

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 14TH JANUARY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 16TH NOVEMBER, 2020

**“C376 SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2022/23 (DL/ER)
(SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The report sought approval to consult on school admission arrangements for pupil admissions for the academic year 2022/23. The Council was required, in line with statutory requirements, to consult on its proposed admission arrangements for each maintained school between 1st September and 1st March each year and set these by 15th April of the school year (‘the determination year’) beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements would apply. The Council’s proposed school admission policy for 2022/23 was attached at Appendix A to the report.

The report included a proposal to consult on a temporary change to the secondary school catchment area to take account of projected high numbers in Barry. In addition, a proposed change to the Welsh Medium catchment primary school serving the Rhoose area, alongside the policy for admissions into the academic year 2022/23. The consultation period would run from 14th December, 2020 to 8th February, 2021. A report on the outcome of this consultation would be presented to Cabinet in March 2021.

The key changes proposed and set out within the report related to:

- establishing a dual catchment area for St. Cyres for the three academic years from 2022/2023 to alleviate short term pressure for secondary school places in Barry;
- a proposed change to the Rhoose area catchment from Ysgol Dewi Sant to Ysgol Sant Baruc;
- the proposed changes would ensure a more even distribution of school places to meet future demand for pupils within defined catchment areas requiring a school place.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the consultation required in respect of the Council’s admission arrangements for the academic year 2022/2023 as detailed in the Report for all community schools in the Vale of Glamorgan area be approved.

(2) T H A T the consultation to include a proposed temporary dual catchment area for St. Cyres School and a change to the Welsh medium primary school catchment serving the Rhoose area from Ysgol Dewi Sant in Llantwit Major to Ysgol Sant Baruc in Barry be approved.

(3) T H A T the report be referred to Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Para 2.3 of the School Admissions Code (Wales) July 2013 required a Local Authority to consult on its admission arrangements for each maintained school between 1st September and 1st March, and to set these by 15th April of the school years beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements would apply.

(2) The Council was required to keep under review its school catchment areas to meet the supply and demand for school places in its Local Authority area.

(3) In order for the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee to contribute to and participate in the consultation process.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Cabinet: 16th November, 2020

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| Meeting of: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting: | Monday, 16 November 2020 |
| Relevant Scrutiny Committee: | Learning and Culture |
| Report Title: | School Admission Arrangements 2022/23 |
| Purpose of Report: | To seek Cabinet approval to consult on the Local Authority's school admission arrangements as required by the Welsh Governments School Admission Code issued in July 2013 which includes a proposed revision to school catchment areas. |
| Report Owner: | Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration |
| Responsible Officer: | Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills |
| Elected Member and Officer Consultation: | Trevor Baker: Head of Strategy, Community Learning and Resources Lisa Lewis, Operational Manager, Strategy and Resources Mike Matthews Strategic Planning Officer Matthew Curtis: 21st Century Schools Project Manager |
| Policy Framework: | This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet |
| <p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report is being presented to seek approval to consult on school admission arrangements for pupil admissions for the academic year 2022/23. The Council is required, in line with statutory requirements, to consult on its proposed admission arrangements for each maintained school between 1 September and 1 March each year and set these by the 15th April of the school year ('the determination year') beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply. The Council's proposed school admission policy for 2022/23 is attached at Appendix A. • This report includes a proposal to consult on a temporary change to the secondary school catchment area to take account of projected high numbers in Barry. In addition, a proposed change to the Welsh Medium catchment primary school serving the Rhoose area, alongside the policy for admissions into the academic year 2022/23. The consultation period will run from 14 December 2020 to 8 February 2021. A report on the outcome of this consultation will be presented to Cabinet in March 2021. • The key changes proposed and set out within this report relate to: • establishing a dual catchment area for St Cyres for the three academic years from 2022/2023 to alleviate short term pressure for secondary school places in Barry. | |

- A proposed change to the Rhoose area catchment from Ysgol Dewi Sant to Ysgol Sant Baruc
- The proposed changes would ensure a more even distribution of school places to meet future demand for pupils within defined catchment area's requiring a school place.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the consultation required in respect of the Council's admission arrangements for all community schools in the Vale of Glamorgan area.
2. That Cabinet approves the consultation to include a proposed temporary dual catchment area for St Cyres School and a change to the Welsh medium primary school catchment serving the Rhoose area from Ysgol Dewi Sant in Llantwit Major to Ysgol Sant Baruc in Barry.
3. That the report be referred to Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) as part of the consultation process.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. Para 2.3 of the School Admissions Code (Wales) July 2013 requires a Local Authority to consult on its admission arrangements for each maintained school between 1 September and 1 March, and to set these by 15 April of the school years beginning two years before the school year in which the arrangements will apply.
2. The Council is required to keep under review its school catchment areas to meet the supply and demand for school places in its Local Authority area.
3. In order for the Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) to contribute to and participate in the consultation process.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Local Authority (LA) has a statutory duty to consult with the governing bodies of schools who have delegated admission powers, all neighbouring Local Authorities (LAs), the admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the relevant area and the governing bodies of all other maintained schools in the relevant area (i.e. community and voluntary controlled schools which do not have delegated admission powers). In the case of religious schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religion or religious denomination in question.
- 1.2 The relevant area is determined as the geographical area of the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 1.3 The Local Authority should also consult the Admissions Forum serving the relevant area and where a significant change is proposed, parents of children likely to be affected.
- 1.4 The Local Authority is required to publish a composite prospectus document each year for the subsequent school year admission round detailing school admission arrangements for all maintained school in its area. This information is contained within the Council's information guide "A Parental Guide to School Admission in the Vale".

- 1.5** Welsh Government's School Admissions Code 2013 ('the Code') requires admission authorities to act in accordance with the Code. The Code includes practical guidance and imposes requirements on local authorities and admission authorities, regarding the discharge of duties in respect of admissions.
- 1.6** The Local Authority is proposing to consult on a change to admissions policy as required by Welsh Government's School Admissions Code 2013.
- 1.7** The Local Authority is proposing to consult on a change to a dual catchment area for St Cyres School for a three-year period, commencing in academic year 2022/23 and to change the catchment for Welsh Medium primary schools serving the Rhoose area from Ysgol Dewi Sant to Ysgol Sant Baruc.
- 1.8** A school catchment area is a geographically defined area of addresses drawn up to ensure that all schools in an area receive a fair share of pupils in which children are eligible to attend a local school and are used:
- To give parents an indication of their local school
 - To help schools identify with the communities they serve
 - To prioritise admissions to schools when there are more applications than places available
 - As a planning tool to enable the Authority to fulfil its duty to forecast demand for education in an area and to plan to meet that demand
 - As an element of transport policy in order to facilitate the organisation of school transport and control costs
- 1.9** Defining a school catchment area does not prevent a parent from expressing a preference for a particular school if they do not live within the catchment area. Parents can express a preference for any school. Places are allocated according to the published over-subscription criteria.
- 1.10** 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.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** The consultation period for the proposed admission arrangements for 2022/23 (Appendix A) will run from the 14 December 2020 to 8 February 2021. These admission arrangements must be put in place in order to determine the allocation of places for the academic year 2022/23.
- 2.2** The Council has seen an increase in demand for secondary school places in the Barry area at Pencoedtre and Whitmore High Schools following the establishment of mixed gender schooling in September 2018. The Council is facing future challenges in meeting the admission needs of the secondary school catchment populations in Barry where parents express a preference for their catchment area school. It is possible that applications might exceed the number

of places available for parents resulting in children being denied places at their local and catchment area school. There is sufficient capacity overall in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet the needs of the future secondary school population.

