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**School  
Admissions  
Policy  
2026/2027**

**CARDIFF COUNCIL**

**EDUCATION & LIFELONG  
LEARNING**

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**Appendix 1 – School Admission Numbers 2026/27**

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 School Admissions**

The Council is committed to providing local schools for local children where possible.

Parents (also referred to as 'applicants' in this policy document) have the right to express a preference for their preferred school(s) which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible.

Cardiff Council is committed to equality of opportunity and to eliminating discrimination. In respect of admissions to schools, all pupils and prospective pupils are treated equitably, regardless of sex, race, ethnicity, culture, nationality, language, ability / disability or religious / non-religious belief. Steps are taken to ensure that admission procedures do not unfairly advantage or disadvantage any groups through the application of rules or conditions that cannot be complied with equally by all.

All admissions to community classes and community schools are approved by the Cardiff Council's Director of Education & Lifelong Learning.

### **1.2 Relevant Area for Consultation**

In accordance with the Education (Relevant Areas for Consultation on Admission Arrangements) Regulations 1999, the relevant area for community schools in Cardiff is the administrative area of the County Council for the City and County of Cardiff (the County Council).

### **1.3 Published Admission Number**

In the normal admissions round, all maintained schools must admit pupils up to their Published Admission Number. An admission request may not be refused to any school until the Published Admission Number has been reached (with exception to twice excluded pupils [refer to 3.58 – 3.60 of the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013]). The Published Admission Number has been calculated in accordance with the Welsh Government's school capacity calculation methodology "Measuring the Capacity of Schools in Wales" circular no. 021/2011. As this number is based on the physical capacity of the school to accommodate pupils it should not be exceeded in normal circumstances.

### **1.4 Community School Catchment Areas**

Catchment area information is available on the Council's website. The majority of catchment areas of maintained community primary schools are grouped together to form the catchment areas of maintained community secondary schools in Cardiff.

**Catchment areas are subject to change with any changes being consulted upon prior to implementation. There is no guarantee of an offer of a place at a child's catchment area school.**

### **1.5 Children with ALN who have an IDP (Individual Development Plan)**

In most cases, children identified with ALN (Additional Learning Needs) will be able to receive the support they need in any maintained school and the Council

will therefore not name a school in the IDP. The child will be admitted to a school through the admissions process that applies to all pupils.

The Council may decide to name a maintained school in the IDP for the purposes of securing admission of the child to a particular school. The ALN Code specifies that the Council must not exercise this power unless:

- (a) the local authority is satisfied that the child's interest requires ALP (additional learning provision) identified in his or her IDP to be made at the school named, and
- (b) it is appropriate for the child to be provided with education or training at the school.

In considering whether to name a school in an IDP for the purpose of securing admission the Council will consider the following factors:

- Whether specific characteristics of the school make it especially good at making the required ALP (additional learning provision) compared to other maintained schools the child could attend- for example, the school's physical characteristics;
- Whether the school has members of staff with specialist expertise or training, or specialism in a low incidence need such as hearing or visual impairment (for example, if the school has a specialist resource base);
- It would be unreasonable for a more local school to provide the child's ALP (additional learning provision);
- Any other factors the local authority considers to be relevant to the particular case.

When a school is named in an IDP for the purpose of securing admission, the child must be admitted to the school.

## **1.6 Out of Chronological Age Applications**

Cardiff Council operates a separate policy on Out of Chronological Age applications.

If a parent requests to place their child in a year group that is outside of their chronological age and the request is at the point of admissions, the Local Authority will review each request based on their individual circumstances. Contact: [outofyeargroup@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:outofyeargroup@cardiff.gov.uk).

## **1.7 School Managed Transfers**

Cardiff Council operates a separate policy on School Managed Moves.

Schools are able to undertake managed moves of pupils. These will be treated differently to regular admissions and the child will remain on roll at the school from which they are applying to transfer until the end of their managed move period.

At the end of the managed move period, if successful, the child will be added to the roll of the receiving school. If the managed move is not successful, the child will return to attend the school from which they were applying to transfer. All managed moves should be negotiated between the schools with a representative from the Council.

### **1.8 Fair Access Protocol**

Cardiff Council maintains Fair Access Protocols for vulnerable children in accordance with the School Admissions Code Annex D Paragraph 5.

