



# School Admissions Policy 2027-2028

(1 September 2027 – 31 August 2028)



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## 1. The admission authority

The entry of children to schools is controlled and administered by an 'admission authority'. In the case of community schools in Bridgend, the admission authority is Bridgend County Borough Council (also referred to in this document as 'the local authority').

In accordance with the Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999, the relevant area for the admission authority is the geographical area of the County Borough of Bridgend.

Where the local authority is the admission authority, the school's governing body is under a duty to implement the local authority's decisions on applications, and to act in accordance with the local authority's admission arrangements.

**The local authority continuously reviews and reserves the right to amend its admissions procedures for statutory and non-statutory education.**

The local authority has no arrangements for the provision of education at schools not maintained by the local authority.

### 1.1 Admission to voluntary controlled schools

The one voluntary controlled school in the Bridgend County Borough is Pen y Fai Church in Wales Primary School, which is financed by the local authority. The admissions criteria are consistent with that of the local authority, as detailed in this policy, and with the Trust Deed of the school. Appeal arrangements are managed by the local authority and are consistent with the provision of the Trust Deed.

### 1.2 Admission to voluntary aided schools

There are five voluntary aided schools in the Bridgend County Borough, which are financed largely by the local authority. These are:

1. St Mary's Catholic Primary School
2. St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School
3. St Robert's Catholic Primary School
4. Archdeacon John Lewis Church in Wales Primary School
5. Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

### 1.3 Co-ordinated School Admission Arrangements

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. Applications can be completed online through sign up to 'My Account' on the Bridgend County Borough Council website. Applicants can state their order of preference when applying and all preferences listed on the application are considered under the admission rules for each school.

The governing body of each voluntary aided school is the admission authority with responsibility for all admission arrangements. Voluntary-aided schools have their own published oversubscription criteria, as detailed in their School Admissions Policy 2027-2028, which are available directly from the schools.

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:

- Archdeacon John Lewis Church in Wales Primary School;
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School;
- St Mary's and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School;
- St Robert's Catholic Primary School; and
- Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School.

The governing body of each voluntary aided school is the admission authority with responsibility for all admission arrangements.

## **1.4 Admissions to sixth forms**

The local authority is the admitting authority for Post-16 admissions to sixth forms in the community schools within the Bridgend County Borough. However, the individual schools administer the admission arrangements on behalf of the local authority. Therefore, applications in this category should be made directly to the school.

While the local authority has a policy of open access to schools' sixth forms, the individual schools are responsible for determining and issuing entry criteria on sixth-form admissions.

Admission arrangements for other Post-16 further education institutions are determined by those institutions and applications should be made directly to the institution/s concerned.

## **1.5 Admissions to special schools**

The two special schools in the Bridgend County Borough are Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell. Admissions to these schools are not included within, or subject to the provisions of this policy.

# **2. Parental preference**

## **2.1 The duty to comply with parental preference**

In relation to admissions to primary schools (excluding nursery classes), junior schools and secondary schools (including sixth-forms), the local authority has a statutory duty to have 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).

The local authority applies the same principle of parental preference to applications for non-statutory, nursery education in a local authority-maintained school.

The duty of the local authority to comply with parental preference does not apply where:

1. To admit would be incompatible with the statutory duty to meet infant class size regulations.
2. To admit the child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

3. Where arrangements for entry to a school's sixth form are based wholly on selection by reference to ability or aptitude and compliance with the preference would be incompatible with selection under those arrangements.
4. The child has been permanently excluded from two or more schools. Where this is the case, the local authority is not required to comply with parental preference for a school place for a period of two years from the first school day of the second exclusion.

This disapplication from the requirement to comply with parental preference does not apply to:

- pupils who were below compulsory school age when they were excluded;
- pupils who were reinstated after permanent exclusion or pupils who would have been reinstated following a permanent exclusion had it been practicable to do so;
- pupils with statements of special educational need;
- pupils who are looked-after (the application for admission must be made by the corporate parent), or previously looked-after children (the application for admission must be accompanied by evidence of the previously looked-after status).

## **2.2 Compliance with parental preference**

Within the Bridgend County Borough, each school has an area it serves (its catchment); however, the local authority must allow all parents/carers the opportunity to express a positive preference for the school they wish their child to attend. While most parents/carers are happy to choose their catchment school, it is necessary for that school to be selected by parents/carers on a school admission or in-year school admission/transfer application. The application allows parents/carers to list more than one school in order of preference. The local authority will offer a place at the highest available preferred school.

The local authority is committed to the principle of providing local schools for local children and will make every effort to ensure that parents/carers are able to secure a place for their child/ren at the catchment school, where parents/carers have expressed a positive preference for that school. However, parents/carers must not automatically assume that a place will be available for their child at their catchment school, or any particular school.

The local authority will meet the preferences for admission expressed by parents/carers ahead of those who have expressed no preference. Consequently, for the admissions rounds, parents/carers must ensure they record their preference/s on the school admission application and that the application is submitted to the local authority by the stated deadline.



## 2.3 Changes to an expressed parental preference

For admission rounds, if the parent/carer wishes to make a change to the school preference/s after the application has been submitted to the local authority:

1. The change must be notified to the local authority **in writing** (email or letter).
2. If the change is notified to the local authority **before** the published closing date for the admission round, the change will be taken into consideration in the application of oversubscription criteria and the allocation of places.
3. If the change is notified to the local authority **after** the closing date for the admission round, the school preference/s recorded on the application will be used in the application of oversubscription criteria and the allocation of places. The parent/carer will have the option to complete and submit a late application if the allocated place is at a school that is no longer the preferred school, which would be subject to the provisions relevant to late applications (see section 13.1). However, in these circumstances, the local authority will offer the applicant the option to, instead, maintain the original application and school preference/s.

The admission application form will indicate the maximum number of school preferences that a parent/carer can express. A parent/carer may choose to express a lesser number of school preferences. However, in such a situation, if the local authority cannot offer a place at any preferred school, the local authority will take no further action in respect of the application. The parent/carer will be required to complete and submit a new application for any alternative school, which will be processed as a late application in accordance with the provisions of section 13.1.

## 3. School catchment areas

### 3.1 Welsh-medium schools

There are no catchment areas for the Welsh-medium schools within Bridgend.

### 3.2 All other schools

[School catchment area maps](#) are published on the local authority's website.

Catchment areas are subject to change, with any changes being subject to consultation prior to implementation.

**There is no right to, or guarantee of, an offer of a place at a child's catchment area school.**

## **4. School capacity and published admission number**

The capacity of a school is the number of pupil places it contains.

Welsh Government has published a capacity calculation methodology for all schools. This aims to provide a robust and consistent method of assessing the pupil capacity of all community, voluntary aided, voluntary controlled and foundation schools in Wales.

A school's calculated capacity is based on existing accommodation at a school and its usage. For statutory-age year groups (Reception to Year 11) the calculated capacity informs the published admissions number for a school.