- 2.3** Following the transfer of the area of Rhoose into the catchment area of Ysgol Dewi Sant, there has been a reduction in applications for Welsh Medium primary education from Rhoose. The Council received more applications from children living within the catchment area of Ysgol Dewi Sant than places available for the reception intake for September 2020.
- 2.4** Large scale and other housing developments as part of the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) are having an impact on catchment area pupil numbers. The Council has undertaken extensive remodelling and new builds of schools during the previous 10 years.
- 2.5** The proposed revision to the catchment area of Ysgol Dewi Sant is summarised as follows:
- Transfer of the Rhoose catchment area into Ysgol St Baruc catchment area. Ysgol St Baruc is expanding to a two-form entry school from September 2022 and will have the capacity to accommodate pupils from the Rhoose area in the future.
 - The number attending Welsh medium provision in the Rhoose area has dropped since the catchment area changed from Ysgol St Curig to Ysgol Dewi Sant. Feedback has suggested that parents consider it is a long way for children to travel.
 - As the Rhoose area is in closer proximity to Barry than Llantwit Major the proposed change would reduce journey times for children.
 - The revision will provide a better balance of school places to meet future demand for Welsh medium education in Llantwit Major and the surrounding area.
- 2.6** There are currently large year 6 English medium cohorts in the Barry area transferring into the secondary sector. This is anticipated to continue during the next 4 years after which time numbers are projected to decline. The Council is facing future challenges in meeting the admission needs of the secondary school catchment populations where parents express a preference for their catchment area school. The proposed changes will meet the future demand for secondary school places ensuring as far as possible every child in the Vale of Glamorgan has access to a secondary school place.
- 2.7** The establishment of mixed gender schooling has had a significant impact on parental demand in the Barry area for Pencoedtre and Whitmore High Schools together with the withdrawal of the primary school feeder school system from September 2020.
- 2.8** Year 7 demand in Barry at Pencoedtre and Whitmore High Schools is likely to exceed the number of places available during the next four years.
- 2.9** The demand for places in Barry for September 2020 followed a similar pattern to the following three-year cohorts transitioning to the secondary sector. This required the establishment of an additional class at Whitmore High School to meet the demand. The requirement for an additional class may not have been

necessary if pupils residing in the east of Barry had priority for places at St Cyres school. Accommodating an additional class at either Whitmore or Pencoedtre will not be an option for the admissions authority in the future as it could result in overcrowding at these schools.

- 2.10** The Council is co-ordinating admission arrangements for St Richard Gwyn to ensure that school places at all three English medium schools in Barry are maximised.
- 2.11** A number of Barry parents express a preference for St Cyres School. The majority of these pupils reside in the Pencoedtre catchment area. These pupils no longer gain places, aside from sibling connections, at St Cyres when the school is oversubscribed as priority after catchment and sibling connection is determined by proximity.
- 2.12** It is therefore proposed that a dual catchment area for St Cyres School to include Pencoedtre High School catchment area is established for a period of three years commencing 2022/23.
- 2.13** A dual catchment area refers to an area serving more than one School. The proposal would include Pencoedtre High School catchment area within the St Cyres catchment area.
- 2.14** Such a proposed dual catchment area would provide a wider pool of applicants and a greater opportunity for pupils gaining a place in their school of choice, albeit within a defined geographical area. The dual catchment area, along with other factors, would ensure that Vale children have access to a school place in the Vale of Glamorgan.
- 2.15** The proposed changes will support the Council's admission process, promote fair access to secondary school places and address high numbers of catchment area applications at certain schools.
- 2.16** The proposed revisions will be consulted on with schools and prescribed consultees as part of the consultation exercise on school admission arrangements (Appendix A) for the 2022/23 academic year before any decisions are made. The basis for the changes is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.17** Maps showing current and revised catchment areas for both primary and secondary schools are included at Appendix C.

21st Century Schools Programme

- 2.18** Band B of the Council's 21st Century Schools Programme will see more than £134m invested in education assets across the Vale of Glamorgan between 2019 and 2024.
- 2.19** As part of Band B Ysgol St Baruc was due to expand on a new site at Barry Waterfront from 210 to 420 places that was reflected in admission arrangements from 2021/22 onwards.
- 2.20** Following extended negotiations with the consortium of housing developers responsible for constructing the new building, the implementation of this

proposal will be delayed until September 2022 and reflected in admission arrangements from 2022/23 onwards.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 (“the 2015 Act”) requires the Council to think about the long-term impact of their decisions, to work better with people, communities and each other and to prevent persistent problems such as poverty, health inequalities and climate change.
- 3.2** The Council has committed as part of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 to achieving a vision of ‘Working Together for a Brighter Future’. This plan is reflective of the Welsh Government’s Well-being of Future Generations Act and is comprised of four Well-being objectives to deliver this vision:
- Objective 1 - To work with and for our communities
 - Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth
 - Objective 3 - To support people at home and in their community
 - Objective 4 - To respect, enhance and enjoy our environment
- 3.3** The proposed School Admissions Policy contributes to the Council's Objective 2 - To support learning, employment and sustainable economic growth.
- Improve standards of achievement for pupils through sharing excellence between schools and the targeting of resources.
 - Secure improved outcomes for groups of learners at risk of underachievement, such as those entitled to free school meals.
 - Increase the learning opportunities for disadvantaged individuals and vulnerable families. This would be achieved by ensuring costs associated with travelling to school are minimised wherever possible.
 - Reduce the number of young people not in education, employment or training by ensuring that pupils can attend a local school.
- 3.4** To make sure we are all working towards the same purpose, the 2015 Act puts in place seven well-being goals on the Council. The 2015 Act makes it clear the listed public bodies must work to achieve all of the goals, not just one or two, these being:
- A prosperous Wales
 - A resilient Wales
 - A healthier Wales
 - A more equal Wales
 - A Wales of cohesive communities
 - A Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh Language
 - A globally responsible Wales

- 3.5** This proposal would contribute to achieving the wellbeing goals by:
- Ensuring an efficient supply and demand of school places across the Vale of Glamorgan through effective forecasting of future demand
 - Ensuring that wherever possible children can attend their local school
 - Ensuring that all pupils have every opportunity to attain the best possible outcomes
 - Contributing to a healthier Wales by supporting sustainable travel strategies
 - Delivering rigorous consultation.
 - Ensuring that schools serve the educational needs of their local communities as part of the school admissions process.
- 3.6** The 2015 Act imposes a duty on all public bodies in Wales to carry out “sustainable development”, defined as being, "The process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals." The action that a public body takes in carrying out sustainable development includes setting and publishing well-being objectives, and taking all reasonable steps in exercising its functions to meet those objectives.
- 3.7** The 2015 Act sets out five ways of working needed for the Council to achieve the seven well-being goals. These are outlined below with examples of the ways in which this proposal supports them.
- 3.8** The importance of balancing short-term needs with the needs to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs. The proposed change to catchment areas and admissions policy are in part a response to population increases across the Vale of Glamorgan. This proposed changes would support more children to be able to attend their local secondary school in the longer term.
- 3.9** Considering how the Council’s objectives impact upon each of the wellbeing goals listed above. This proposal contributes to the well-being goals in several ways including encouraging pupils to be able to walk to school wherever possible and promoting cohesive communities by attending a school in their local area for example.
- 3.10** The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the Council services. By consulting with parents, schools and other stakeholders, we can ensure due consideration of the interests of those people impacted by the proposal.
- 3.11** Acting in collaboration with other persons and organisations that could help the Council meet its wellbeing objectives.
- 3.12** Acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse. The proposed changes are part of an on-going review of the implications of new housing developments on school organisation and will ensure that wherever possible parental preference can be met to support children being able to attend a school close to

home, thereby reducing travel and transportation costs as well as associated environmental concerns.

3.13 This proposal will meet the five ways of working by:

- Responding to the need to ensure that there is a well-managed balance of supply and demand of school places within the Vale of Glamorgan. It is recognised that the changing demographics in the Vale of Glamorgan will significantly affect the demand for our services. Short term and long term need and the assessment of demographic increases is an important aspect of the Councils strategic planning responsibilities.
- Contributing towards a healthier Wales by supporting sustainable transport strategies.
- Delivering rigorous consultation with open communication channels and numerous opportunities for stakeholders to engage throughout the process.
- Ensuring that schools serve the educational needs of their local communities as part of the school admissions process

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** Secondary age pupils are entitled to free school transport if they live three or more miles to their nearest or catchment area school.
- 4.2** The proposed changes to secondary school catchment areas will result in increased transportation costs for pupils residing three miles or more by securing new contract vehicles and routes.
- 4.3** It is estimated that the cost of additional transport requirements will be in the region of £31,000 per annum for a 35/53 seater vehicle possibly rising to £62,000 over an initial four year period as pupil numbers requiring transport increase each year.
- 4.4** Additional transport would be required from the Rhoose area to Barry as a result of the change to the catchment area of St Baruc at a cost in the region of £31,000 per annum.
- 4.5** Savings would be achieved by the discontinuation of school transport from the Rhoose area to Ysgol Dewi Sant in line with the above. However, the Council will have an obligation to honour existing school transport arrangements for those pupils affected by the changes, the full effect of savings will be realised in around 7 years.

