

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

8 MARCH 2022

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2023-2024

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval of the School Admissions Policy 2023-2024.

2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

Supporting a successful sustainable economy – taking steps to make the county borough a great 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 for all people in the county borough.

3. Background

- 3.1 Welsh Government's School Admissions Code 2013 (the Code) 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.
- 3.3. The local authority is required to annually publish an admissions policy and guidance on the admission arrangements for its schools.

4. Current situation/proposal

- 4.1 The Bridgend Admissions Forum agreed a draft School Admissions Policy for 2023-2024, as per the requirements under the Code.
- 4.2 The subsequent consultation on the 2023-2024 policy, including the published admission numbers for the schools, took place with all parties between 21 January 2022 and 21 February 2022 (refer to paragraph 3.2).
- 4.3. No representations were received in response to the consultation.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

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

6. Equality Act 2010 implications

6.1 An initial Equality Impact assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

6.2 It is a statutory duty that admission authorities are mindful of their duties with regards to equalities legislation. The School Admissions Policy 2023-2024 adheres to these requirements.

6.3 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been carried out (see Appendix B) and in light that the local authority's school admission arrangements remain substantively the same as in previous years, the local authority is satisfied that school admission arrangements to Welsh-medium schools will be at least comparable with existing provision and that implementing the proposal should result in a neutral impact on Welsh language development.

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 Admissions Policy 2023-2024 (as in Appendix A).

Mr Lindsay Harvey
Corporate Director – Education and Family Support

8 March 2022

Contact Officer: Dawn Davies
Principal Officer – Business Strategy and Performance
Telephone: (01656) 642694
E-mail: Dawn.Davies@bridgend.gov.uk
Postal Address: Education and Family Support Directorate
Bridgend County Borough Council
Civic Offices
Angel Street
Bridgend
CF31 4WB

Attachments:

Appendix A: School Admissions Policy 2023-2024
Appendix B: Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Background documents:

None