Appendix A provides the published admission numbers for all schools for which the local authority is the admitting authority.

For a normal year of entry (that is, Reception and Year 7), the local authority must admit pupils up to the published admission number (with the exception of twice-excluded pupils – see section 2).

For all other years, it is not a statutory requirement that the local authority admits pupils up to the published admission number, although the local authority will generally do so. However, in the case of infant classes (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2), infant class size legislation is relevant (see section 5). The local authority is entitled to refuse admission for places in any year other than the normal year of entry (that is, Reception), if offering a place would result in class size prejudice (for example, necessitating that the school employs an additional teacher or creates another classroom when it does not have the resources to do so). This means that the local authority may refuse admission to Year 1 and Year 2 if offering a place would result in class size prejudice, even if the admission number has not been reached in relation to these year groups.

As the published admission number reflects the school's ability to accommodate pupils, the local authority will only exceed the published admission number in exceptional circumstances.

## **5. Infant class size limit**

In order to improve educational standards in schools, The School Admission (Infant Class Size) (Wales) Regulations 2013 limit the number of children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes to 30 when a single qualified teacher is present.

The local authority will refuse admission to classes in these year groups if an admission would result in the infant class size limit being breached, giving rise to infant class size prejudice, unless the situation is such that an exception to the infant class size limit is permitted by the legislation.

In relation to the Reception year, infant class size prejudice does not arise if the number of pupils in the Reception year has not reached the school's published admission number.

Decisions on the structure of classes at a school are reserved to the headteacher. If a headteacher decides to operate a mixed-age class where some of the pupils in the class are Reception, Year 1 or Year pupils, the infant class size limit will only apply if the majority of the pupils in the class are Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 pupils.

## **6. Welsh-medium education**

There are four Welsh-medium primary schools and one Welsh-medium secondary school located within Bridgend County Borough.

Admission to the Welsh-medium schools in the Bridgend County Borough is controlled by the provisions and criteria specified within this policy.

There are no catchment areas for the Welsh-medium schools in Bridgend.

A parent/carer can make an application for a place for their child at any Welsh-medium school within the county. However, if a parent/carer chooses to apply for place at a Welsh-medium school that is not the nearest Welsh-medium school to the child's place of ordinary residence, and that application is successful, there is no entitlement to free home-to-school transport to that requested school.

Eligibility for school transport only applies where the child's place of ordinary residence is more than two miles from the nearest Welsh-medium primary school or three miles from the nearest Welsh-medium secondary school.

## **7. Transport arrangements to attend schools in other local authorities**

The local authority has in place, the following transport arrangements for pupils wishing to attend schools in other local authority areas:

1. Parents/carers of pupils who live within the catchment area of Abercerdin Primary School may apply to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for a school place for their child at Tonyrefail Comprehensive School and, if successful, Bridgend County Borough Council will be responsible for transport, subject to the statutory distances.

**It is important that parents/carers understand that transport is provided from Year 7 to Year 11 only. No transport is provided for Years 12 and 13.**

## **8. Ensuring fair access**

Particular considerations apply in respect of specific groups of children, as detailed below.

The local authority has a Mainstream Fair Access Panel. The panel can consider and make decisions on applications for mainstream school places for individual children within these specific groups, in accordance with the defined terms of reference.

### **8.1 Children from overseas and UK children living abroad**

Welsh Government has issued guidance for admission authorities when processing applications for overseas children. The local authority will process all such applications in accordance with the published guidance.

### **8.2 Children in receipt of a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or a local authority-maintained individual development plan (IDP)**

Where a mainstream place in a community school is the named placement in a final statement of SEN or a local authority-maintained IDP, following consultation, the local authority will admit the child to that school.

### **8.3 Children with additional learning needs (but without a statement of SEN or a local authority-maintained IDP)**

Applications in respect of such children will be considered in the same way as all applications on the basis of the procedures and admission criteria set out in this policy.

If a child is currently being assessed under the ALN system and, at a later date, the local authority concludes that the child should have a local authority-maintained IDP, the appropriate school placement will be addressed as part of that statutory process.

### **8.4 Children with disabilities**

The local authority will comply with the reasonable adjustments duty owed to disabled pupils, as defined in the Equality Act 2010.

### **8.5 Children with challenging behaviours**

The local authority will not refuse to admit a child on the basis of his/her behaviour. Such children will include those who are considered to be potentially disruptive, exhibiting challenging behaviours or those who may be considered as requiring assessment for special educational needs.

After admission, a school may consider such disciplinary action as appropriate, in response to challenging behaviour. However, children exhibiting challenging behaviours

may be disabled as defined by the Equality Act 2010 and require reasonable adjustments to be made for them in school.

## 8.6 Looked-after and previously looked-after children

In respect of looked-after children, the following provisions apply even if the corporate parent is Bridgend County Borough Council.

### Admissions rounds

Applications in respect of looked-after and previously looked-after children are prioritised under the applicable oversubscription criteria, **subject to**:

1. The application for a looked-after child is completed and submitted by the corporate parent (that is, the local authority with responsibility for looking after the child) and supporting evidence is provided (a Care Order or Interim Care Order).
2. The application for a previously looked-after children is accompanied by supporting evidence from the former corporate parent.

### In-year admissions/transfers

In accordance with the statutory School Admissions Code 2013, where in-year admission/transfer of a looked-after child is being sought, the corporate parent must consult with the local authority before making the application. This is to ensure the appropriateness of the preferred school in light of the child's background and circumstances. This consultation and completion of an application is also required in respect of looked-after children who have been permanently excluded from two or more schools.

Additionally, in the case of a looked-after child who has been permanently excluded from two or more schools, the corporate parent must also consult with the governing body of the identified school.

In both instances, the consultation need not be onerous.

For applications for in-year admission/transfers in respect of looked-after children, a place will be offered at the agreed school and an exception to the infant class size limit (if relevant) will be applied, **subject to** the application having been completed and submitted by the corporate parent (that is, the local authority with responsibility for the child) and supporting evidence having been provided (a Care Order or Interim Care Order).

For applications for in-year admission/transfers in respect of previously looked-after children, a place will be offered at the preferred school and an exception to the infant class size limit (if relevant) will be applied, **subject to** the application being accompanied by supporting evidence from the former corporate parent.

The relevant supporting evidence referred to above must be submitted with the application.

## 8.7 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children

When considering admission applications relating to Gypsy and Traveller children, the local authority will take account of Welsh Government Circular No: 003/2008 (Moving Forward – Gypsy Traveller Education) and sections 3.25 and 3.26 of the statutory School Admissions Code for Wales, 2013.

## 8.8 Children of serving UK service personnel and other serving Crown Servants (including diplomats)

‘UK service personnel’ refers to persons serving in the military forces. ‘Crown Servants’ are officers of the UK government, including diplomats.