Employment

- 4.6** There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.7** Part 1 of the Education Act 1996 (“the 1996 Act”) imposes a number of general duties on all local authorities in Wales. The general duty in section 13 of the 1996 Act is to contribute (so far as the Council’s powers enable them to do so) towards the spiritual, moral, mental and physical development of the community by securing that efficient primary education and secondary education are available to meet the needs of the population of their area.
- 4.8** Section 13A(3) of the 1996 Act states that a local authority in Wales must ensure that their relevant education functions and their relevant training functions are exercised by the authority with a view to promoting high standards, and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential by every person to whom the subsection applies, including those who are of compulsory school age or are below school age and are registered as pupils at schools maintained by the authority.

School Standards and Framework Act 1998

- 4.9** Sections 88 and 89 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 (‘the Act’) as amended by the Education Act 2002 and the Statutory School Admissions Code 2013 (‘the Code’) made pursuant to section 84 of ‘the Act’ determines that the Admission Authorities shall, before the beginning of each school year, determine in accordance with the Act the admission arrangements which are to apply for that year. The Local Authority is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools, unless under section 88(1)(a)(ii) of the Act applies and the function has been delegated in full to the governing body.
- 4.10** The Local Authority as the admission authority has a statutory duty to act in accordance with the Code and the School Admissions Appeals Code.
- 4.11** The Education (Determination of Admission Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (‘the Regulations’) set out the procedure in respect of which the Admission Authorities must follow when determining their admission arrangements, including the consultation and notification process as well as the timescales for these. This report reflects these requirements.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- 4.12** The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (‘the 2015 Act’) sets out new ways of working – of planning and making decisions – for local authorities and other public bodies it lists. The aim is that, by improving these things, the overall well-being of Wales will be better improved by the things public bodies collectively do. The Act and the statutory guidance makes it clear that local authorities must, in the course of their corporate planning and their delivery against those plans:
- balance short term needs against the ability to meet long term needs;
 - think about the impact their objectives have on other organisations’ objectives, and on the well-being of Wales, in an integrated way;

- involve in those processes people who reflect the diversity of the population they serve;
- work together collaboratively with other organisations to better meet each other's objectives; and
- deploy their resources to prevent problems from getting worse or from occurring in the first.

4.13 The statutory guidance, for organisations subject to the Act, sets out the expectations for how the duties should be met:
<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/?lang=en>

4.14 The Act itself is available to view online:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/2/contents/enacted>

4.15 Current practice on the use of surplus school accommodation, Information document No 158/2014.

(5) Public Sector equality duty

4.16 The public sector equality duty (see section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) came into force in April 2011. Public authorities like the Council are required, in carrying out their functions, to have due regard to the equality needs set out under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 to:

- eliminate discrimination (both direct and indirect), harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- 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 share it.

4.17 Direct discrimination occurs if, because of a protected characteristic, a local authority treats a person less favourably than it treats or would treat others.

4.18 Indirect discrimination occurs if a local authority applies to a person a provision, criterion or practice which is discriminatory in relation to a relevant protected characteristic of that person ("B"). A provision, criterion or practice is discriminatory if:

- The local authority applies, or would apply it, to persons with whom B does not share the characteristic;
- It puts, or would put, persons with whom B shares the characteristic at a particular disadvantage when compared with persons with whom B does not share it;
- It puts, or would put, B at that disadvantage, and
- The local authority cannot show it to be a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

4.19 In short, indirect discrimination would arise if a local authority applied the same provision, criterion or practice to everyone, but it put those in a certain

protected group at a “particular disadvantage” when compared with persons not in that group. Even if a “particular disadvantage” arises, indirect discrimination is not present if the provision, criterion or practice can be justified – i.e. if it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. Members must pay due regard to any identified risk of such discrimination arising in respect of the decision before them.

- 4.20** It is to be noted that section 149, so far as relating to age, does not apply to the exercise of a function relating to the provision of education to children in schools (see paragraph 1 of Schedule 18 to the 2010 Act).
- 4.21** Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity includes having due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people with a protected characteristic. Due regard must also be had to the need to take steps to meet the needs of such persons where those needs are different from those of persons who do not have that characteristic, and to encourage those who have a protected characteristic to participate in public life.
- 4.22** The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons include steps to take account of the persons’ disabilities.
- 4.23** Having due regard to “fostering good relations” involves having due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.
- 4.24** Complying with the PSED may involve treating some people better than others, so far as that is allowed by discrimination law.
- 4.25** The equality duty arises where the Council is deciding how to exercise its statutory powers and duties under the 1996 Act and the 2013 Act. The Council’s duty under section 149 of the Equality Act is to have “due regard” to the matters set out in relation to equalities when considering and making decisions in relation to its statutory duties under those Acts. Accordingly due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality, and foster good relations must form an integral part of the decision-making process. Members must consider the effect that implementing a particular decision will have in relation to equality before making a decision. The Council must have an adequate evidence base for its decision making. This can be achieved by undertaking an Equality Impact Assessment of proposals. The potential equality impact of the proposal will be assessed as part of the proposed consultation, and a summary of the position would be presented to Cabinet for their consideration as part of the determination process. A careful consideration of the assessment is one of the key ways in which Members can show “due regard” to the relevant matters.
- 4.26** Where it is apparent from the analysis of the information that the proposals would have an adverse effect on equality then reasonable adjustments should be made to avoid that effect (mitigation).
- 4.27** Members should be aware that the duty is not to achieve the objectives or take the steps set out in s.149. Rather, the duty on public authorities is to bring these important objectives relating to discrimination into consideration when carrying out its public functions (which includes the functions relating to school

admissions). “Due regard” means the regard that is appropriate in all the particular circumstances in which the authority is carrying out its functions. There must be a proper regard for the goals set out in s. 149. At the same time, Members must also pay regard to any countervailing factors, which it is proper and reasonable for them to consider. This would include ensuring that School Admission policy actively contributes to ensuring that the delivery of education is more efficient. The weight of these factors in the decision-making process is a matter for Members in the first instance.

- 4.28** The duty covers the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. However, section 149, so far as relating to age, does not apply to the exercise of a function relating to the provision of education to pupils in schools (see paragraph 1 of Schedule 18 to the 2010 Act).
- 4.29** The Council must also comply with the specific equality duties imposed by the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties)(Wales) Regulations 2011, SI 2011/1064 (“the Regulations”), particularly regulation 8 (imposing specific duties to make arrangements for assessing the impact of its policies/practise and monitoring of the same).

5. Background Papers

School admission Code 2013 guidance can be found at:

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2018-03/school-admissions-code.pdf>



VALE of GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
School Admissions Policy
2022/2023

Directorate of Learning and Skills



RELEVANT AREA FOR CONSULTATION

In accordance with the School Admissions Statutory Code (July 2013), admission authorities are required to consult with “relevant areas”. These are as follows:

- The governing body of the relevant schools.
- All neighbouring LAs.
- Admission authorities for all other maintained schools in the relevant area.
- Governing Bodies of all other schools in the relevant area (i.e. community and voluntary controlled schools which do not have delegated admissions powers).
- In the case of schools with a religious character, such body or person representing the religious denomination in question.

Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools

The Council is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. The relevant area for consultation on admission arrangements is the geographical area of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. This is determined by The Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS – INTRODUCTION

The Council is the Admission Authority for all maintained community and voluntary controlled secondary, primary and nursery schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. All admissions are approved by the Directorate of Learning and Skills. In the case of a voluntary aided school the appropriate admissions authority is the governing body to which all applications for admission should be made.

The Council is piloting coordinated admissions for five partner voluntary aided schools who are their own admissions authority, these include;

- Llansannor CIW Primary;
- St Andrews CIW Primary;
- St Brides CIW Primary;
- St David’s CIW Primary;
- Wick & Marcross CIW Primary.
- St Richard Gwyn Catholic Secondary School

The Council is looking to roll the programme out to other voluntary aided schools. It is felt that a coordinated approach creates a fairer, more equitable system of allocating places for a number of reasons;

- Coordinated arrangements provide parents with a single school place offer for their child;
- Parents would not be holding more than one school place. The offer of multiple schools denies parents places at schools, preventing other children being offered these places;

- There is often uncertainty as to which pupils will start at schools, a coordinated approach would provide greater certainty for schools of the numbers and pupils entering reception.

The Council will ensure, as far as possible, that every pupil is guaranteed a place in a primary school within reasonable distance of home. The authority's admission arrangements will enable effective management of the admission intake to schools under which catchment area children are ranked as a high priority when allocating places in the event of oversubscription at primary and secondary schools. The Council is committed to providing local schools for local children where possible.

