the admission authority to consider exercising discretion, in

exceptional circumstances, to admit more pupils than the PAN indicates. Such instances might include:

- Where there are a significant number of surplus places across the year groups in the school, so that the pupil can be accommodated without prejudicing future intakes if the increased uptake of places continues.
- If there is a temporary shortage of a particular type of provision in an area, for example Welsh-medium education, while additional provision is being established.

4.8 As the PAN reflects the school's ability to accommodate pupils, admission authorities are not expected to exceed it to any significant degree in relation to any year group. If the PAN is routinely exceeded, overcrowding could result.

4.9 As it is fairly common for schools to utilise their space differently over time, PANs should be reviewed and amended in-line with these changes to accurately reflect the actual physical space available within schools.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1. There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1. It is a statutory duty that admission authorities are mindful of their duties with regards to Equalities Legislation. As a result, the proposed School Admission Policy and Arrangements 2019 – 2020 adhere to these requirements.

7. Financial implications

7.1. In general, for schools with increased PANs, the local authority as admission authority has a statutory duty to admit pupils up to the new PAN. Any increase in pupil numbers would have to be funded from the existing overall Individual Schools Budget.

8. Recommendation

8.1. Cabinet is recommended to approve that:

- a consultation for the proposed Published Admission Numbers identified in Table 1 above takes place between 30 October 2017 and 31 December 2017.

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Background documents

Welsh Government School Admissions Code - Document No: 005/2013

Cabinet Report, 3 October 2017: School Admission Policy and Arrangements 2019-2020