There is no automatic right to a place at a preferred school for children of serving UK service personnel and other serving Crown Servants.

The local authority will accept a ‘unit’ postal address for applications from serving service personnel in the absence of a new home postal address.

For normal admissions rounds, the local authority will treat children of serving UK service personnel and serving Crown Servants as if they are already resident at a future address **provided that** the application is accompanied by an official Ministry of Defence (MOD) or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) letter declaring a return date and confirmation of the new home. The local authority will allocate a school place in accordance with the applicable criteria for the relevant admission round.

In respect of in-year admission/transfer applications for children of serving UK service personnel and serving Crown Servants:

- such children will be given ‘excepted status’ for infant class size limit purposes (if relevant), if admitted to a preferred school;
- if the application is unsuccessful and a place at the preferred school is refused, the parents/carers may appeal against the decision and any appeal hearing would be heard as a normal prejudice appeal.

Applications for children of former UK service personnel or former Crown Servants will be treated as all other applications.

## **8.9 All vulnerable or hard-to-place children**

The provisions of this policy will apply. Additionally, the local authority has a fair access protocol and a fair access panel that may consider the admissions of such children.

## **8.10 School 'managed moves'**

The local authority has a separate protocol for the managed moves (transfers) of pupils between schools.

Managed moves of pupils are treated differently to regular admissions. However, the local authority will apply the provisions of this policy in the identification of a suitable school or schools.

The pupil will remain on roll at the current school during the managed move period. At the end of the managed move period, if the managed move is deemed successful, the pupil will be placed on roll at the receiving school, subject to the parent/carer completing a school admission application requesting the school. If the managed move is deemed to have been unsuccessful, the pupil will return to the school at which they are on roll.

The Managed Move Protocol does not apply in any instances where the parent/carer completes a school admission application in advance of the managed move; the School Admissions Policy applies in all such cases.

## **9. Requests for admission outside of the normal age group**

Occasionally, a parent/carer or school may seek a place outside of the chronological age group for a child who they consider to be gifted/talented or experiencing problems, or who has missed part of a school year, for example, due to ill health.

The local authority's Mainstream Fair Access Panel will consider each request carefully and make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case. The panel will consider what is most beneficial for the child and, in every case, will consider information from appropriate parties to inform its decision.

If the panel decides that an out-of-year group application is appropriate, but that application is refused due to no places being available in the requested year group at the school, the parents/carers have a statutory right of appeal. However, there is no right of appeal if the local authority has offered a place but not in the requested year group (that is, where the place offered is in the correct year group for the child's chronological age).

If the panel decides that an out-of-year group application is appropriate and the application is for a Part-time Nursery place in the following January or April, or a Full-time Nursery, Reception, junior school Year 3 or secondary school Year 7 place from the following

September, the application will be subject to, and considered in accordance with, the conditions and criteria applicable to those admissions rounds.

## **10. Information or circumstances that the local authority does not consider when making admission decisions**

The following is not an exhaustive list, but details the principal information and circumstances that have no bearing on admission decisions:

- Any school that the child has previously attended.
- Any particular school that the child might attend in the future.
- A parent/carer communicating to any school that there is an intention to apply for a place at the school. This would include any instance when a parent/carer believes that they have 'registered' their child's name for a place at the school.
- An invitation to, or attendance by a child, at a 'taster'/transition day at any school.
- Allowance by any school of a visit by the parents/carers and/or child.
- Any indication either explicitly given, or assumed by a parent/carer to have been given, by a school that there are places available at the school in any year group, with the exception of sixth form places.

## **11. Equalities**

The local authority's admissions policy and arrangements seek to achieve full compliance with all relevant legislation and guidance, with regard to equal opportunities and human rights (Equality Act 2010, the Human Rights Act 1998, the Welsh Language Act 1993 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011).

The local authority wants its services to be accessible to the whole community and will challenge discrimination in our communities, whether it is based on a person's transgender status, race, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity marriage or civil partnership.

The local authority's Corporate Equality Scheme sets out how the local authority will comply with its Public Sector Equality Duty in the exercise of its functions, having due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the legislation;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and



- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not.

## 12. Data protection and information sharing

The local authority complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. The full [Data Protection guidance and principles](#) of the local authority may be viewed on the website.

Any information recorded by an applicant in a school admission application will be held electronically and used by the local authority for the purpose of processing the application.

The local authority will share the information provided in a school admission application with the relevant school/s in accordance with the [Fair Processing Statement – Education, Early Years and Young People](#).

The local authority will investigate any school admission applications where there is doubt about the information that has been provided. This will be to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in the school application system and under Schedule 2, part 1, 2(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

## 13. Admissions rounds

### 13.1 Submission of applications

#### The requirement to apply for a school place

A school admission application **must** be completed by a parent/carer.

A separate application is required for each child.

A child will not be permitted to start at a school until an application has been received and processed by the local authority, and a school place has been offered by the local authority.

#### The applicant

In respect of applications for nursery children and children of statutory school-age, the application must be made by a 'parent' of the child, as defined by Section 576 of the Education Act 1996. This states that a 'parent', in relation to a child or young person, includes any person who is not a biological parent but who has parental responsibility, or who has care of the child.

Therefore, for the purposes of education law, a 'parent' is deemed to include:

- all biological parents, whether they are married or not;
- any person who, although not a biological parent, has parental responsibility for a child or young person - this could be an adoptive parent, a step-parent, guardian or other relative;
- any person who has care of a child or young person but is not a biological parent and does not have parental responsibility.

A person typically has care of a child or young person if they are the person with whom the child lives, either full or part-time and who looks after the child, irrespective of what their biological or legal relationship is with the child.

The local authority uses the term 'parent/carer' throughout this policy to reflect the legal definition of 'parent', as detailed above.

The local authority will only accept an application from a person who is not a parent/carer if it is accompanied by an appropriate written authorisation from a parent/carer.

An applicant will be required to make a declaration of the relationship to the child and provide such information as the local authority requires, including documentation, evidencing that relationship, at the time the admission application is submitted.

The local authority expects that the parents/carers of a child reach agreement about the preferred school/s and who will submit the application, before a school admission application is submitted. The local authority will not intervene in disputes between parents/carers over school applications and will expect that these are resolved privately. If parents/carers cannot agree and a Court order stating who should be making the application and what the school preference/s should be has not been obtained, the local authority will proceed to accept the application from the parent/carer in receipt of Child Benefit for the child.

Applications in respect of Post-16 admissions/transfers can be submitted by a parent/carer or the learner.

### [How to apply](#)

Applications can be completed online through sign up to 'My Account' on the Bridgend County Borough Council website.

Any parents/carers who do not have access to their own computer/laptop or smart phone, may use the computers available within the libraries in the county borough to sign up to My Account and complete a school admission application. A parent/carer who remains unable to create a My Account and access the relevant online school admission application, may contact the local authority and request a hardcopy school admission application.