Admission Number

All maintained schools must admit pupils up to their published admission number. An admission may not be refused to any school until a school's admission number has been reached. The published admission numbers have been calculated in accordance with the Welsh Government's school capacity calculation methodology "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales (MCSW)". As these numbers are based on the physical capacity of the school to accommodate pupils, they should not be exceeded in normal circumstances.

Infant Class Size Regulations

The Government introduced a policy to reduce class sizes for children aged five, six and seven years old as part of its overall aim to improve educational standards in schools.

Section 1 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1988 and the Education (Infant Class Sizes) (Wales) Regulations 1998, which came into force on 1 September 1998, placed a duty upon Local Authorities and school governing bodies to limit to 30 the size of classes for 5, 6 and 7 years old from September 2001 i.e. children in reception, year 1 and year 2 classes, except where permitted exceptions apply.

Admission authorities are not required to admit a child to an infant class where to do so would be incompatible with the duty to meet infant class size limits, because the admission would require measures to be taken to comply with those limits which would cause prejudice to efficient education or efficient use of resources. Admission authorities can only refuse admission on the basis of infant class size prejudice if the admission number has already been reached.

Late Applicants

Only applications received by the closing date for reception and transfer to year 7 at secondary school can be considered in the first round of admissions. Parents should therefore note these dates in order to ensure that their application is received in time to be considered alongside all other parents applying on time. Late applications will be dealt with only after the first round of applications has been completed. This may affect a child's chances of gaining a place in the parents' school of choice if for example sufficient applications are received prior to the closing date for the Council to admit up to the admission number. This would mean, for example, that applicants who live outside of the catchment

area who apply on time are offered places instead of pupils who live within the catchment area whose parents did not apply by the closing date.

The arrangements for late applications are slightly different for nursery due to the termly allocation process. Once the closing date has passed and the initial round of allocations made for those pupils eligible for a September start date, any late applications are added to the allocation waiting lists for younger pupils due to start in January or April in order of the oversubscription criteria.

In all cases, once the first round of allocations has been made and/or all available places have been offered, any late applications join the waiting list or termly nursery allocation waiting lists as prioritised by the oversubscription criteria. If any places are subsequently offered at the school, then they will be offered to applicants as ranked by these criteria. In this case, late catchment applications for example would have priority over “on time” applications categorised in a lower criterion who were refused a place in the first round.

Evidence of Residence & Shared Parental Responsibility

In all cases evidence of permanent residence of a pupil at the time of application must be supplied if required. Any place approved on the basis of residence will be withdrawn if the pupil is not resident at the address at the time of application or at the beginning of the school term to which the application relates.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child, and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week, then the home address will be determined as the address where the child resides for the majority of the week (i.e. 4 out of 7 days). Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

Where a parent provides fraudulent or intentionally misleading information to obtain the advantage of a particular school for their child, to whom they would not otherwise be entitled, the Council reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place.

Statutory Appeals

Parents will be advised of the outcome of their application on the offer date normally by their stated preferred method. This will be either via email, by logging into the online application system or via letter. If parents are dissatisfied with the result of an application for a particular school (excluding nursery), an appeal may be submitted to an independent Statutory Appeal Panel. Any decision made by the panel is binding on all parties. If the appeal is not successful, further applications for a place at the same school will not be considered during the same academic year unless there are significant and material changes in the circumstances of pupil/parents or school.

Waiting Lists

Waiting lists will be maintained for oversubscribed schools where a place has been refused.

In respect of the annual allocation of places, applications will remain on the waiting list until 30th September of the next academic year. General transfer applications received outside of

the annual allocation of places will also remain on the waiting list until 30th September. After this time parents will be expected to make a further application for admission if they wish to remain on the waiting list.

Admissions to Sixth Forms

The Governing Bodies of community schools are responsible for the determination of admission arrangements to sixth forms. Applications should therefore be made directly to the school.

Admissions Process – Timetable

The timetable below provides all relevant dates in terms of managing the admission arrangements and adheres to the requirements of The School Admissions (Common Offer Date) (Wales) Regulations 2013 which advises that admission authorities must ensure that offer letters for secondary schools are sent on the 1st March or the next working day and that primary offers should be made on the 16th April or the next working day.

| TIMETABLE | 2022/2023 Academic Year | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| | Secondary – (Year 7 intake September 2021) | Primary – (Reception intake September 2021) | Nursery – (Nursery intake September 2021) |
| Admissions information sent to parents/schools by LA. Online application service opens | 24 September 2021 | 5 November 2021 | 24 January 2022 |
| Closing date for receipt of preference forms | 26 November 2021 | 14 January 2022 | 25 March 2022 |
| VA/ Foundation schools notify LA of results of applications | 1 February 2022 | 2 April 2022 | 2 May 2022 |
| Notification of results to parents of applications to Community, Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools | 1 March 2022 | 16 April 2022 | 20 May 2022 |

NURSERY EDUCATION

The Council is the Admissions Authority for all maintained Community Nursery Schools and Nursery Classes in Community Schools in the Vale of Glamorgan. Children are entitled to a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday and **must** attend for five half days. No place can be allocated at a community or controlled nursery without formal application. The Council will normally accept children who are three years old at the start of term (1st September, 1st January or 1st April) up to the schools approved capacity. Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated applying the following criteria, in the order of priority set out below, up to the approved capacity.

Parents should also note that children attending a nursery school will not have an 'automatic' right to continued education at the same school when moving up to a reception class, whether residing within the catchment area or outside it. Parents will be required to complete an application for their chosen school (see Primary Education Admission Arrangements section). As nursery education is not a statutory provision there is no right of appeal against a decision to refuse a place for a child at a particular school.

Where a parent provides fraudulent or intentionally misleading information to obtain the advantage of a particular school for their child, to whom they would not otherwise be entitled, the Council reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place.

Nursery Admission Oversubscription Criteria

The Council is the Admissions authority for all maintained community nursery schools and nursery classes in community and voluntary controlled schools. Admissions are allocated termly in consideration of applications for pupils who were three on or before the last day of the previous term (31 August, 31st December or 31 March).

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.

All applications are ranked by the published oversubscription criteria date regardless of their start date within the nursery. Pupils residing in catchment or with a sibling connection who are eligible for a nursery place later in the academic year will therefore be provisionally allocated places prior to the allocation of non-catchment applications even when the non-catchment applications are for older children.

Once the initial September allocations have been made, any late applications are added to the waiting list/ termly allocation list and places offered on that basis. In these cases, late catchment applications, for example, will be ranked higher up the allocation list than "on time" applications qualifying under a lower criteria.

Autumn Term Admissions (allocated in May for a September start date)

1. Children who will be three on or before 31 August where evidence has been supplied to confirm that they are looked after, or have been previously looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

2. Children who had their third birthday before the last day of the previous term and are resident within the defined catchment area of the school on or before the published closing date for receipt of application forms. Evidence of permanent residence will be required. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the criteria set out below, in order of priority, will be applied to produce an order of preference;
 - (a) Children who have a brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. (Where preferences exceed places available, the Council determines priority by reference to the age of the pupils' youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority).
 - (b) Children in chronological date of birth order, the oldest being admitted first. If two or more children have the same date of birth priority will be given to children living nearest 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.
3. Children who had their third birthday before the last day of the previous term (31 August, 31 December or 31 March) and whom the Council judges that there are compelling medical or social grounds for their admission to a specified nursery school/class i.e. those children recommended for placement with regard to medical, psychological or special education reasons. (Written recommendations from appropriate external agencies or professional advisers will be required in such cases).
4. Children who had their third birthday before the last day of the previous term (31 August, 31 December or 31 March) and have a brother or sister in attendance at the school during the academic year in which the child is to be admitted. (Where preferences exceed places available, the Council determines priority by reference to the age of the pupils' youngest sibling in the school, the youngest commanding the highest degree of priority).

Spring Term Admissions (Allocated in October for a January start date)

5. Children who will be three on or before 31 December where evidence has been supplied to confirm that they are looked after, or have been previously looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.
6. Children who will be three on or before 31 December, resident within the defined catchment area of the school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms. Evidence of permanent residence will be required. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the criteria set out at point 2 above, in order of priority, will be applied to produce an order of preference.

All remaining applications will be prioritised using points 3 and 4 above.

Summer Term Admissions (allocated in January for an April Start date)

7. Children who will be three on or before 31 March where evidence has been supplied

to confirm that they are looked after, or have been previously looked after by a local authority in accordance with Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

8. Children who will be three on or before 31 March, resident within the defined catchment area of the school on or before the published closing date for receipt of preference forms. Evidence of permanent residence will be required. In the event of over-subscription by applicants from this category alone, the criteria set out at point 2 above, in order of priority, will be applied to produce an order of preference.