The role of the Fair Access Panel is to ensure that vulnerable and 'hard to place' children are able to access education and are placed fairly within the city. The Fair Access Panel will assess all pupils and schools according to their vulnerability and will, (in participation with all high schools via the subsequent Fresh Start panel), place these children in schools that can meet their needs in the most efficient manner that will have the least negative impact on the effectiveness of education within Cardiff.

The panel members will review outcomes annually to monitor compliance and will ensure that schools are adhering to the procedures.

### **1.9 Co-ordinated School Admission Arrangements**

Coordinated admission arrangements are intended to simplify the admission process for applicants by allowing them to apply for voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and community schools using one application form via the council's online application service. Pupils are offered only the highest preference school place that they are eligible for.

Applicants can state their order of preference when applying and all preferences listed on the application are considered under the admission rules for each school. Where a pupil can be offered a place at more than one school they will receive a single offer for the one ranked highest on the application.

The Council will continue to co-ordinate primary school admission arrangements, which applies to:

- All community primary schools
- All Saints C.W Primary School
- Bishop Childs C.W Primary School
- Christ The King R.C Primary School
- Holy Family R.C Primary School
- St Alban's R.C Primary School
- St Bernadette's R.C Primary School
- St Cadoc's Catholic Primary School
- St Cuthbert's R.C Primary School
- St David's C.W Primary School
- St Fagan's C.W Primary School
- St Francis RC Primary School
- St Joseph's R.C Primary School
- St Mary The Virgin C.W Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- St Mellons C.I.W Primary School
- St Monica's C.W Primary School
- St Patrick's R.C Primary School
- St Paul's C.W Primary School
- St Peter's R.C Primary School

- St Philip Evans R.C Primary School
- Tredegarville C.W Primary School

The Council will continue to co-ordinate secondary school admission arrangements, which applies to:

- All community secondary schools
- Corpus Christi RC High School
- Mary Immaculate High School
- St. Teilo's CW High School
- The Bishop of Llandaff CW High School
- Whitchurch High (Foundation) School.

The council has invited the schools that remain outside of the coordinated admission arrangements to join the arrangements for 2026/27, subject to consultation and determination by the governing bodies of those schools.

### **1.10 Data Protection and the EU General Data Protection Regulation**

All personal data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018.

## **2. Submitting An Application**

### **2.1 How to apply**

An application must be submitted for a school that a parent wishes their child to attend. The Council accepts applications via the Council's Online Application Service or by a completed preference form submitted at a Council Hub, emailed to [schooladmissions@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cardiff.gov.uk) or posted to School Admissions, Room 463, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff, CF10 4UW. The Council takes no responsibility for any loss of data as a result of the method chosen by the applicant to deliver the information.

### **2.2 Prior to Application**

There is a facility on the Cardiff Council website for parents to provide their child's details and receive information on how to apply for a school place at the appropriate time in accordance with the Council's admissions timetable.

Parents who have registered their pre-nursery-aged child's details with the Council, will be advised to apply for a community nursery place by using the Council's Online Application Service or by completing a preference form.

Parents who have registered their nursery-aged or younger child's details with the Council, will be advised to apply for a reception place in their preferred community primary school(s) during the Autumn Term prior to admission, by using the Council's Online Application Service or by completing a preference form.

In the Autumn Term prior to admission, parents of children in the Year 6 age group are invited to nominate their preferred secondary school(s) by using the Council's Online Application Service or by completing a preference form.

Any parent who has not pre-registered their child can still apply for a school place.

### **2.3 The Applicant**

Only applications submitted by the 'parent' of the child (as defined by Section 576 of the Education Act 1996) will be considered by the Council. This includes any person who is not a parent of the child or young person but who has parental responsibility for them or who has care of them.

In advance of submitting an application, parents should discuss which school they wish their child to attend, and attempt to reach agreement, especially where more than one person has parental responsibility.

Applications are only accepted from a person with parental responsibility for the child. Where there is shared parental responsibility, all parents should be in agreement about the preferences listed in the application. It is the parents' responsibility to reach agreement in respect of any application made.

If you cannot agree which school your child should attend, you should immediately take your own legal advice regarding making an urgent application to the Court. If more than one application from parents with shared parental responsibility is received, the first application submitted will be administered in order to minimise any delay in the child's admission to school.

### **2.4 On-time Applications (considered during the 'normal admissions round')**

#### Admission to Nursery from the beginning of Term:

Parents who submit an application by the published closing date will be notified of the result of their application by the issue of an email or letter by the published notification date. See paragraphs 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 for details on the published dates.