If parents/carers permit completion and submission of a school admission application for their child through the My Account of a third party, the My Account holder will be deemed to be submitting the application on behalf of, and with the full authority of, the parents/carers of the child. In these circumstances, the parents/carers will be considered as accepting responsibility for the consequence of any errors or deficiencies in the completion of the application and/or the submission of the application.

**The local authority accepts no responsibility for the non-receipt of an application that is not submitted through the online facility.**

If the local authority's arrangements for submission of admission applications should change before or during the effective dates of this policy, details will be published in the Starting School Prospectus 2027-2028 and on the [local authority's website](#).

### [Late applications](#)

An application should be submitted in time for **receipt** by the local authority by the relevant published closing time and date.

The local authority will accept late applications that are received after the relevant published closing date **provided that** the application is received **before** the local authority has commenced its allocation of places in preparation for the admissions offer (this date will be determined by the local authority at the time but will be at least one month before the published offer date for places) **and** the local authority is satisfied as to the parents/carers' reasons for the late application.

Applications in respect of looked-after children and previously looked-after children, or children with a statement of SEN or an IDP that names a specific school, will **not** be treated as late applications regardless of when the application is received.

All other late applications will not be included in the allocation of places that will be notified to applicants on the relevant published offer date.

Late applications that are not included in the allocation of places for offer day will be processed by the local authority after the relevant published offer date and in order of date and time received. Oversubscription criteria will not apply; if a place is available in the preferred school at the time the application is processed, it will be offered. Therefore, late applicants may find that their preferred school is already full, even if the school is their catchment school.

No applications for 2027-2028 admissions rounds that are received by the local authority after 31 August 2027 will be processed. After this date, an in-year admission/transfer application is required and all considerations applicable to in-year admission/transfer applications will be relevant. The local authority does not accept in-year admission/transfer applications received more than two calendar months in advance of the requested start

date. Consequently, all applications for a Part-time Nursery class in April 2028 that are received after 31 August 2027 will not be processed until the Spring term 2028.

### 13.2 Nursery class admissions rounds

Nursery education is non-statutory; however, in Wales, children are entitled to a free, part-time, early-years education place from the start of the term following their third birthday. The place can either be at a local authority-maintained school ('LA-maintained'), or within the non-maintained sector with a registered early year's provider.

**This policy applies only to admissions to nursery classes in LA-maintained schools for which the local authority is the admission authority.** Parents/carers who wish to apply for a nursery place at a voluntary aided school must approach that school directly.

Places are part-time for three-year-olds (Nursery Year 1) and full-time for four-year-olds (Nursery Year 2). Although nursery education is non-statutory, the local authority expects all children who are offered a Part-time Nursery place to attend for five half days per school week and all children who are offered a Full-time Nursery place to attend for five full days per school week.

A school admission (nursery) application **must** be completed by the parents/carers of eligible children for admissions to nursery classes in LA-maintained schools.

A child will only be permitted to attend a nursery class if the relevant application has been submitted **and** the local authority has formally offered a place at that school.

Children who are admitted to a Part-time Nursery class **do not have an automatic right to a Full-time Nursery place at the same school.** All parents/carers of children attending a Part-time Nursery class, whether residing within or outside the defined catchment area, must complete a school admission application for a Full-time Nursery place, at the appropriate time, indicating their school preference/s.

Children who are admitted to a Full-time Nursery class **do not have an automatic right to a Reception year place at the same school.** All parents/carers of children attending a Full-time Nursery class, whether residing within or outside the defined catchment area, must complete a school admission application for a Reception place, at the appropriate time, indicating their school preference/s.

As nursery education is non-statutory, parents/carers have **no right of appeal** in respect of decisions on nursery admissions.

## Timetable for nursery admissions 2027-2028

The timetable for nursery admissions is not governed by the School Admissions Code 2013. The local authority's expected timetable for processing applications for nursery admissions for 2027-2028 is as follows:

### **Full-time Nursery class admissions - pupils born between 1 September 2023 and 31 August 2024, starting in a Full-time Nursery class in September 2027:**

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am Monday, 4 January 2027
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm Friday, 2 April 2027
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places (the 'offer date')	Friday, 28 May 2027

### **Part-time Nursery class admissions - pupils born between 1 September 2024 and 31 December 2024, starting in a Part-time Nursery class in January 2028:**

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am Monday, 4 January 2027
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm Friday, 27 August 2027
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places	By 29 October 2027

### **Part-time Nursery class admissions - pupils born between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2025, starting in a Part-Time Nursery class in April 2028:**

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am Monday, 4 January 2027
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm Friday, 27 August 2027
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places	By 29 October 2027

## Allocation of Full-time Nursery class places in English-medium schools

The local authority will normally only admit up to the equivalent of the school's published admission number when allocating Full-time Nursery places.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons
3. Children whose place of ordinary residence is within the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
4. Children not currently ordinarily resident within the school's defined catchment area whose parents/carers have satisfied the local authority, by the published closing date for submission of the relevant school admission applications that the child will be ordinarily resident within the defined catchment area by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
5. Children living outside the school's defined catchment area will be considered for any remaining places in the order of priority set out below:
- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

### Allocation of Full-time Nursery class places in Welsh-medium schools

The local authority will normally only admit up to the equivalent of the school's published admission number when allocating Full-time Nursery places.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons
3. Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.
4. Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

## Allocation of Part-time Nursery class places in English-medium schools

In determining the number of Part-time Nursery places available for allocation in any school, the local authority will take into account the capacity of the accommodation used for nursery pupils, the published admission number and the number of Full-time Nursery pupils already on roll at the school.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028 or April 2028) who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028 or April 2028) for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons.
3. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028) and whose place of ordinary residence is within the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is over-subscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
4. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028) who are not currently ordinarily resident within the school's defined catchment area but whose parents/carers have satisfied the local authority, by the published closing date for submission of the relevant school admission application, that the child will be ordinarily resident within



the defined catchment area by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

- 5. Children born between 1 September 2024 and December 2024 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028) whose place of ordinary residence is outside the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

- 6. Children born between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from April 2028) whose place of ordinary residence is within the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is over-subscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

7. Children born between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from April 2028) who are not currently ordinarily resident within the school's defined catchment area but whose parents/carers have satisfied the local authority, by the published closing date for submission of the relevant school admission application, that the child will be ordinarily resident within the defined catchment area by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

8. Children born between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from April 2028) whose place of ordinary residence is outside the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is over-subscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

### Allocation of Part-time Nursery class places in Welsh-medium schools

In determining the number of Part-time Nursery places available for allocation in any school, the local authority will take into account the capacity of the accommodation used for nursery pupils, the published admission number and the number of Full-time Nursery pupils already on roll at the school.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028 or April 2028) who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028 or April 2028) for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons.
3. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028) who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.
4. Children born between 1 September 2024 and 31 December 2024 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from January 2028) on the basis of proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
5. Children born between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from April 2028) who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from the Reception year to Year 6 in the school year 2027-2028.
6. Children born between 1 January 2025 and 31 March 2025 who will attain the age of three in the school year 2027-2028 (these children will be eligible for a Part-time Nursery place from April 2028) on the basis of proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

### **13.3 Primary/infant school admission round (Reception year)**

The relevant age group for the Reception year is 4-5 years.

