

ate/Dyddiad 11 December 2019
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**To: Parents of children currently attending Vale of Glamorgan primary schools
Prescribed Consultees**

Dear Consultee,

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL - SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021/2022

The Vale Council is consulting on a proposed change to school admission arrangements for community schools for the academic year 2021/2022 in respect of a change to secondary school catchment areas and a minor amendment to the primary school oversubscription criteria. Stanwell School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic School are not affected by the proposed change to secondary school catchment areas as they are their own admissions authority and determine their arrangements separately. Similarly all Church in Wales and Roman Catholic aided primary schools are not affected by changes to primary school oversubscription criteria as they also determine their arrangements separately.

Secondary School Catchment Area Review

As part of the Council's continual review of the supply and demand for school places a review is necessary to ensure areas reflect the needs of the school populations they serve recognising that parental preference has an impact on the overall position.

Why are we carrying out a review?

- The Council has changed from a feeder school system to a catchment area basis for entry to secondary education from September 2020.
- The establishment of mixed sex schooling in Barry has impacted on parental preference in the area.
- Large scale and other housing developments are having an impact on catchment area numbers.
- Catchment area numbers are unbalanced compared to the capacity of secondary schools serving those catchment areas albeit parental preference will have an impact. There is potential for applications to exceed the number of places available at entry to a secondary school.
- The Council has undertaken extensive remodelling and new builds of secondary schools in the past 10 years.

Whilst there is sufficient capacity overall in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet the needs of the future secondary school population, some catchment areas are unbalanced. Demand from within some school catchment areas is considerably less than the school is able to accommodate whilst in other areas catchment demand is in excess of the school capacity.

Proposed changes to Secondary School catchment areas

In order to align primary and secondary catchment areas to better match demand to the capacity at secondary schools, the proposed changes and the preferred way forward is as follows:

Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh or English/Croesawir Gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg

Barry Area

Pencoedtre High School

- Transfer the Wenvoe area into St Cyres school catchment area.

Whitmore High School

- Remove the dual catchment status of Rhoose from Whitmore High School.
- Transfer the Rhoose area to Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Cowbridge Area

Cowbridge Comprehensive School

- Increase the school catchment population by incorporating the area of Rhoose into the school catchment area.

Llantwit Area

Llantwit Major School

- Remove the dual catchment status of Rhoose from Llantwit Major School.
- Transfer the area of Rhoose into Cowbridge catchment area.

Penarth Area

St Cyres School

- Increase the school catchment population by incorporating the Wenvoe, Penarth and Sully areas into the school catchment area.

The complete secondary school catchment area review paper with the proposed changes can be viewed on line at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/admissionconsultation202122 The Councils Admissions Forum has considered this proposal.

The proposed changes will ensure a more even distribution of school places to meet future demand for pupils within a defined catchment area requiring a school place.

Change to the Primary School oversubscription criteria

The Council is considering a minor change to the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for community primary schools to ensure that those living in a school catchment area will be a high priority for admission to a school in the event of oversubscription.

The amendment refers to the distance criteria used within the catchment area criteria for allocating places when catchment area applications exceed the number of places available. Under current arrangements, when catchment area applications exceed the number of places available, places are allocated to those living furthest away from an alternative school with a place available as measured by the Councils Geographical Information System (GIS). This has led in some cases to catchment area children being denied a place living in close proximity to their catchment area school. The amendment will prioritise those living closest to a primary school where the number of applications from within catchment area exceeds the number of places available that will support attendance at a child's local school. Enclosed are the current and proposed primary arrangements that can also be viewed on line at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/admissionconsultation202122

Your views are important to us and there are a number of ways you can contact us.

You can:

- Complete the on line response form at: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/admissionconsultation202122
- Complete and return the attached response form to the address given at the bottom of the form
- Email the form or your comments to Admissions@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Correspondence is welcomed in Welsh or English/Croesawir Gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg neu yn Saesneg

If you do have any queries, please contact the admissions section on 01446 709725/727/844 or e-mail at Admissions@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Yours sincerely

M Matthews

Mike Matthews

M Matthews (Mr)
Strategy, Community Learning and Resources

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main changes to the admissions policy?

The proposal is to amend secondary school catchments areas so that they reflect the needs of the school populations and to make a minor amendment to the primary school oversubscription criteria whereby those living nearest a school will have priority when applications from within catchment area exceed the number of places available.

What schools are affected by the proposed change?

The proposed changes only affect community primary and secondary schools.

Are Foundation and Voluntary Aided Schools affected by this change?

No. All Foundation and Voluntary aided schools are their own admissions authority and will determine their arrangements separately.

Does this affect the application process for primary and secondary schools?