All remaining catchment applications will be prioritised using points 3 and 4 above.

Remaining Applications

9. Where there are still spaces available after applying the criteria above, these will be allocated to children who had their third birthday before the last day of the previous term (31st August, 31st December or 31st March) with priority given to those living nearest the nursery school/class 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.

Early Years Funding

Parents may also apply for nursery education place funding with a registered provider approved by the Vale of Glamorgan Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership. Where parents opt for a place with a registered early year's provider, they will only be eligible to receive funding for a part time place regardless of whether the place offered is full or part-time. Funding will only be granted for sessions where early year's education is provided.

PRIMARY EDUCATION

Reception age pupils may be admitted to school full time in the September of the academic year in which they reach five i.e. the September following a child's fourth birthday. This is not a legal requirement, and parents may choose not to send their children to school until later in the year or when they are of statutory school age. This will be a matter for individual negotiation between parents and schools. Statutory school age is defined as the start of the term following a child's fifth birthday.

Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception class place in the same school.

All parents are required to express a preference for the school they wish their child to attend/transfer to, even if it is their catchment area school. In the autumn term parents will be invited to nominate their preferred primary school for the following September by completion of an appropriate application form. Parents will be notified of decisions in line with the timetable provided. No firm guarantee can be given that a parent's preference can be met in every case as requests for places in certain schools may exceed the number of places available.

In deciding upon admissions, the Council will consider each individual application received by the published closing date. Where a school is named in a statement of Special Educational

Needs the Council has a duty to admit the child to the school. Where this is known to the admission authority, the child will be allocated a place before other applicants are assessed against the oversubscription criteria.

An admission to a school will normally be granted provided a schools admission number (and statutory class size limit, where applicable) will not be exceeded. However where the number of applications for admission to a school exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated applying the admission criteria, in the order of priority, set out below. The Council will not normally exceed a school's admission number where this applies.

Oversubscription Criteria

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 a 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.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

Children normally transfer to secondary school in the September following their eleventh birthday. In the autumn term parents of Year 6 pupils are invited to nominate their preferred secondary school by the published closing date. No firm guarantee can be given that parents preference can be met in every case as requests for places in certain schools may exceed the number of places available. The Council will endeavour to meet parental preference wherever possible provided there are spaces available and a school's admission number will not be exceeded.

In deciding upon admissions the Council will consider each individual application received by the published closing date. Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of preference forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Other preference forms received will be considered as late applications.

Where a school is named in a statement of Special Educational Needs the Council has a duty to admit the child to the school. Where this is known to the admission authority, the child will be allocated a place before other applicants are assessed against the oversubscription criteria.

An admission to a school will be granted, provided a schools admission number will not be exceeded. However where the number of applications for admission to a school exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated applying the oversubscription criteria, in the order of priority, set out below.

Oversubscription Criteria

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.

Admission Numbers: September 2022/23

(THE FOLLOWING ADMISSION NUMBERS REMAIN UNDER REVIEW AND MAYBE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AFTER CONSULTATION WITH RESPECTIVE SCHOOLS).

| School Name | Admission Number |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Secondary Schools</u> | |
| Pencoedtre High School | 210 |
| Whitmore High School | 180 |
| Cowbridge Comprehensive | 240 |
| Llantwit Major School | 180 |
| St Cyres School | 210 |
| St Richard Gwyn RC High School | 163 |
| Stanwell School | 299 |
| Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg | 240* |
| <u>Primary Schools</u> | |
| Albert Primary | 55 |
| All Saints CIW Primary | 30 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Barry Island Primary | 30 |
| Cadoxton Primary | 60 |
| Cogan Primary | 30 |
| Colcot Primary | 45 |
| Dinas Powys Primary | 60 |
| Evenlode Primary | 60 |
| Fairfield Primary | 45 |
| Gladstone Primary | 60 |
| Gwenfo CIW Primary | 30 |
| High Street Primary | 30 |
| Holton Primary | 60 |
| Jenner Park Primary | 30 |
| Llancarfan Primary | 30* |
| Llandough Primary | 30 |
| Llanfair Primary | 18 |
| Llangan Primary | 15 |
| Llansannor CIW Primary | 30 |
| Oak Field Primary | 30 |
| Palmerston Primary | 30 |
| Pendoylan CIW Primary | 30 |
| Peterston-S-Ely CIW Primary | 27 |
| Rhws Primary | 53 |
| Romilly Primary | 90 |
| St Andrew's Major CIW Primary | 30 |
| St Athan Primary | 30 |
| St Brides Major CIW Primary | 30 |
| St David's CIW Primary | 30* |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| St Helen's RC Primary | 44 |
| St Illtyd Primary | 54 |
| St Joseph's RC Primary | 30 |
| St Nicholas CIW Primary | 30* |
| Sully Primary | 50 |
| Victoria Primary | 60 |
| Wick & Marcross CIW Primary | 22 |
| Y Bont Faen Primary | 30 |
| Ysgol Gwaun y Nant | 60 |
| Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant | 30 |
| Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg | 30 |
| Ysgol Gymraeg Pen y Garth | 60 |
| Ysgol Iolo Morganwg | 30 |
| Ysgol Sant Baruc | 60* |
| Ysgol Sant Curig | 60 |
| Ysgol Y Ddraig | 60 |

* Admission numbers are subject to the implementation of proposed school organisation proposals for the schools

Secondary School Place review (October 2020)



Background

As part of the Council's continual review of the supply of and demand for school places, it has become necessary to undertake a review of English medium secondary school places.

The Council is experiencing large year 6 catchment area cohorts that are progressing through to secondary sector over the next four years, this will put pressure on the demand for secondary school places in the Vale and particularly for the Barry area. Living within a schools catchment area is a high priority for entry to secondary education after the removal of the feeder school system in September 2020. The large cohorts are expected to decline from 2024/25 onwards. Year 6 cohorts for Denominational and Welsh medium schools will meet future demand are not reflected in this review of secondary education together with Stanwell which currently operates a feeder school system for entry to secondary education.

In order to manage the future demand for secondary school places at the year 7 intake, the Council has reviewed the effectiveness of catchment areas and admission arrangements in order to manage demand in the short term.

Catchment Areas

A school catchment area is a geographically defined area of addresses drawn up to ensure that all schools in an area receive a fair share of pupils in which children are eligible to attend a local school and are used;

- To give parents an indication of their local school.
- To help schools identify with the communities they serve.
- To prioritise admissions to school when there are more applications than places available.

- As a planning tool to enable the Authority to fulfil its duty to forecast demand for education in an area and to plan to meet that demand.
- As an element of transport policy in order to facilitate the organisation of school transport and control costs.

A catchment area does not prevent a parent from expressing a preference for a particular school if they do not live in its catchment area. Parents can express a preference for any school. Places are allocated according to the published over-subscription criteria.

Aims of the review

- To review the demand for secondary school places to ensure all Vale children have access to a secondary school place in future.
- To promote fair access to school places.

Why are we carrying out a review?

Large year 6 cohorts are expected to transfer to the secondary sector from 2021 onwards putting pressure on future demand for secondary school places

- The Council has changed from a feeder school system to a catchment area basis for entry to secondary education from September 2020 with priority for places now given to residence within catchment area.
- There is potential for catchment area applications to exceed the number of places available.
- A number of pupils from outside the authority boundary gain secondary school places at Vale schools over Vale pupils on proximity grounds i.e. distance from home to school. Parts of Cardiff and Rhondda Cynon Taf are geographically close to some Vale schools. This can impact adversely on some Vale parents when expressing a preference for schools.
- The establishment of mixed sex schooling in the Barry area has changed parental demand in the Barry area.
- Large scale and other housing developments are having an impact on pupil numbers.
- The Council has undertaken extensive remodelling and new builds of secondary schools in the past 10 years.

The following table illustrates parental preference at Vale of Glamorgan secondary schools.

| School | Number on Roll | Number living in the school catchment area | Number living outside school catchment area living in the Vale of Glamorgan | Number living outside of the Vale of Glamorgan |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| Cowbridge | 1558 | 972 (62%) | 268 (17%) | 318 (20%) |
| Llantwit | 1020 | 789 (77%) | 221 (22%) | 10 (1%) |
| Pencoedtre | 1018 | 755 (74%) | 247 (24%) | 16 (2%) |
| St Cyres | 1218 | 607 (50%) | 255 (21%) | 356 (29%) |
| Stanwell | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| St Richard Gwyn | 789 | 751 (95%) | 0 | 38 (5%) |
| Whitmore | 1073 | 657 (61%) | 408 (38%) | 8 (1%) |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg | 1089 | | 1075 (99%) | 0 | 14 (1%) |
| Total | 7765 | | 5606 (72%) | 1399 (18%) | 760 (10%) |

In total 760 (10%) pupils attend Vale secondary schools whilst living outside the authority boundary area. These pupils mainly attend Cowbridge and St Cyres schools as their catchment areas border other local authority areas. As a result of the rise in the Vale of Glamorgan primary school population, the pressure for secondary school places from Vale residents is also increasing.

