

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

10 MARCH 2020

REPORT BY THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2021-2022

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval of the School Admissions Policy 2021-2022.
- 1.2 The School Admissions Policy 2021-2022 is attached at **Appendix A**.

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 well-being of children, young people and their local communities. In particular, it contributes to the corporate priority:

Supporting a successful economy – taking steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.

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. The Council must act in accordance with the Code, as determined by the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
- 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 that do not have delegated admission powers) in Bridgend County Borough.
- 3.3. The local authority is required to annually publish an admission policy and guidance on the admission arrangements for its schools.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 On 6 January 2020, the Bridgend Admissions Forum agreed a draft School Admissions Policy for 2021-2022, as per the requirements under the Code.

- 4.2 The consultation period for the 2021-2022 policy was 20 January 2020 to 17 February 2020.
- 4.3. Following consultation, no representations were received from stakeholders.

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. The School Admissions Policy 2021-2022 adheres to these requirements.

7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

- 7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment has been completed. A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Long-term

The school admissions policy sets out how the local authority will balance the discharge of its statutory duty in relation to parental preference, the need to safeguard the delivery of effective education and the safety of pupils, and the need to support pupils in particular circumstances (for example, learners with specific vulnerabilities), in circumstances where the applications for places at a school exceed the number of available places.

Prevention

Consultation on the school admissions policy allows stakeholders to raise issues or make comments on proposals, for consideration of appropriate actions.

Integration

The school admissions policy supports the provision of education in the communities in which pupils live.

Collaboration

Each year, the local authority works in conjunction with key stakeholders to develop proposed school admission arrangements, for those schools for which it is the admissions authority.

Involvement

In accordance with the specified requirements of the Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 and the School Admissions Code 2013, the local authority consults each year on the proposed admission

arrangements for those schools for which it is the admissions authority.
Consultation for an academic year takes place two years in advance.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendations

9.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the Schools Admission Policy 2021-2022.

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Background Documents: None