#### Admission to Reception from the beginning of the Academic Year:

Only applications received by the relevant published closing date of Monday, 12 January 2026 for receipt of preference forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Decisions will be issued by email or letter to notify applicants of the result of their application on Thursday, 16 April 2026.

#### Transfer to Year 7 from the beginning of the Academic Year:

Only applications received by the relevant published closing date of Monday, 17 November 2025 for receipt of preference forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Decisions will be issued by email or letter to notify applicants of the result of their application on Monday, 02 March 2026.

### **2.5 Late Applications (considered outside the 'normal admissions round')**

Following the first round of allocations, late applications will be considered in accordance with the Council's published admissions criteria.

After the initial round closing dates, the next are:

- Admission to Nursery Education – last day of each month
- Admission to Primary Education (Reception from September) – 30 April 2026
- Transfer to Secondary Education (Year 7 from September) – 16 March 2026



The dates for subsequent rounds will be the last day of each month.

Refused applications from the first round of allocations and any subsequent late applications will be considered together for any subsequent available places that may arise.

## **2.6 Information the Council does not consider when allocating places**

For the purposes of admission to a Community Nursery:

- The particular primary school the child is likely to attend;
- The length of time the nursery has been aware of the parental intention to apply for a place at the nursery;
- An invitation to or attendance by a child at a taster day.

For the purposes of admission to a Community Primary School or Voluntary Controlled School:

- The particular secondary school the child is likely to attend;
- The length of time the school has been aware of the parental intention to apply for a place at the school;
- Attendance at a Nursery Class which is at the same school – a separate application must be made for transfer from the nursery to the primary school;
- An invitation to or attendance by a child at a taster/transition day.

For the purposes of admission to a Community Secondary School:

- The particular sixth form the child is likely to attend;
- The length of time the school has been aware of the parental intention to apply for a place at the school;
- An invitation to or attendance by a child at a taster/transition day.

## **2.7 Changing School During Academic Year**

Applying outside the normal admissions round (also referred to as an 'in-year transfer') is for any child already attending school who

- is moving into Cardiff from another Local Authority or country, or
- is living in Cardiff and wishes to transfer from one school to another

Parents can express a preference for more than one school. Where a place is available in the age group at the requested school the application will be processed in accordance with the oversubscription criteria for the annual admissions process set out in the admissions policy.

If the school is already full in the required year group, the application will be refused and the child will be placed on a waiting list until the end of the school term. Once the waiting list expiry date has been reached, should a parent wish their child to continue to be considered for admission a new application must be submitted.

If a child has been refused admission to a community primary or secondary school, an appeal may be submitted to the Independent Statutory School Admission Appeal Panel. There is no statutory right of appeal if a child has been refused a nursery place.

Parents applying outside the normal admissions round are encouraged to apply up to a half term in advance of taking up a place.

### **3. Admissions To Community Nursery Schools And Nursery Classes**

Cardiff Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community nursery schools and nursery classes in community schools and voluntary controlled schools in the City and County of Cardiff. Cardiff Council is not the admissions authority for nursery classes in voluntary aided schools in Cardiff.

Children are entitled to a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third (3rd) birthday. Regulation 4 of the Wales Education Regulations (Nursery Education and Early Years Development and Childcare Plans) states that:

- Children born between 01 April and the end of the Summer term can take up a school place at the start of the Autumn term
- Children born between 01 September and the end of the Autumn term can take up a school place at the start of the Spring term
- Children born between 01 January and the end of the Spring term can take up a school place at the start of the Summer term

Though nursery education is non-statutory provision, children must attend for five half days if the offer of a community or voluntary controlled nursery place has been accepted.

Children can be admitted or transferred to a community or voluntary controlled nursery throughout the academic year subject to availability.

Where a community or voluntary controlled nursery school is undersubscribed, all applicants can be offered a nursery place.

#### **3.1 Oversubscription Criteria**

Where a community or voluntary controlled nursery is oversubscribed, applications received by the published closing date will be considered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set by the Council in order of priority [1.(a) being the highest] up to the approved capacity:

1. For applications received by the published closing date of Monday, 23 February 2026 for children born between 01 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 (inclusive):
  - (a) Children who are looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales **or** children who were previously looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales.\*
  - (b) Children subject to an Individual Development Plan (IDP) in which a specific school is named.\*
  - (c) Children who have a sibling (in any age group between Reception to Year 6 inclusive) who will be on register at the school at which the nursery class is at the same school when they are admitted.\*

- (d) Children in respect of whom the Council judges there are compelling medical grounds or compelling social grounds for their admission to a particular nursery school/class.\*
- (e) Children living nearest the nursery school/class, as measured by the shortest safe available route.