Every child is required by law to receive full-time education from the beginning of the school term after their fifth birthday. In the Bridgend County Borough, children are normally admitted to the Reception year in the September following their fourth birthday. However, parents/carers have the option of deferring their child's entry to the Reception

year until later in the same school year. The deferment cannot continue beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the school year for which the original admission application was accepted by the local authority. Where the parent/carer wishes to defer the child's entry to the Reception year as detailed, the local authority will hold a place for the child.

An application for a Reception year place must be submitted. **There is no automatic admission to the Reception year at any primary or infant school, regardless of the school at which the child may be attending a nursery class.**

The local authority will co-ordinate admission arrangements for Reception admissions September 2027.

Parents applying for a voluntary-aided school may also complete a supplementary application form for the individual school, if the school wishes to implement this form. This form would be returned directly to the school's governing body along with any required references, documentary evidence and any other information required. Any supporting information received by the local authority will be passed to the relevant voluntary-aided school for the allocation of places in accordance with their over-subscription criteria.

#### [Timetable for Reception year admissions for September 2027](#)

The expected timetable for children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, entering a Reception class in September 2027 is as follows:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am Monday, 9 November 2026
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm Friday, 15 January 2027
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places (the 'offer date')	Friday, 16 April 2027
Parents to notify the local authority of acceptance or refusal of places offered.	Friday, 30 April 2027
Closing date for parents/carers to submit an appeal	4pm Friday, 14 May 2027

#### [Allocation of Reception year places for September 2027 in English-medium schools](#)

The local authority will admit children up to the school's published admission number and will only exceed the published admission number in exceptional circumstances.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons
3. Children whose place of ordinary residence is within the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 1 to Year 6 in respect of primary schools, or Year 1 and Year 2 in respect of infant schools, attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
4. Children not currently ordinarily resident within the school's defined catchment area whose parents/carers have satisfied the local authority, by the published closing date for submission of the relevant school admission applications, that the child will be ordinarily resident within the defined catchment area by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 1 to Year 6 in respect of primary schools, or Year 1 and Year 2 in respect of infant schools, attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

5. Children living outside the school's defined catchment area will be considered for any remaining places in the order of priority set out below:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 1 to Year 6 in respect of primary schools, or Year 1 and Year 2 in respect of infant schools, attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

#### Allocation of Reception year places for September 2027 in Welsh-medium schools

The local authority will admit children up to the school's published admission number and will only exceed the published admission number in exceptional circumstances.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons.
3. Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 1 to Year 6 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.
4. Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

#### 13.4 Junior school admission round (Year 3)

In primary schools, the infant and junior sections are simply departments of the same school and children progress through the school from the infants to juniors without having to transfer elsewhere. Therefore, parents/carers are **not** required to complete a school admission application, since the children are already regarded as registered pupils in the primary school.

Children attending Year 2 in an infant school do not automatically transfer to Year 3 at junior school. An application for a Year 3 place at junior school must be submitted. **There is no automatic admission to a junior school or any primary school regardless of the infant school or primary school that a child currently attends.**

Children normally enter Year 3 in junior school at the beginning of the school year following their seventh birthday.

In Bridgend, there is one junior school, (that is, Llangewydd Junior School), which is an English-medium school.

If parents/carers do not wish their child to attend Year 3 at junior school and instead wish for their child to attend Year 3 at a standard primary school, an in-year admission/transfer application must be submitted. Parents/carers should note that places in Year 3 in a standard primary school may be very limited or unavailable. Also, that the local authority will not make admission decisions in respect of in-year admission/transfer applications for a September 2027 start date until Easter 2027.

#### [Timetable for Year 3 junior school admissions for September 2027](#)

The expected timetable for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020, moving from infants school (Year 2) to junior school (Year 3) in September 2027 is as follows:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am Monday, 9 November 2026
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm Friday, 15 January 2027
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places (the 'offer date')	Friday, 16 April 2027
Closing date for parents/carers to submit an appeal	4pm Friday, 14 May 2027

#### [Allocation of Year 3 junior school places for September 2027](#)

The local authority will admit children up to the school's published admission number and will only exceed the published admission number in exceptional circumstances.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons.
3. Children whose place of ordinary residence is within the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 4 to Year 6 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
4. Children not currently ordinarily resident within the school's defined catchment area whose parents/carers have satisfied the local authority, by the published closing date for submission of the relevant school admission applications, that the child will be ordinarily resident within the defined catchment area by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 4 to Year 6 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
5. Children living outside the school's defined catchment area will be considered for any remaining places in the order of priority set out below:
    - a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 4 to Year 6 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.



When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

### 13.5 Secondary school admission round (Year 7)

Children normally enter Year 7 in secondary school at the beginning of the school year following their eleventh birthday.

An application for a Year 7 place must be submitted. **There is no automatic admission to any secondary school, regardless of the primary or junior school that a child currently attends.**

In Bridgend, there is one Welsh-medium secondary school (that is, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd). There is one voluntary-aided secondary school (that is, Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School), for which the local authority is **not** the admission authority. All other secondary schools are English-medium.

The local authority will co-ordinate admission arrangements for Year 7 admissions September 2027.

Parents applying for a voluntary-aided school may also complete a supplementary application form for the individual school, if the school wishes to implement this form. This form would be returned directly to the school's governing body along with any required references, documentary evidence and any other information required. Any supporting information received by the local authority will be passed to the relevant voluntary-aided school for the allocation of places in accordance with their over-subscription criteria.

#### Timetable for Year 7 secondary school admissions for September 2027

The expected timetable for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016, transferring from junior/primary school (Year 6) to secondary school (Year 7) in September 2027 is as follows:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am Monday, 14 September 2026
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm Saturday, 31 October 2026
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places (the 'offer date')	Monday, 1 March 2027

Parents to notify the local authority of acceptance or refusal of places offered.	Monday, 15 March 2027
Closing date for parents/carers to submit an appeal	4pm Monday, 5 April 2027

### Allocation of Year 7 secondary school places for September 2027 for English-medium schools

The local authority will admit children up to the school's published admission number and will only exceed the published admission number in exceptional circumstances.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons.
3. Children whose place of ordinary residence is within the school's defined catchment area.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 8 to Year 11 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.
4. Children not currently ordinarily resident within the school's defined catchment area whose parents/carers have satisfied the local authority, by the published closing date for submission of the relevant school admission applications, that the child will be ordinarily resident within the defined catchment area by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

Where a school is oversubscribed under this criterion, the local authority will allocate the places in the following order of priority:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 8 to Year 11 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

- 5. Children living outside the school's defined catchment area will be considered for any remaining places in the order of priority set out below:

- a) Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 8 to Year 11 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

- b) Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

#### Allocation of Year 7 secondary school places for September 2027 for the Welsh-medium school

The local authority will admit children up to the school's published admission number and will only exceed the published admission number in exceptional circumstances.

