

Meeting of:	CABINET
Date of Meeting:	3 FEBRUARY 2026
Report Title:	SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2027-2028 AND CO-ORDINATED ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2028-2029
Report Owner: Responsible Chief Officer / Cabinet Member	CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION, EARLY YEARS AND YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH SERVICES
Responsible Officer:	ROBIN DAVIES GROUP MANAGER – STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND SUPPORT
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.
Executive Summary:	<p>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.</p> <p>The applicable legislation requires that the school admission arrangements for 2027-2028 are determined by 15 April 2026 and that the local authority formulates and adopts Co-ordinated Admissions Arrangements annually.</p>

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval for the School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 (see Appendix A) and to advise Cabinet that the previously approved and adopted Co-ordinated School Admissions Arrangements 2027-2028 have been adopted without change for 2028-2029.

2. Background

2.1 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.

- 2.2 As part of the statutory process, the local authority has a duty to consult with stakeholders as identified in the Code. This includes the governing bodies of all schools in Bridgend (including voluntary-aided and voluntary-controlled schools), all neighbouring local authorities and the bodies representing the religion or religious denomination of faith schools in Bridgend.
- 2.3 The local authority is required to publish annually an admissions policy and guidance on the admission arrangements for its schools. These are published on the local authority's website.

3. Current situation/proposal

- 3.1 In October 2025, Bridgend Admissions Forum agreed a draft School Admissions Policy for 2027-2028, as per the requirements under the Code.
- 3.2 The consultation on the 2027-2028 policy took place with all parties between 27 October 2025 and 28 November 2025.
- 3.3. There were no responses received. Therefore, the proposed School Admissions Policy for 2027-2028 is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.4 There is no requirement to consult on the Co-ordinated Admissions Arrangements 2028-2029, as the scheme is not substantially different from the qualifying scheme adopted for the preceding determination year (that is, 2027-2028). Therefore, under the Education (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024, the local authority is able to adopt the current scheme (with minor amendments to relevant dates).

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2 It is a statutory duty that admission authorities are mindful of their duties with regards to equalities legislation. The School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 adheres to these requirements.
- 4.3 A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been carried out (see Appendix C). The outcome of the assessment is that the local authority's proposed School Admissions Policy for 2027-2028, should have a neutral impact on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, opportunities to promote the Welsh language, the Council's compliance with the statutory Welsh Language Standards and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.
- 4.4 Once approved and published, the School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 and the adopted Co-ordinated School Admissions Arrangements 2028-2029, will be accessible to all residents online at:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-for-admission-to-school/>.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

5.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how public services should work to deliver for people. The well-being objectives are designed to complement each other and are part of an integrated way of working to improve well-being for the people of Bridgend. It is anticipated that there will be no significant or unacceptable impact upon the achievement of the well-being goals or objectives because of this report.

5.2 A summary of the implications from the assessment relating to the five ways of working is as follows:

Better and more targeted use of resources

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.

Protecting the services that matter to you the most

Consultation on the school admissions policy allows stakeholders to raise issues or make comments on proposals, for consideration of appropriate actions. Access to good education, raising standards of achievement and ensuring children have equal opportunities to realise their potential, wherever they may reside, are critical to helping young people acquire the knowledge and skills they need for work. The School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 ensures the statutory requirements are met to provide an admissions system that is accessible to all, encompassing the principles of fairness, consistency and openness across all aspects of school admissions. It plays a crucial role in delivering equality of opportunity.

Supporting and empowering communities

The school admissions policy supports the provision of education in the communities in which pupils live. The School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 has regard to the general principle that pupils are to be educated in accordance with the wishes of their parents/carers, so far as that would be compatible with the provision of efficient education and the avoidance of unreasonable public expenditure (S.9 Education Act 1996).

One council, working well together and with partners

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.

Improving communication, engagement and responsiveness

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.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

6.1 The local authority, as the admission authority, has a strategic role in considering the impact of net zero carbon and how to deliver this important national initiative.

The School Admission Policy is a material consideration in respect of the eligibility of pupils to free home-to-school transport. Where there is eligibility for local authority-provided free home-to-school transport, this may increase associated carbon emissions. Conversely, where pupils are not eligible to free home-to-school transport and walk or cycle to school, this may increase their engagement with nature.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

7.1 The Education (Admission of Looked after Children) (Wales) Regulations 2009 places a duty on the admission authority to admit children looked after by the local authority, where an application is made by the corporate parent on their behalf. The School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 ensures that the local authority, adheres to this statutory requirement.

8. Financial implications

8.1 There are no financial implications regarding this report.

9. Recommendation(s)

1. Cabinet is recommended to approve the School Admissions Policy 2027-2028 (Appendix A).
2. As there are no substantive changes to the arrangements from the preceding year, Cabinet is recommended to acknowledge the adoption of the Co-ordinated School Admissions Arrangements 2028-2029 (Appendix B).

Background documents:

None