\*Where the number of preferences exceed the number of places available, see paragraph '7.9 Proximity'.

- 2. For applications received by the published closing date of Monday 29 June 2026 for children born between 01 September 2023 and 31 December 2023 (inclusive), criteria (a) to (e) [as above] are applied.
- 3. For applications received by the published closing date of Monday 29 June 2026 for children born between 01 January 2024 and 31 March 2024 (inclusive), criteria (a) to (e) [as above] are applied.
- 4. Where a community primary school is oversubscribed, and one (or more) of multiple birth siblings would be allocated a place but one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would not be offered a place as the Published Admission Number has been met, the Council will admit the remaining multiple birth sibling(s).

### **3.2 Late applications**

The Council will consider late applicants with unsuccessful 'on-time' applicants where vacancies arise in an oversubscribed community or voluntary controlled nursery and apply the oversubscription criteria set by the Council (as above).

### **3.3 No Right to Statutory Appeal**

As nursery education is non-statutory provision, parents have no statutory right of appeal under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 if unsuccessful in gaining a nursery place.

**Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception class place in the same school. A new application must be made for a reception class place.**

### **3.4 Early Years Funding (EYF)**

Where nursery education places are not available in local community or voluntary controlled nursery schools or nursery classes within two (2) miles of a child's home address, parents may apply for nursery education place funding (also referred to as 'EYF') with a recognised childcare provider designated by the Council. The two (2) mile radius is measured by the Council as the shortest safe available route.

The Council will only approve applications for EYF with a recognised childcare provider designated by Cardiff Council. If a place is offered in a community or voluntary controlled nursery school and a parent refuses the offer, the Council will not approve applications for EYF. The Council will only approve funding if there are no places available within two (2) miles of the child's home and the application was submitted on time (see below for deadlines).

**When to apply:**

- EYF applications should be submitted in the term prior to your child starting nursery education
- If your child starts in nursery education with a recognised childcare provider at a later date, applications should be submitted in the term when the admission takes place

**Eligibility Requirements:**

Your child is eligible,

- If they are resident within Cardiff **and**,
- Residency can be proven, **and**,
- You have proof of parental responsibility **and**,
- There is no place available in a local community or voluntary controlled nursery school or nursery class within two (2) miles of your home **or**,
- There are compelling medical or compelling social grounds which prevent the child from attending the community or voluntary controlled nursery provision available

**Making an application:** To make an application,

- Parents need to complete an Early Years Funding Application
- Parents need to confirm proof of residency, as indicated through Cardiff Council Tax/other Council records
- Parents need to provide proof of parental responsibility, through providing a birth certificate, court order or passport that lists both the child and the parent.

**Applying on compelling medical/social grounds:**

- Parents need to provide documentary evidence from a professional. This may include but is not limited to:
  - Written recommendation from a social worker
  - Written recommendation from a medical consultant
- Written recommendations must be dated no more than three (3) months prior to the application submission
- Written recommendations must give detailed reasons explaining why the child cannot attend any of the available community or voluntary controlled nurseries.

**The Childcare Offer**

If eligible, parents may also be entitled to 30 hours of combined funded early education and childcare through the Childcare Offer for Wales (“the Offer”). During term time the 30 hours will consist of a combination of the existing Foundation Learning provision available to all 3 and 4 year olds, (in Cardiff this is 12.5 hours per week) and the additional funded childcare (up to 17.5 hours per week). For 9 weeks of the year, outside of term time, parents will be able to access the full 30 hours of childcare funded through the Childcare Offer.

If a child does not access their Foundation Learning provision, then they will still be entitled to the childcare element of the Offer during school term time (up to 17.5 hours per week for 39 weeks of the year) and up to 30 hours of government-funded childcare for the remaining 9 weeks.

Eligible children will be able to access the Offer from the beginning of the term after the term in which they turn 3 up until the September following their fourth birthday, when they will be offered a full-time education place.