There is sufficient capacity overall in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet the needs of the future secondary school population, but current admission arrangements require review to ensure Vale pupils have access to a school place in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The review concentrates on the 5 English medium secondary schools for whom the Council is the admission authority.

Demand for places living in school catchment areas

Barry Area

The Barry area is served by:

- Pencoedre High School and Whitmore High School for English medium secondary education
- St Richard Gwyn for a denominational education
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium secondary education

The following table illustrates the demand for English medium secondary school places over the next seven years, excluding children attending St Helen's and St Joseph's RC primary schools, from those living in the Barry area which indicates particular pressure for school places over the next three years. Anticipated numbers emanating from the Barry Waterfront development are included for those houses yet to be built and occupied.

There will be an anticipated shortfall of English secondary school places up until the 2025 intake recognising that parental preference will play a part. The net requirement for school places is also reliant on the utilisation of available places at St Richard Gwyn Catholic High School and parents accepting places at that school. Parents may not wish for a denominational setting. The data reflects the change to school catchment areas agreed by Cabinet and operational from September 2021.

English medium primary pupil numbers living in the Barry area requiring a school place by age group and year of entry to year 7 of secondary school (excludes St Helens and St Josephs pupils)

| | Rec (YR 7 intake 2027) | Year 1 (YR 7 intake 2026) | Year 2 (YR 7 intake 2025) | Year 3 (YR 7 intake 2024) | Year 4 (YR 7 intake 2023) | Year 5 (YR 7 intake 2022) | Year 6 (YR 7 intake 2021) |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Pencoedtre catchment | 270 | 301 | 291 | 316 | 347 | 332 | 333 |
| Whitmore catchment | 180 | 195 | 184 | 197 | 191 | 222 | 220 |
| Waterfront housing development | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total Barry pupils requiring secondary school places | 465 | 511 | 490 | 528 | 553 | 569 | 568 |
| <u>The availability of Places</u> | | | | | | | |
| Places available at Pencoedtre (210) and Whitmore (180) | 390 | 390 | 390 | 390 | 390 | 390 | 390 |
| Places available at St Richard Gwyn after feeder schools | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 | 90 |
| Number of Barry pupils who are admitted to other secondary schools | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| <u>Total places available for Barry pupils</u> | <u>510</u> | <u>510</u> | <u>510</u> | <u>510</u> | <u>510</u> | <u>510</u> | <u>510</u> |
| | | | | | | | |
| Net school place requirement surplus+/shortfall- | +45 | -1 | +20 | -18 | -43 | -59 | -58 |

Cowbridge Area

The Cowbridge area is served by:

- Cowbridge Comprehensive for English medium secondary education
- St Richard Gwyn for a denominational education
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium secondary education

The following table illustrates the demand for secondary school places over the next seven years from those living in the Cowbridge catchment area. The data reflects the change to school catchment areas operational from September 2021. Cowbridge regularly receives applications from resident outside of the Vale of Glamorgan area. There are generally sufficient school places to meet future demand from pupils living within the school catchment recognising that parental preference will play a part. Pupil numbers will be monitored for the 2024 intake.

English medium primary pupil numbers living in the Cowbridge area requiring a school place by age group and year of entry to year 7 of secondary school

| | Rec (YR 7 intake 2027) | Year 1 (YR 7 intake 2026) | Year 2 (YR 7 intake 2025) | Year 3 (YR 7 intake 2024) | Year 4 (YR 7 intake 2023) | Year 5 (YR 7 intake 2022) | Year 6 (YR 7 intake 2021) |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cowbridge catchment area | 199 | 199 | 190 | 237 | 186 | 200 | 225 |
| Approved Housing development | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Total Cowbridge pupils requiring secondary school places | 219 | 219 | 210 | 257 | 206 | 2203 | 245 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Places available at Cowbridge Comprehensive School | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 | 240 |
| Net school place requirement surplus+/-/shortfall- | +21 | +21 | +30 | -17 | +34 | +20 | -5 |

Llantwit Area

The Llantwit area is served by:

- Llantwit Major School for English medium secondary education
- St Richard Gwyn for a denominational education
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium secondary education

The following table illustrates the demand for secondary school places over the next seven years from those living in the Llantwit catchment area. The data reflects the change to school catchment areas operational from September 2021. There are sufficient school places to meet future demand from pupils living within the school catchment area recognising that parental preference will play a part.

English medium primary pupil numbers living in the Llantwit area requiring a school place by age group and year of entry to year 7 of secondary school

| | Rec (YR 7 intake 2027) | Year 1 (YR 7 intake 2026) | Year 2 (YR 7 intake 2025) | Year 3 (YR 7 intake 2024) | Year 4 (YR 7 intake 2023) | Year 5 (YR 7 intake 2022) | Year 6 (YR 7 intake 2021) |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Llantwit catchment area | 12608 | 151 | 124 | 146 | 156 | 168 | 155 |
| Approved housing development | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Total Llantwit pupils requiring secondary school places | 141 | 166 | 139 | 161 | 171 | 183 | 170 |
| Places available at Llantwit School | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 | 180 |
| Net school place requirement surplus+/shortfall- | +39 | +14 | +41 | +19 | +9 | -3 | +10 |

Penarth Area

The Penarth area is served by:

- St Cyres Comprehensive and Stanwell school for English medium secondary education. Stanwell is a foundation school who are their own admissions authority. They have retained the feeder primary school criteria for entry to secondary education
- St Richard Gwyn for a denominational education
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg for Welsh medium secondary education

St Cyres School

The following table illustrates the demand for secondary school places over the next seven years from those living in the Penarth area serving St Cyres school. The data reflects the change to school catchment areas operational from September 2021. St Cyres operates a dual catchment with Stanwell catchment area covering the Penarth and Sully areas. The vast majority of pupils from within the Stanwell catchment area are likely to continue to attend Stanwell School and the change will not impact greatly on St Cyres School. There are sufficient school places to meet future demand from pupils living within the school catchment area recognising that parental preference will play a part.

English medium primary pupil numbers living in the St Cyres area requiring a school place by age group and year of entry to year 7 of secondary school

| | Rec (YR 7 intake 2027) | Year 1 (YR 7 intake 2026) | Year 2 (YR 7 intake 2025) | Year 3 (YR 7 intake 2024) | Year 4 (YR 7 intake 2023) | Year 5 (YR 7 intake 2022) | Year 6 (YR 7 intake 2021) |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| St Cyres catchment area (includes Stanwell dual catchment) | 3598 | 374 | 393 | 372 | 379 | 383 | 398 |
| Approved housing development | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| Less Stanwell catchment | -196 | -201 | -222 | -195 | -217 | -242 | -234 |
| Total St Cyres pupils requiring secondary school places | 171 | 181 | 179 | 185 | 170 | 149 | 172 |
| Places available at St Cyres | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 | 210 |
| Net school place requirement surplus+/shortfall- | +39 | +29 | +31 | +25 | +40 | +61 | +38 |

Stanwell School

The following table illustrates the demand for secondary school places over the next seven years from those living in the Penarth area serving Stanwell school. The data reflects the change to school catchment areas operational from September 2021 with Cyres operating a dual catchment with Stanwell catchment area covering the Penarth and Sully areas. There are sufficient school places to meet future demand from pupils living within the school catchment area recognising that parental preference will play a part.

English medium primary pupil numbers living in the Stanwell catchment area requiring a school place by age group and year of entry to year 7 of secondary school

| | Rec (YR 7 intake 2027) | Year 1 (YR 7 intake 2026) | Year 2 (YR 7 intake 2025) | Year 3 (YR 7 intake 2024) | Year 4 (YR 7 intake 2023) | Year 5 (YR 7 intake 2022) | Year 6 (YR 7 intake 2021) |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Stanwell catchment area | 196 | 201 | 222 | 195 | 217 | 242 | 234 |
| Approved housing development | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Total Stanwell pupils requiring secondary school places | 209 | 214 | 235 | 208 | 229 | 254 | 246 |
| Places available at Stanwell School | 299 | 299 | 299 | 299 | 299 | 299 | 299 |
| Net school place requirement surplus+/-/shortfall- | +90 | +85 | +64 | +91 | +70 | +45 | +53 |

School place challenges

The council is currently seeing large year 6 English medium cohorts that will transfer to the secondary sector from 2021 onwards putting pressure on future demand for secondary school places. This is more prominent in the Barry area where the establishment of mixed sex schooling has changed parental demand and preference considerably together with the additional pupils emanating from the Barry Waterfront Development.