Where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the local authority will apply the following **oversubscription criteria**, in order of priority, to allocate the places available:

1. Children who are looked-after or previously looked-after and children for whom the school is the named placement in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.
2. Children for whom the local authority has received and accepted written evidence from a relevant professional/s that the placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons.
3. Children who will have a sibling at the school in any age group from Year 8 to Year 11 attending the school in the school year 2027-2028.
4. Proximity to school, as measured by the shortest available walking route from the place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate.

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other sibling/s.

## 14. Explanations of oversubscription criteria

### 14.1 Looked-after and previously looked-after children

The local authority is under a duty to prioritise looked-after and previously looked-after children in the oversubscription criteria.

In the case of a looked-after child, the school admission application must be completed and submitted by the corporate parent (that is, the local authority with responsibility for the child) and supporting evidence must be provided (a Care Order or Interim Care Order).

In the case of previously looked-after children, the school admission application must be accompanied by supporting evidence from the former corporate parent.

The relevant supporting evidence must be submitted with the application.

### 14.2 Children in receipt of a statement of special educational needs (SEN) or a local authority-maintained individual development plan (IDP)

To satisfy this criterion, the child must have a statement of SEN or a local authority-maintained IDP and the application is in respect of a mainstream place at the school named in the statement of SEN or local authority-maintained IDP.

### 14.3 Children for whom a placement is essential for medical, psychological, or compelling social reasons

To satisfy this criterion:

1. applicants **must** provide supporting written evidence from a relevant professional/s, such as, a registered health professional and/or a social worker, that states the reasons why the preferred school is the most suitable school and what difficulties would arise if the child had to attend another school. The evidence **must** be dated no more than three months prior to the application submission date; **and**
2. that written evidence is accepted by the local authority as sufficient to determine that placement at the preferred school is essential for the child.

**Evidence that purely confirms a child's diagnosis or circumstances does not satisfy this criterion.**

Applications in respect of young carers will be considered under this criterion subject to provision of the necessary evidence, as set out above.

The local authority expects **the applicant** to provide the required written evidence at the time the application is submitted. If this is not possible, the local authority must be advised of and satisfied as to the reasons and the required written evidence must then be provided prior to the closing time and date of the admission round. If the required written evidence is not provided to the local authority before the closing of the admission round, the application will not be considered for prioritisation under this criterion.

#### 14.4 Child's address / place of ordinary residence

Applicants must record the current address at which the child is ordinarily resident on a school admission application.

When considering whether a child lives in a school's catchment area (English-medium schools) or the proximity to the school (Welsh-medium schools), it is the child's place of ordinary residence that the local authority considers to be the home address and satisfying the relevant admissions criteria.

Where the child's parents/carers are not living together but have shared responsibility for the child, and the child lives with each parent/carer for part of the periods during which the child receives education, the child will be considered as being ordinarily resident at the places where **each** of the parents/carers is ordinarily resident. Accordingly, the local authority will accept the address of either parent/carer as being the child's place of ordinary residence.

#### Changes to the child's address / place of ordinary residence

If the child's place of ordinary residence changes after the school admission application has been submitted:

1. The local authority **must** be notified immediately **in writing** (email or letter).
2. If the change is notified to the local authority **before** the closing time and date for the admission round, the change (that is, the new place of ordinary residence) will be used in the application of oversubscription criteria and the allocation of a place.
3. If the change is notified to the local authority **after** the closing time and date for the admission round, the place of ordinary residence recorded on the application (that is, the original place of ordinary residence) will be used in the application of oversubscription criteria and the allocation of a place. The applicant will have the option to complete and submit a late application if the allocated place is at a school that is no longer the preferred school, which would be subject to the provisions relevant to late applications (see section 13.1).
4. If the applicant does not inform the local authority of a change of ordinary residence prior to the date on which the child would start school, the local authority will take the action detailed below under 'provision of false or misleading information'.

## Applications made on the basis of a **future** change in the place of ordinary residence

Where the applicant is in the process of a house move at the time that the application is submitted and is expressing a preference for a school that is the catchment school for the future address (English-medium schools) or the most proximate school for the future address (Welsh-medium schools), the applicant **must** record this on the application form and **must** provide the following evidence to the local authority:

- written evidence from a solicitor that contracts have been exchanged for the purchase of the property and a date for completion of the purchase has been agreed, such that the child will be moving to the new property and be resident at the address by the start of the school term to which the application relates; or
- a written tenancy agreement evidencing that the child will be resident at the new address by the start of the school term to which the application relates.

All required evidence **must** be received by the local authority **prior to the closing time and date for the admission round** and it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide the required evidence to the local authority by that deadline. If the required evidence is not received prior to the closing time and date, the application will be treated as an out of catchment application for the preferred school/s (English-medium schools), or the proximity to the preferred school (Welsh-medium schools) will be measured using the current (original) address.

If the evidence does not confirm that the child will be resident at the new address by the start of the school term to which the application relates, the application will be processed on the basis of the current (original) address.

## Provision of false or misleading information regarding the place of ordinary residence

Every parent/carer who is applying for an admission round place will be expected to record information in the application form and/or supply documentation **with the application form** that evidences the child's place of ordinary residence.

The local authority will check the child's place of ordinary residence against the records held by the child's school (if applicable). In addition, Council Tax records for the parent/s or carer/s will be checked. If the parent/s or carer/s are not registered for Council Tax, documents supplied by the applicant will be checked. If the local authority is not satisfied by any evidence provided by the applicant and there is ongoing doubt about the child's place of ordinary residence, the local authority reserves the right to undertake further checks and/or seek further verification from the applicant. This will be to assist in the prevention and detection of address fraud for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in the school application system and under Schedule 2, part 1, 2(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

If the local authority concludes that a parent/carer has provided fraudulent or intentionally misleading information relating to the child's place of ordinary residence (this includes the failure to notify the local authority of changes to the place of ordinary residence) in order to obtain the advantage of a particular school placement to which the child would otherwise not be entitled, the local authority will act in accordance with paragraphs 3.40 and 3.41 of the School Admissions Code 2013.

If the local authority withdraws a school place, a new application will be required based on the accurate place of ordinary residence, and a right of appeal will be offered if a place at the preferred school/s is refused.

### 14.5 Siblings

A sibling is classified as a half or full brother/sister, a step-brother/sister, an adopted brother/sister, or a child living in the same household.