For more information on the Offer, please visit the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk/childcareoffer](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/childcareoffer))

#### **4. Admissions To Community Primary Schools And Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools**

Cardiff Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community primary schools and the voluntary controlled primary school in the City and County of Cardiff. Cardiff Council is not the admissions authority for voluntary aided primary schools in Cardiff.

Children are admitted into Reception (also referred to as 'Year 0') in the September following their fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) birthday during the normal admissions round.

Children can be admitted or transferred to a community or voluntary controlled primary school outside the normal admissions round subject to availability (with exception to twice excluded pupils [refer to 3.58 – 3.60 of the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013]).

Where a community or voluntary controlled primary school is undersubscribed, all applicants (with exception to twice excluded pupils [refer to 3.58 – 3.60 of the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013]) can be offered a school place. Cardiff Council also maintains Fair Access Protocols for the placement of vulnerable children who are transferring outside of the normal admissions round. These protocols seek to ensure that vulnerable and hard to place children are able to access education and are placed fairly within the city.

##### **4.1 Community Primary Schools Oversubscription Criteria**

Where a community primary school is oversubscribed, preferences received by the published closing date will be considered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set by the Council in order of priority [1. being the highest] up to the approved capacity and will not normally exceed the school's Published Admission Number or breach the limitations imposed by statutory maximum class size (30) where this applies:

1. Children who are looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales **or** children who were previously looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales.\*
2. Children subject to an Individual Development Plan (IDP), in which a specific school is named.\*
3. Pupils who are resident within the defined catchment area of the school **and** in respect of whom the Council judges there are compelling medical grounds or compelling social grounds for their admission to a particular school.\*

4. Pupils who are resident within the defined catchment area of the school **and** have a sibling enrolled in Reception or Years 1 to 6 who will be on register at the school when they are admitted.\*
5. Children who have a brother or sister attending the school, admitted before a catchment area change
  - a) Where an older sibling was admitted to and continues to attend a school that was previously the catchment area school for the home address of the family at the time of the older sibling's admission, if the parent applies, the Council will give priority to younger siblings to the former catchment school.\*
  - b) Where an older sibling was admitted to and continues to attend a community school, and a catchment area was not established at the time of the older sibling's admission, if the parent applies, the Council will give priority to younger siblings to this school.\*
6. Pupils who are resident within the defined catchment area of the school.\*
7. Pupils in respect of whom the Council judges there are compelling medical grounds or compelling social grounds for their admission to a particular school.\*
8. Pupils who have a sibling enrolled in Reception or Years 1 to 6 who will be on register at the school when they are admitted.\*
9. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils the Council gives priority to children living nearest the school as measured by the shortest safe available route.\*
10. Where a community primary school is oversubscribed, and one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would be allocated a place but one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would not be offered a place as the Published Admission Number has been met, the Council will admit the remaining multiple birth sibling(s).

\*Where the number of preferences exceed the number of places available, see paragraph '7.9 Proximity'.

#### **4.2 Late applications**

The Council will consider late applicants with unsuccessful 'on-time' applicants where vacancies arise in an oversubscribed community or voluntary controlled primary school and apply the oversubscription criteria set by the Council (as above).

#### **4.3 Statutory Appeals**

If a child has been refused admission to a community or voluntary controlled primary school, an appeal may be submitted to the Independent Statutory School Admission Appeal Panel.

The letter sent confirming that a place at a community school has been refused will also give the date by which an appeal must be submitted. Should an appeal not be submitted in the timeframe issued on the refusal letter then it is considered a late appeal. There is no automatic right that appeals submitted

late will be heard, and appellants will have to provide a reason why it was not possible to submit the appeal on time. The decision to hear a late appeal is wholly at the discretion of the independent appeal panel and is based only on the reason for the late submission. The grounds of the appeal are not considered as part of the decision to hear a late appeal.

**Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a reception class place in the same school. A new application must be made for a reception class place.**

#### **4.4 Deferred Entry**

A child is not required to start primary school until the beginning of the term following their fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) birthday however, their start cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the term after their fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) birthday. The deferred place is held for the child and not made available to another. It is recommended that any consideration to defer is discussed with the Headteacher of the allocated primary school.

#### **4.5 St Mellons Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School**

Applications for admission should be submitted to the Council.

In the event of oversubscription at the closing date for receipt of applications, the Council will consider all applications in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set by the Council.

Pupils who are resident within the Old St Mellons Community will be considered as living within the defined catchment area of the school.

#### **4.6 Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School**

A phased increase in the Admission Number will apply to admission into Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School.