The Council changed from a feeder school system to a catchment area basis for entry to secondary education from September 2020 with priority for places now given to residence within catchment area, this has also had an impact on the demand for secondary school places.

Catchment area revisions have taken place for September 2021 as follows:

Barry Area

Pencoedre High School

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

Whitmore High School

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

Cowbridge Area

Cowbridge Comprehensive School

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

Llantwit Area

Llantwit Major School

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

Penarth Area

St Cyres School

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

The above changes to catchment areas support demand in most areas but Barry is still experiencing high demand not only as a result of mixed sex schooling but also with the large scale development taking place at Barry Waterfront that is still ongoing.

The Barry area

The Barry area is densely populated particularly in the east. Both English medium schools catchment populations are large where maximum year 7 intake demand from within catchment, excluding parental preference, would exceed the number of places available for pupils over the next 4 year periods. Housing developments are anticipated to introduce a further 105 English medium primary school pupils overall into each catchment area.

The Cowbridge area

Whilst the catchment area is remodelled from September 2021 to include the Rhoose area, the secondary school catchment population is still smaller than the school capacity and for intake/admission number requirements. The school is near full with demand being met from pupils attending who live outside of the school catchment area and outside of the Vale of Glamorgan area. The Cowbridge catchment is able to accommodate future demand from within the school catchment area and doesn't require further adjustment.

The Llantwit area

Llantwit Major School catchment area is remodelled from September removing the dual catchment status of Rhoose from the school and transferring it to the Cowbridge catchment area. Future demand from within the existing catchment areas is less than the school is able to accommodate. The Llantwit catchment is able to accommodate future demand from within the school catchment area and doesn't require further adjustment.

Penarth

St Cyres is remodelled from September 2021 and now incorporates the Wenvoe catchment area as well operating a dual catchment with Stanwell catchment area covering the Penarth area and Sully areas. The majority of pupils from within the Stanwell catchment area are likely to continue to attend Stanwell School and the change is therefore unlikely to have any real impact on St Cyres numbers but does ensure that Penarth pupils will gain a place locally at either school.

St Cyres school catchment data excluding Stanwell figures is still smaller than the capacity of the school and for its intake/admission requirements for entry at year 7. The school reaches its admission number at the year 7 intake with demand being met from outside the catchment area and mainly from the Cardiff area.

Stanwell secondary school catchment population is smaller than the school capacity and intake/admission number requirements and doesn't require any adjustment.

The low catchment populations mean that a number of pupils will gain access from outside the catchment area based on proximity grounds. Some areas of Cardiff are in closer proximity to the schools than other areas of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Option to Address Catchment School Place Challenges

The demand for year 7 places in future can be met for pupils residing in the catchment areas of Cowbridge Comprehensive, Llantwit Major, Stanwell and St Cyres schools. There is potential to adjust some of these areas to alleviate demand in others.

The dual catchment status of Stanwell and St Cyres from September 2021 will ensure that local Penarth children will gain places at either school.

The area of concern is the Barry area where the numbers living within the schools catchment areas of Whitmore and Pencoedtre exceeds the available places in the area in the short term recognising that parental preference will play a part. The issue is more pertinent to the Pencoedtre catchment area numbers. The Barry area has seen increased demand over the last two years for places at Pencoedtre and Whitmore High Schools mainly as a result of the establishment of coeducation schooling in Barry from September 2018.

A number of Barry parents express a preference for St Cyres School each year. This is primarily from parents whose children are likely attending primary schools in Penarth and Dinas Powys and would have been admitted to St Cyres under previous feeder school arrangements. Around two thirds of these pupils reside in the Pencoedtre catchment area. These parents no longer gain places at Cyres via the feeder system when the school is oversubscribed. Applications are normally considered on proximity grounds. A number of Cardiff children will therefore continue to gain places at St Cyres School on proximity grounds as they live closer to the school than those residing in Barry.

The demand in Barry for September 2020 resulted in the need to establish an extra class at Whitmore High School to accommodate those pupils without a school place living in Barry. The requirement for an extra class may have been negated if priority for places elsewhere was available to Barry residents. An additional class will not be an option in future due to school capacity

concerns. The Council will be working closely with St Richard Gwyn Catholic School to fully utilise capacity at the school. The Council is co-ordinating admission arrangements for St Richard Gwyn on a trial basis and it is anticipated that this will assist in this process.

There is sufficient capacity overall in the Vale of Glamorgan to meet the needs of the future secondary school population, but arrangements require review to ensure Vale pupils have access to a school place in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Preferred Way Forward

In order to ensure sufficient places to better match demand to the capacity at secondary schools in the Barry and surrounding area, the preferred way forward is to introduce a dual catchment area for St Cyres school to include the Pencoedre High School catchment area. This would be a temporary arrangement for a three-year period from September 2022 – July 2025 to manage demand as a result of large year 6 cohorts progressing to secondary education that exceeds the capacity of the schools in the area. From September 2025 catchment areas will revert back to their single catchment areas as the year 6 cohorts transferring to secondary education in the Vale of Glamorgan decline and catchment demand can be met at local schools.

A dual catchment area refers to an area serving more than one school. The proposal would include Pencoedre High Schools catchment area within St Cyres catchment area. Pencoedre would continue to operate and serve its existing catchment area.

A dual catchment area would provide a wider pool of applicants a greater opportunity of pupils getting into of their school of choice, albeit within a defined geographical area. The dual catchment area would ensure that Vale children have access to a school place in the Vale.

Pencoedre has very high catchment numbers progressing through to secondary education in the future. A number of Barry parents express a preference for St Cyres, particularly where their children attend Penarth and Dinas Powys based primary schools. These parents no longer gain places, aside from sibling connections, at St Cyres when the school is oversubscribed. This puts pressure back to Barry secondary schools for school places for these pupils. A dual catchment with St Cyres would therefore allow for maximum parental preference as well as supporting Vale pupils to ensure they are offered a place at a Vale secondary school.

The number of children living in Barry catchment areas attending previous feeder schools of St Cyres are as follows for the three pressure years in the Barry area.

| Children attending St Cyres previous feeder schools living in Barry catchment areas | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | Year 5 (Year 7 intake 2022) | Year 4 (Year 7 intake 2023) | Year 3 (Year 7 intake 2024) | |
| Pencoedre catchment | 26 | 25 | 19 | |
| Whitmore catchment | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Total | 28 | 28 | 3 | |

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| Available places in Barry for the years in question | -59 | -43 | -18 |
|---|-----|-----|-----|

The above table shows there are insufficient places in the Barry area for the years in question. A dual catchment is likely to see those Barry children in previous feeder schools gain places that would ease the pressure for places in the Barry area.

Pros

The proposal would support the management of school place demand in the Barry area and provide a wider pool of applicants for schools. It would also provide some support for parents who chose a particular primary school in part due to its feeder status. This was of significant concern for some parents during the consultation on the removal of feeder schools.

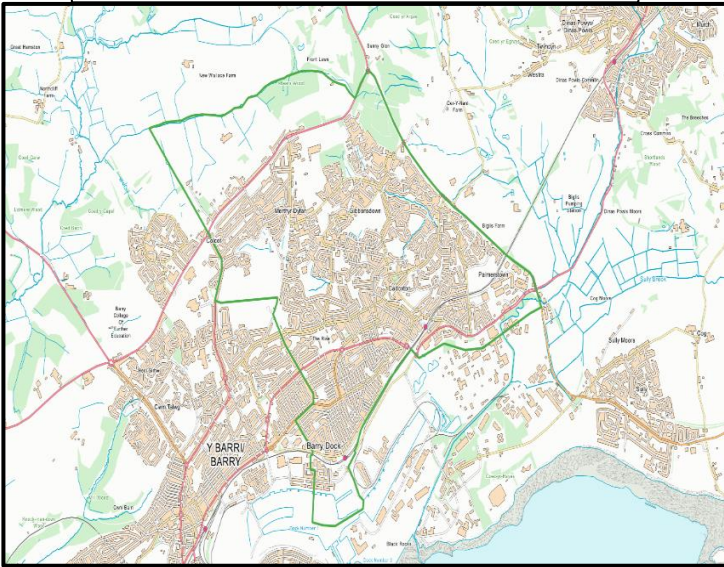
Cons

The dual catchment of St Cyres may attract applications to a school further away than the current catchment school (i.e. Barry resident applying to St Cyres) which would lead to higher oversubscription in the application of the Councils secondary oversubscription criteria. However, as pupil numbers within the dual catchment area are high overall, places up to the school's admission number would be required at both schools in future to meet demand for places from the Barry area.