An application will be considered under the sibling criterion if the following conditions are met:

1. the full sibling details are recorded on the application; and
2. the sibling and the child who is the subject of the application **will** be attending **the same school at the same time** and the sibling is of statutory school-age.

This means:

- for Reception year applications, the sibling must be Year 1 to Year 6 in the school year for which the application is being made;

- for Year 3 junior school applications, the sibling must be in Year 4 to Year 6 in the school year for which the application is being made;
- for Year 7 secondary school applications, the sibling must be in Year 8 to Year 11 in the school year for which the application is being made;
- for Full-time Nursery and Part-time Nursery applications, the sibling must be Reception year to Year 6 in the school year for which the application is being made. As there is significant similarity in the timetables for the Reception, Full-time Nursery and Part-time Nursery admissions rounds, a parent/carers may not have been notified of the outcome of a Reception application for a child when completing a Full-time or Part-time Nursery application for another child. The parent/carers will be able to record the details of the child for whom a Reception application has been submitted but the sibling criterion will not be met if the local authority does not subsequently offer a Reception place at the relevant school to the sibling.

### Provision of false or misleading sibling information

The local authority reserves the right to undertake checks on any sibling information provided. This will be to assist in the prevention and detection of fraud for the purpose of gaining an unfair advantage in the school application system and under Schedule 2, part 1, 2(1) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

If the local authority concludes that a parent/carers has provided fraudulent or intentionally misleading information relating to the sibling criterion in order to obtain the advantage of a particular school placement to which the child would otherwise not be entitled, the local authority will act in accordance with paragraphs 3.40 and 3.41 of the School Admissions Code 2013.

If the local authority withdraws a school place, a new application will be required based on the accurate information, and a right of appeal will be offered if a place at the preferred school/s is refused.

## 14.6 Multiple birth children

A multiple birth is defined as the birth of more than one baby from a single pregnancy (for example, the birth of twins).

When allocating places, if the last place is offered to a multiple birth child, the local authority will also admit the other multiple birth child/ren for whom an application was received at the same time and for the same school/s.

## 14.7 Proximity to school

The distance measurement will be from the child's place of ordinary residence to the nearest openly accessible school gate through which pupils may enter the school grounds.



It will be for the local authority to determine whether any entrance at any school does or does not constitute an openly accessible school gate.

In respect of residences that are within blocks of flats, the distance will be calculated from the front entrance of each flat.

The distances will be calculated to four decimal places.

The local authority uses software to measure all distances within the Bridgend County Borough that takes into account the assessed, available walking routes to the school/s. The local authority will not take into account any other walking routes to a school that a parent/carer may choose to use.

For applications where the child's place of ordinary residence is outside the Bridgend County Borough, the distance will be measured using publicly available web-based services.

## 15. The offer process for admissions rounds

### 15.1 Offer dates

The School Admissions Code 2013 sets out how admission authorities in Wales must identify the offer date for primary school (Reception), junior school (Year 3) and secondary school (Year 7) admissions rounds, reflecting The School Admissions (Common Offer Date) (Wales) Regulations 2013. The relevant offer dates for all admissions rounds for 2027-2028 are detailed in section 13.

### 15.2 Communication of the outcome

Parents/carers who submit an application by the published closing time and date of an admission round, or parents/carers whose late application has been accepted by the local authority for inclusion in the allocation of places for the offer date, will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Parents/carers may not expect that the outcome of their application will be communicated verbally.

If the application is refused, the notification will set out the reasons for the decision and will advise parents/carers on the appeal process. As nursery education is non-statutory, **parents/carers have no right of appeal in respect of unsuccessful nursery class applications.**

### 15.3 Waiting lists

The local authority maintains waiting lists for oversubscribed schools. If a place at the preferred school is not offered, the child will be automatically included in the waiting list for

the school unless the parent/carer expressly advises the local authority that this action is not required.

For the **admissions rounds**, children will remain on the waiting list, for any school at which they have been refused a place, until 30 September 2027. Children will automatically be removed from the waiting list/s after this date.

If additional places become available at a school, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list on the basis of the published oversubscription criteria (see sections 13 and 14) and **not** the length of time a child has been on the waiting list.

## 16. In-year admissions / transfers

### 16.1 Circumstances in which an in-year admission/transfer application is required

An in-year admission/transfer application **must** be completed in any of the following circumstances:

1. If a child moves into Bridgend County Borough during the course of an school year and the parents/carers wish the child to attend a school for which the local authority is the admission authority.
2. If the parents/carers wish their child/ren to move to a different school within the Bridgend County Borough during the course of a school year and the parents/carers wish the child to move to a school for which the local authority is the admission authority.
3. If an application for an admission round has not been completed and submitted to the local authority by 31 August 2027 (that is, an application is being submitted on or after the official start date of the 2027-2028 school year).

### 16.2 School transfers

Parents/carers who wish to apply for a place at a different school for reasons other than a change of ordinary residence are advised to carefully consider the information in the Starting School Prospectus 2027-2028 and [information available on the local authority's website](#).

Parents/carers should talk to the headteacher of the pupil's current school about the reasons for a change of school being considered. There is a significant amount of research evidencing that changing schools is disruptive and can have a negative impact on a pupil's attainment. There are many reasons for this. It is particularly important that careful consideration is given to the impacts of moving pupils in Year 10 and Year 11, who would have already begun to study for their chosen GCSE subjects, as those GCSE subjects may not be available at a different school.

### 16.3 'Advance' requests

It is not fair and equitable for the local authority to hold places open for children for undue periods of time. Accordingly, the local authority will only process an 'advance' in-year school admission/transfer application (that is, for a future admission date), where the requested future admission date is **within two calendar months of the date the application is received** by the local authority, **and** the local authority is satisfied as to the reasons for the advance request.

### 16.4 Availability of places

Section 4 provides information regarding school capacities and published admission numbers, which the local authority uses to determine whether places are available.

As the number of pupils on roll in any school can change on a frequent basis, the local authority will not provide information on the availability of places in any year group at any school in advance of an in-year school admission/transfer application being submitted.

### 16.5 Consideration of applications

In-year school admission/transfer applications are considered by the local authority in order of date and time received. However, the local authority reserves the right to process any individual application in a different order where it considers this to be necessary and justified by the specific circumstances.

For in-year admissions/transfers, whether the child lives in or out of the catchment area of the requested school (English-medium schools) or the proximity to the nearest school (Welsh-medium schools), is of no relevance to the local authority's decision on whether a place at the requested school can be offered. (However, it is of relevance to the determination of whether there is eligibility or not for the provision of free home-to-school transport.)

If there is no place available in the relevant year group at the requested school, the local authority child will refuse admission to that school unless the circumstances are such that the local authority considers an exception should be made.

### 16.6 Communication of the outcome

Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their in-year school admission/transfer application within 15 school days or 28 calendar days of the date of the application being received, whichever is the sooner.

Parents/carers may not expect that the outcome of their application will be communicated verbally.