The school is a two form entry primary school, with two language streams, organised as:

- One form of entry Welsh-medium
- One form of entry dual language stream

Admission into the Reception year and Years 1-3 in 2026/27 will be up to 30 pupils per stream.

Years 4 – 5 will operate a lower Admission Number of 15 pupils per stream in 2026/27.

### **5. Oversubscription Criteria Admissions To Community Secondary Schools**

Cardiff Council is the admissions authority for all maintained community secondary schools in the City and County of Cardiff. Cardiff Council is not the admissions authority for foundation or voluntary aided secondary schools in Cardiff.

Children transfer into Year 7 in the September following their eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) birthday during the normal admissions round.

Children can be admitted or transferred to a community secondary school outside the normal admissions round subject to availability (with exception to twice excluded pupils [refer to 3.58 – 3.60 of the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013]).

Where a community secondary school is undersubscribed, all applicants (with exception to twice excluded pupils [refer to 3.48 – 3.60 of the Welsh Government's School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013]) can be offered a school place. Cardiff Council also maintains Fair Access Protocols for the placement of vulnerable children who are transferring outside of the normal admissions round. These protocols seek to ensure that vulnerable and hard to place children are able to access education and are placed fairly within the city.

### **5.1 Oversubscription Criteria**

Where a community secondary school is oversubscribed, preferences received by the published closing date will be considered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria set by the Council in order of priority [1. being the highest] up to the approved capacity and will not normally exceed the school's Published Admission Number:

1. Children who are looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales **or** children who were previously looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales.\*
2. Children subject to an Individual Development Plan (IDP), in which a specific school is named.
3. Pupils who are resident within the defined catchment area of the school **and** in respect of whom the Council judges there are compelling medical grounds or compelling social grounds for their admission to a particular school.\*
4. Pupils who are resident within the defined catchment area of the school **and** have a sibling enrolled in Years 7 to 11 who will be on register at the school when they are admitted.\*
5. Pupils who are resident within the defined catchment area of the school.\*
6. Pupils in respect of whom the Council judges there are compelling medical grounds or compelling social grounds for their admission to a particular school.\*
7. Pupils who have a sibling enrolled in Years 7 to 11 who will be on register at the school when they are admitted.\*
8. In determining applications for admission in respect of other pupils the Council gives priority to children living nearest the school as measured by the shortest safe available route.
9. Where a community secondary school is oversubscribed, and one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would be allocated a place but one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would not be offered a place as the Published Admission Number has been met, the Council will admit the remaining multiple birth sibling(s).



\*Where the number of preferences exceed the number of places available, see paragraph '7.9 Proximity'.

## **5.2 Late applications**

The Council will consider late applicants with unsuccessful 'on-time' applicants where vacancies arise in an oversubscribed community secondary school and apply the oversubscription criteria set by the Council (as above).

## **5.3 Statutory Appeals**

If a child has been refused admission to a community secondary school, an appeal may be submitted to the Independent Statutory School Admission Appeal Panel.

The letter sent confirming that a place at a community school has been refused will also give the date by which an appeal must be submitted. Should an appeal not be submitted in the timeframe issued on the refusal letter then it is considered a late appeal. There is no automatic right that appeals submitted late will be heard, and appellants will have to provide a reason why it was not possible to submit the appeal on time. The decision to hear a late appeal is wholly at the discretion of the independent appeal panel and is based only on the reason for the late submission. The grounds of the appeal are not considered as part of the decision to hear a late appeal.

**Attendance at a community or voluntary controlled primary school located in the catchment area of a community secondary school does not automatically entitle a child to a place at the school. A new application must be made for transfer from the primary school to the secondary school.**

## **6. Admissions To Sixth Forms**

The Council has agreed to delegate to the Governing Body of Community Secondary Schools, the responsibility for the determination of admission arrangements for sixth forms. Applications for admission should be submitted to the school.

## **7. Explanation Of Oversubscription Criteria**

### **7.1 Child's Details - Address**

The child's home address must be used on the application, this is where the child lives for all or the majority of the school week. Please see 'Submission of documents relating to a Child's Home Address' (8.2). The Council may not accept an address given if there is no evidence that a parent for the child lives at the property.

In order to qualify as a 'child's home address,' for the purposes of admission, the child must be resident on the application submission date. If the child moves address after applying and before the date to which the child would start school, the parent must inform the Council in writing (e-mail or letter) stating the new address otherwise any school offer made may be withdrawn and a new application may be required.

