

Date/Dyddiad 14 January 2019
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Parents of children currently attending primary schools excluding current year 6 children

Dear Parent,

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL - SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2020/2021

The Vale Council is consulting with parents on a proposed change to secondary school admission arrangements for community schools for the academic year 2020/2021. Stanwell School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic School are not affected by the proposed change as they are their own admissions authority and determine their arrangements separately.

The Council is considering a change to the admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for community secondary 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 proposed change will prioritise those living in a school's catchment area and remove the feeder primary school as an oversubscription criterion. This will give priority to pupils living in an area to gain a place in their local school.

The admission arrangements currently in place prioritise children transferring from primary school to secondary school who attend a feeder school and live in a school's catchment area. The change would reinforce the position to ensure that children can attend their local secondary school, particularly as a number of large scale housing developments are leading to a rise in demand for secondary school places in certain areas. The Council is committed to providing local schools for local children where possible. The Council's Admissions Forum has considered this proposal.

The revised arrangements would not prevent parents from applying for a school of their choice, the same options will be available as they are at present but where a school is oversubscribed, residence within catchment area would be a high priority when allocating places.

I enclose a copy of the current and proposed arrangements that can also be viewed on line at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/secadmissions. 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/secadmissions
- 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

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

M Matthews (Mr)
Strategy, Community Learning and Resources

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main changes to the admissions policy?

The proposal is to replace the current feeder school system for priority entry to a community secondary school to the requirement for residence within the catchment area where there are more applications than there are places available. This will not mean that pupils cannot attend a secondary school if they live outside the catchment area, this would depend on the number of applications received and the application of the oversubscription criteria.

What schools are affected by the proposed change?

The proposed change affects community secondary schools namely; Cowbridge Comprehensive, Llantwit Major, Pencoedtre High, St Cyres, Whitmore High and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg.

Are Foundation and Voluntary Aided Secondary Schools affected by this change?

No. The schools in question are Stanwell School and St Richard Gwyn Catholic School who are their own admissions authority. Admission applications will continue to be made directly with the schools.

Will secondary school catchment areas change?

We are proposing to maintain our existing secondary school catchment areas for the 2020/2021 admission round. The Council will undertake a review of school catchment areas this year that would be subject to consultation and reflected in admission arrangements for the academic year 2021/22. This consultation would take place January 2020.

Does this affect the application process for 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 this change apply to children currently in attendance at linked feeder schools?

Yes, apart from children currently in year 6. If approved the changes would take effect for admissions to secondary schools for September 2020.

Will pupils be entitled to free transport?

The existing school transport arrangements in place will be maintained for secondary schools where children living three miles or further to their nearest or designated catchment area school will qualify for free school transport.

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

No. there are no other changes planned for the admission year 2020/21.

Time Line

- Consultation ends on the 22 February 2019
- Consideration of comments and report to Cabinet March 2019
- Admission arrangements must be determined by the 15 April 2019
- If adopted, changes to admission policy will come in to force on 1 September 2020 .

The following is a summary of the current and proposed admission criteria to be used in the event of oversubscription at secondary 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 transfer from Primary to Secondary School

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 in the promoting age group in attendance at a linked feeder school of a secondary school and living within the geographical catchment area of the secondary school on or before the published closing date. In the event of oversubscription from this category alone (5), (6) and (7) would be applied to produce an order of preference.
3. Children in the promoting age group permanently resident within the defined catchment area of the secondary school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms or not permanently resident within the defined catchment area of the secondary school but who have satisfied the council (by providing appropriate written evidence such as a rental agreement or confirmation of house purchase), on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms, that they 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 oversubscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (5), (6) and (7) would be applied to produce an order of preference.
4. Children in the promoting age group in attendance at a linked feeder school of a secondary school but not living within the defined catchment area of the secondary school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms. In the event of oversubscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (5), (6) and (7) would be applied to produce an order of preference.
5. Pupils with compelling medical or social grounds. In the event of oversubscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (6) and (7) would be applied to produce an order of preference.
6. Pupils who have an older brother or sister at the school, year 8 to 11 only. The youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
7. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils the Council gives particular regard to the proximity of the pupil's home to the secondary 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.

Proposed Admission Arrangements for transfer from Primary to Secondary School 2020/2021

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. Pupils 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. Pupils 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. Pupils in respect of whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified secondary school i.e. those children recommended for placement at a named school due to medical, psychological or special education reasons. (Written recommendations from the appropriate external agencies or professional advisers will normally be required in such cases). In the event of oversubscription by applicants from this category alone criteria (5) and (6) would be applied.
5. Pupils who have an elder brother or sister at the school and who will be on register at the school (years 8 to 11) 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 pupils youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority.
6. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils the Council gives particular regard to the proximity of the pupil's home to the secondary 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 2020/2021

**CHANGE TO ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY
SCHOOL OVERSUBSCRIPTION CRITERIA**

CONSULTATION CLOSING DATE: 22 FEBRUARY 2019

Do you support the proposed change to secondary school admission arrangements?

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, 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.