If the application is refused, the notification will set out the reasons for the decision and will advise parents/carers on the appeal process. As nursery education is non-statutory,

**parents/carers have no right of appeal in respect of unsuccessful nursery class applications.**

### **16.7 Offer of a place at an alternative school**

If a place at the preferred school is refused, the local authority will either offer a place at the nearest alternative school that has an available place in the relevant year, or explain why such an offer cannot be made (for example, where the nearest alternative school is the child's current school). The offer of a place at the nearest alternative school will be open for 21 calendar days from the date of the local authority's letter and will automatically expire if not accepted within that period.

If the offer of a place at the nearest alternative school is not accepted, or is expressly refused, the parent/carer must submit a new application if seeking a place at any other preferred school.

### **16.8 Waiting lists**

The local authority maintains waiting lists for oversubscribed schools. If a place at the preferred school is not offered, the child will be automatically included in the waiting list for the school unless the parent/carer expressly advises the local authority that this action is not required.

For all in-year admission/transfer applications, children will remain on the waiting list for any school at which they have been refused for a period of three months from the date of the refusal letter, or until 31 August 2028, whichever is the sooner. Children will automatically be removed from the waiting list/s after this period or date.

Submission of a new in-year admission/transfer application for the same school does not renew a child's place on a waiting list. If a new in-year admission/transfer application is submitted and is refused, the child will be recorded as a new entry to the waiting list from the date of the refusal letter.

Registration of an admission appeal does not extend a child's time on the waiting list, irrespective of the date for the admission appeal hearing.

If additional places become available at a school, they will be allocated to children on the waiting list on the basis of the published oversubscription criteria (see sections 13 and 14) and **not** the length of time a child has been on the waiting list. A place cannot be allocated to a child who is not on the waiting list.

## 17. Admission appeals

### 17.1 General

School admission appeals are conducted in accordance with Welsh Government's School Admission Appeals Code 2013.

Any person who is considering an appeal is strongly recommended to read this School Admissions Policy 2027-2028, the School Admissions Code 2013 and the School Admission Appeals Code 2013 in full.

In the vast majority of cases, children are offered places in line with the expressed preference for a specific school. If, however, a child is unable to gain admission to the preferred school, parents/carers or Post-16 learners may choose to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

Parents/carers/ or Post-16 learners may accept a place offered at an alternative school while pursuing a place at the preferred school. The independent appeal panel will consider the grounds put forward by appellant/s and determine whether the merits of the case outweigh the case presented by the local authority.

As nursery education is non-statutory, parents/carers have **no right of appeal** in respect of decisions on nursery class admissions.

### 17.2 Registering an appeal

#### Persons who may register an appeal

In respect of appeal registrations for children of statutory school-age, the appeal must be registered by the parent/carer, as defined in section 13.

The local authority will only accept an appeal registration from a person who is not a parent/carer if it is accompanied by an appropriate written authorisation from a parent/carer.

The person registering the appeal will be required to make a declaration of the relationship to the child and provide such information as the local authority requires, including documentation, evidencing that relationship, at the time the appeal registration is submitted. The person registering the appeal will not be required to submit such if it has already been submitted in support of the admission application.

Appeals in respect of Post-16 admissions/transfers can be registered by either a parent/carer or the learner.

#### Timescale for registering an appeal

In the case of appeals relating to the refusal of places in an admissions round, the appeal **must** be registered with the local authority by the closing date as detailed in section 13.

In the case of appeals relating to the refusal of a place following submission of an in-year admission/transfer application, the appeal **must** be registered with the local authority within 21 calendar days of the date of the written notification of the refusal.

### How to register an appeal

An appeal must be registered in writing.

The notification letter from the local authority regarding the outcome of an admission application will provide information on the appeal registration process.

### 17.3 Arrangements for the appeal hearing

The local authority will refer the appeal to an independent appeal panel. The clerk to the panel will arrange a time and place for the hearing.

Appellants will have the opportunity of attending the panel hearing and making their representations (oral and/or written).

Appellants are advised that:

1. They may elect not to attend the appeal meeting and, instead, allow the appeal to be considered on a written statement.
2. The appeal will be decided on the information available if parents/carers have indicated an intention to attend the appeal but do not do so, and fail to provide a reasonable explanation.
3. If appellants cannot attend on the scheduled date and it is not reasonably practicable to offer an adjourned hearing, the appeal will be decided on the information available.
4. Appellants will be given at least 14 calendar days written notice of the meeting of the appeal panel, unless they agree to a shorter period. The appellant should confirm this in writing to the clerk to the panel.

Appellants may be accompanied at a panel hearing by a friend or adviser or an interpreter. In accordance with the School Admission Appeals Code 2013, members of the Council, Members of the Senedd, local politicians and local authority officers are not permitted to attend. Appellants are requested to inform the clerk to the independent appeal panel of any representation at least seven days before the hearing.

### 17.4 Repeat appeals

Parents/carers and Post-16 learners do not have a right to a second appeal in respect of the same school and the same school year except where:

- there were faults in the first appeal process and there is a significant possibility that the outcome might have been affected by the faults (this may be on the recommendation of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales); or
- a fresh application is accepted because there has been a significant and material change in the circumstances of the parent/carer or child and that application has also been refused. Common examples of where a fresh application is considered are where a family has moved address or there are new medical reasons pertaining to the choice of school.

Parents/carers and Post-16 learners who appeal unsuccessfully may re-apply for a place at the same school in respect of a later school year (but subject to the timescales set out in section 13). Parents/carers and Post-16 learners will have a right to appeal if that application is refused.

Any information provided by an appellant associated with a school admission appeal registration will be held electronically and used by local authority for the purpose of the admission request.

## **18. The Bridgend Admission Forum**

The local authority is under a statutory duty to establish an admission forum.

The Bridgend Admission Forum is constituted in accordance with Annex D of the statutory School Admissions Code 2013.

The role of the forum is to help ensure that the school admissions system in Bridgend is fair, straightforward and easy for parents/carers to understand. The forum is responsible for monitoring the local authority's compliance with the statutory School Admissions Code 2013 and may advise the local authority on ways in which admission arrangements could be improved.

The terms of reference, meeting minutes and annual reports of the [Bridgend Admission Forum](#) are published on the local authority's website.

## **19. Additional information**

In addition to the sources of information already detailed, the local authority's Starting School Prospectus for 2027-2028 provides additional information on matters associated with school admissions and starting school.

## **20. Queries**

Queries in relation to this policy and the admissions or appeal registration processes may be directed to Pupil Services as follows:

E-mail: [pupilservices@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:pupilservices@bridgend.gov.uk)

Tel No: 01656 642622

Address: Bridgend County Borough Council  
Education, Early Years and Young People  
Pupil Services  
Civic Offices  
Angel Street  
Bridgend  
CF31 4WB

[This policy](#) is published on the Bridgend County Borough Council website.