## 7.2 Changes of Address

If an applicant moves address at any point between submission of an application and the pupil attending an offered school, any offer based on the original address will be subject to re-assessment.

Preferences will be assessed on the basis of the home address outlined in the application and which is valid at the time of the closing date for applications. Any changes of address after the closing date cannot be considered until the next round of admissions.

Places allocated on the basis of an address which is valid on the closing date, but is no longer the home address, will be reassessed on the basis of their new address in the next application round. This change of address will mean that the application will be considered as a new application in the next round.

Offers of places will be reassessed and:

- If the new address meets higher oversubscription criteria (or the same oversubscription criteria but in closer proximity) than in the initial or previous application then the offer will not be withdrawn
- If the new address meets lower oversubscription criteria (or the same oversubscription criteria but in further proximity) than in the initial or previous application round then the offer will be reassessed and would be offered to the applicant in that application round who meets the highest oversubscription criteria.

A change of address would be considered by the Council in the application round immediately following the occupancy of a property, where evidence has been provided of this change of address and this evidence has been accepted and verified as sufficient by the Council.

## 7.3 Children Looked After (CLA) / Children previously Looked After (CpLA)

In the case of a child looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales (as defined by Section 22 of the Children Act 1989 and Section 74 of the Social Services and Wellbeing [Wales] Act 2014), the relevant Local Authority (corporate parent) must apply and supporting evidence (a Care Order or Interim Care Order) must be provided with the application. Following consultation on the appropriateness of the named school in light of the child's background and needs, the Council has a **duty to admit** the child to the school and give highest priority in the oversubscription criteria.

In the case of a child previously looked after by a Local Authority in England or Wales (as defined by the Welsh Government School Admissions Code document no. 005/2013), supporting evidence (a letter from the relevant Local Authority [former corporate parent]) must be provided with the application. Following consultation on the appropriateness of the named school in light of the child's background and needs, the Council has a **duty to give highest priority** in the oversubscription criteria.

#### **7.4 Residence within the defined catchment area of a school**

The defined catchment areas of community primary and secondary school, and of St Mellons Church in Wales Voluntary Controlled Primary School, can be viewed on the Council's website ([www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)).

#### **7.5 Compelling medical/compelling social grounds**

To qualify for compelling medical or compelling social grounds, a written recommendation from a medical consultant or a social worker dated no more than 6 (six) months prior to the application submission date, must give detailed reasons for the child's admission to a particular school.

The recommendation must explain:

- The exceptional social or medical needs the child has
- How the child requires the support of the preferred school to meet those needs
- Why only the preferred school can provide this support, and why other schools would not be able to provide this support, to meet the child's needs.

The Council will review the information provided and consider the support available within the preferred school and alternative schools to confirm whether this criterion is met.

#### **7.6 Siblings**

An application will be considered under the sibling criterion if the sibling, and the applicant at the time of enrolment, would be attending the same school at the same time.

The Council will only consider compulsory school-aged siblings (for nursery and primary school applications this refers to Reception to Year 6 and for secondary school applications this refers to Year 7 to Year 11):

- Clearly named on the application **and**
- Resident at the same address as the child subject to the application **and**
- Attending the preferred primary school (not nursery) **or**
- Attending the preferred secondary school (not sixth form).

Sibling, for the purposes of admission, is defined as: brother/sister; half-brother/half-sister (children who share one common parent); step brother/step sister (where children are related by virtue of their parents being married, co-habiting or in a civil partnership); adopted or fostered child.

#### **7.7 Multiple Birth Siblings**

Separate applications are required for each child. Each application will be considered on the basis of the oversubscription criteria met by the individual child.

Where a community school is oversubscribed, and one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would be allocated a place but one (or more) of the multiple birth siblings would not be offered a place as the Published Admission Number has been met, the Council will admit the remaining multiple birth sibling(s).

#### **7.8 Siblings in the same school year who are not multiple birth siblings**

Where siblings fall into the same school year because they are born less than 12 months apart, are a step brother/step sister or an adopted or fostered child the same process will be followed as for multiple birth siblings.

## 7.9 Proximity

\*This criterion is the last to be applied in all oversubscription criteria. Where the number of preferences exceed the number of places available in any higher criterion, proximity is used as a tie breaker to determine which pupils are admitted.