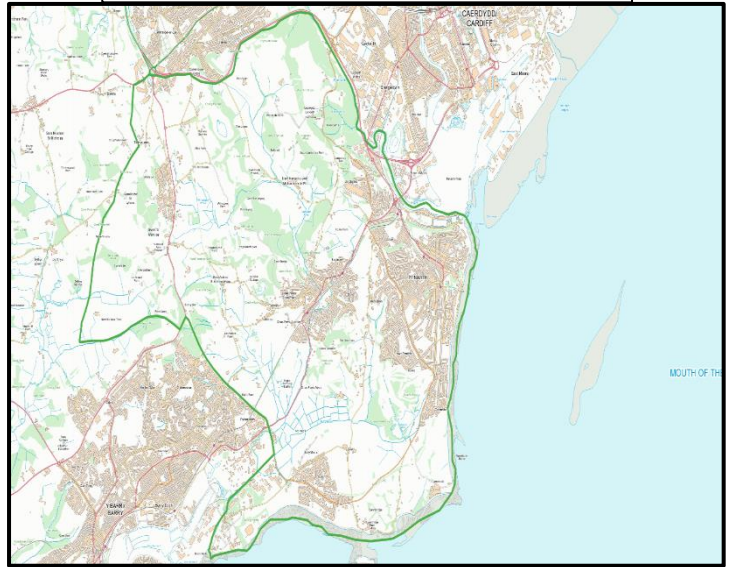
The proposal would have school transport implications for secondary pupils living three miles or more to the nearest catchment area school. It is estimated that the cost of additional transport requirements would be in the region of £31,000 per annum for a 35/53 seater vehicle possibly rising to £62,000 over an initial four year period as pupil numbers requiring transport increase each year.

Current and Proposed Catchment Area Maps for Pencoedtre and St Cyres Schools

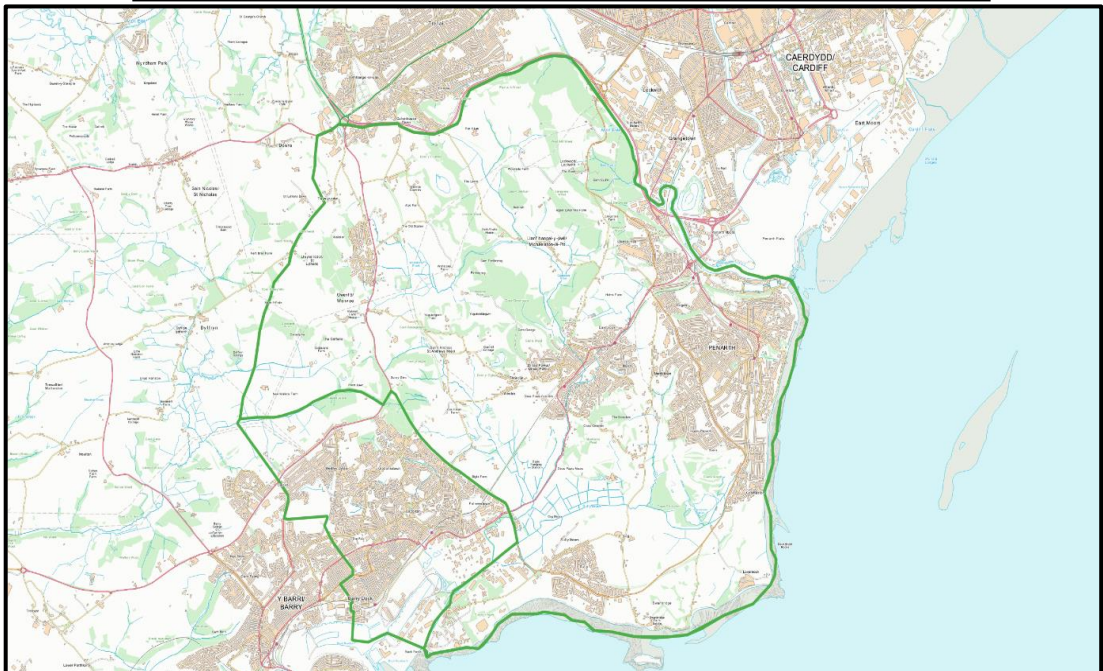
Pencoedtre Current Catchment Area



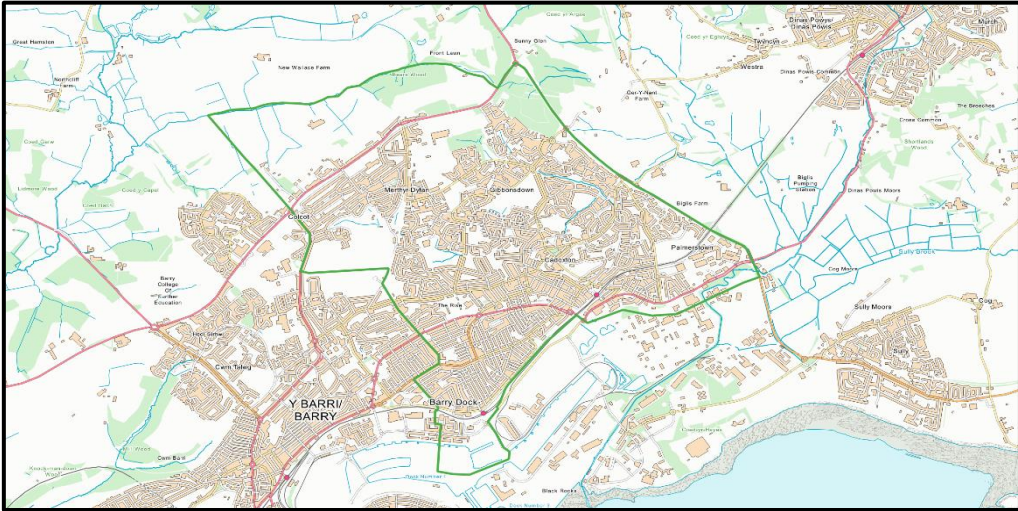
St Cyres Current Catchment Area



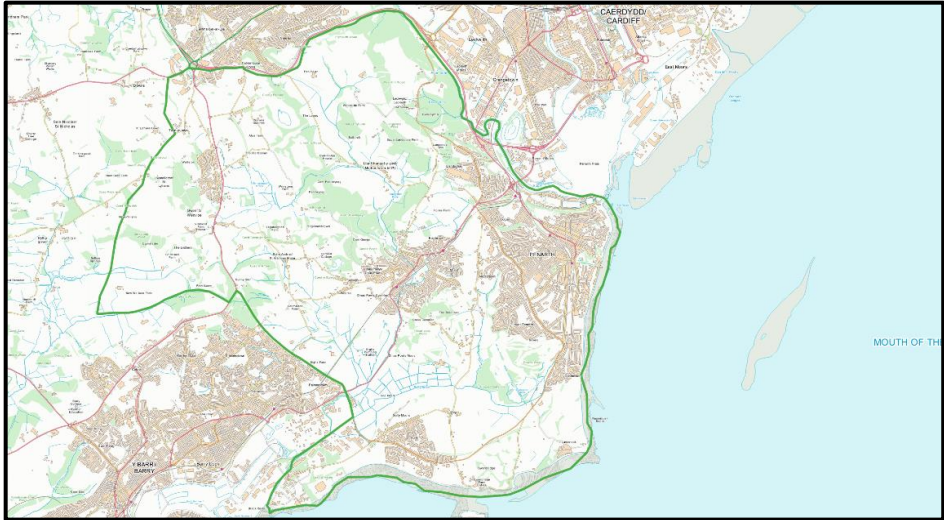
Proposed Dual Catchment Area for St Cyres



Pencoedre Current Catchment



St Cyres Current Catchment Area



Proposed Dual catchment area for St Cyres



Ysgol Dewi Sant Current Catchment Area



Ysgol Sant Baruc Current Catchment Area



Ysgol Dewi Sant Proposed Catchment Area



Ysgol Sant Baruc Proposed Catchment Area