No, parents are able to apply for a school of their choice in the normal way and oversubscription criteria will be applied accordingly where there are more applicants than places available.

Will pupils be entitled to free transport?

Free school transport will be provided for pupils living three miles or further to their nearest or designated catchment area school.

School transport arrangements would be maintained for those pupils who currently receive school transport to an affected secondary school up until the last pupil finishes schooling at that school.

Will the Local Authority be making other changes to its admission policy?

No. there are no other changes planned for the admission year 2021/22.

Time Line

- Consultation ends on the 3 February 2020
- Consideration of comments and report to Cabinet March 2020
- Admission arrangements must be determined by the 15 April 2020
- If adopted, changes to admission policy will come in to force on 1 September 2021.

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The following is a summary of the current and proposed admission criteria to be used in the event of oversubscription at primary schools.

Children with a statement of Special Educational Needs, when the school is named as the most appropriate setting, will be admitted before applying the oversubscription criteria.

Current Admission Arrangements for Primary School Admissions

Oversubscription criteria used to allocate places at primary schools, in order of priority, where there are more applications than places available at schools.

1. Children where evidence has been supplied to confirm that they are looked after, or have been previously looked after in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
2. Children who are currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of the school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms. Evidence of permanent residence of a child must be supplied if requested. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the Council will allocate places in the following order of priority:
 - (a) Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement with regard to medical, psychological or special education reasons. (Written recommendations from the appropriate external agencies or professional advisers will be required in such cases).
 - (b) Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. The Council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
 - (c) Children who live furthest from an alternative school with a place available as measured by the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS). Those living furthest from an alternative school will have priority. In these circumstances, pupils outside of the catchment area would not be considered.
3. Children not currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of the school whose parents have satisfied the Council, on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms, that the child will be taking up residence within the catchment area by the commencement of the school term to which the application relates. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone criteria the Council will allocate places in the following order of priority to produce an order of preference:
 - (a) Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement with regard to medical, psychological or special education reasons. (Written recommendations from the appropriate external agencies or professional advisers will be required in such cases).
 - (b) Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. The Council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
 - (c) Children who live furthest from an alternative school with a place available as measured by the Council's Geographical Information System (GIS). Those living furthest from an alternative school will have priority. In these circumstances, pupils outside of the catchment area would not be considered.
4. Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement at a named school with regard to medical, psychological or special education reasons. (Written recommendations from the appropriate external agencies or professional advisers will be required in such cases). In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (5) and (6), in order of priority, would be applied.
5. Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the Council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
6. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils in the age group, the Council gives particular regard to the degree of proximity of the pupil's home to the school, as measured by the shortest available walking route; those living nearest will have priority. The Council uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate home to school distances.

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Proposed Admission Arrangements for Primary School Admissions 2021/2022

Oversubscription criteria used to allocate places at secondary schools, in order of priority, where there are more applications than places available at schools

1. Children where evidence has been supplied to confirm that they are looked after, or have been previously looked after in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
2. Children who are currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of the school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms. Evidence of permanent residence of a child must be supplied if requested. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (4), (5) and (6), in order of priority, would be applied to produce an order of preference.
3. Children not currently permanently resident within the designated catchment area of the school whose parents have satisfied the Council, on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms, that the child will be taking up residence within the catchment area by the commencement of the school term to which the application relates. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (4), (5) and (6), in order of priority, would be applied to produce an order of preference.
4. Children in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified primary school i.e. those children recommended for placement at a named school with regard to medical, psychological or special education reasons. (Written recommendations from the appropriate external agencies or professional advisers will be required in such cases). In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (5) and (6), in order of priority, would be applied.
5. Children who have an elder brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the Council will determine priority and allocate places by reference to the age of the pupil's youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
6. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils in the age group, the Council gives particular regard to the degree of proximity of the pupil's home to the school, as measured by the shortest available walking route; those living nearest will have priority. The Council uses a Geographical Information System (GIS) to calculate home to school distances.

**CONSULTATION PROFORMA FOR COMMENTS IN RESPECT OF:
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL - SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021/2022
CHANGE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS AND PRIMARY SCHOOL
OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA**

CONSULTATION CLOSING DATE: 3 FEBRUARY 2020

Do you support the proposed change to secondary school catchment areas and primary school oversubscription criteria?

YES

NO

Comments:-

Name and Address:-

Please Note: This sheet is for consultation purposes only. All comments will be considered within the consultation process, however, individual responses will not be provided. Please return the proforma to Freepost RTGU-JGBH-YYJZ, School Admissions 2021/22, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry. CF63 4RU or alternatively e-mail to Admissions@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk Please continue on a separate sheet where necessary.

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