The Council has developed a Geographical Information System (GIS), referred to as an 'Integrated Transport Network' (ITN), configured in compliance with the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance 2014 route determination criteria. The shortest safe available route (as defined by the Welsh Government's 'Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014') is calculated (to 4 decimal places) from the co-ordinates of an applicant's home address (determined using the Local Land and Property Gazetteer [LLPG] address point data), to the nearest open school gate using Ordnance Survey (OS) route data.

- a) Where there is no safe route available, the nearest point on the ITN to the applicant's home address will be used to calculate the shortest driving route to the nearest open school gate.
- b) Tie-breaker: Where flats use the same LLPG address point co-ordinates, the route assessment is determined from the front entrance to each flat.

For applications for pupils residing within mainland UK but outside of the area covered by the integrated transport network (ITN), residence to school distances are calculated as the shortest driving distance as evaluated using google maps.

Where applicants reside outside of mainland Britain, route distances are determined as the shortest route as determined using google maps utilising available transport types.

## 8. Documentary Evidence That May Be Required From Applicants

The Council may ask applicants to provide **clear** and **legible** documentation (e-mail: [schooladmissions@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@cardiff.gov.uk)) to prove their claim to qualify for one or more admission criteria. Where satisfactory documentary evidence is not received, a place at an oversubscribed school will not be offered based on the claimed admission grounds.

Subject to applicant's consent upon submission of the application, the evidence provided may be checked with other government agencies including (if appropriate) the child's current school.

### 8.1 Submission of documents relating to a child of UK Service Personnel or other Crown Servants

Children of UK service personnel (UK Armed Forces) or other Crown Servants will be treated as resident at a future address if their application is accompanied by an official Ministry of Defence (MOD) or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) letter declaring a definite address occupation date and confirmation of the new home or unit postal address.

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

Where applications outside of the normal for Children of UK service personnel or other Crown Servants are unsuccessful, parents may appeal against this decision and any appeal hearing convened would be heard as a normal prejudice appeal.

## **8.2 Submission of documents relating to a Child's Home Address**

Where an application is made for a place at a school or in a year group that is expected to be fully subscribed, and subject to the applicant's consent upon submission of the application, the Council will undertake checks of records held by Council Tax, Electoral Register, the child's school (if appropriate) and external organisations including credit reference agencies.

Parents may need to provide proof of parental responsibility, through providing a birth certificate, court order or passport that lists both the child and the parent.

Where there is any concern regarding the consistency of information held, further evidence may be required.

To prove residency at a claimed 'Child's Home Address,' the following documentation may be requested.

### **Proof of Residency at Current Address**

#### **Tenancy Agreement:**

- Tenancy Start Date must be on or before the application submission date **and** Tenancy End Date must be on or after the date to which the child would start school.

#### **Mortgage Statement:**

- Date of statement must be no more than 6 (six) months prior to the application submission date.

#### **Council Tax Correspondence (bill/letter/statement):**

- Referring to payments made in the current financial year for the property claimed as the child's home address.

#### **Utility Supplier Correspondence (electricity/gas/water bill /letter / statement):**

- Referring to payments made in the current financial year for the property claimed as the child's home address;
- Electricity and Gas (or Dual Fuel) bills must be dated no more than 6 (six) months prior to the application submission date.

#### **Child Benefit Correspondence:**

- Date of correspondence must be no more than 6 (six) months prior to the application submission date.

### **Proof of Residency at New Address**

If a child will be moving to a new address after the application submission date and before the date to which the child would start school:

### **Leased Property:**

- A new tenancy agreement will be required which must state an end date on or after the date to which the child would start school;

### **Owned Property:**

- An exchange of contracts document will be required which must be dated no more than 6 (six) months prior to the application submission date.

If the Council is not satisfied with the evidence provided, the claimed 'child's home address' will not be accepted for the purposes of the admission request.

## **8.3 Submission of documents relating to Compelling Medical Grounds or Compelling Social Grounds**

To qualify for compelling medical or compelling social grounds, a written recommendation from a medical consultant or a social worker dated no more than 6 (six) months prior to the application submission date, must give detailed reasons for the child's admission to a particular school.

Subject to applicant's consent upon submission of the application, the evidence provided may be checked with other government agencies including (if appropriate) the child's current school.

## **9. Offers Process**

### **9.1 School Offers**

If more than one place could be offered to a child, the applicant's highest available preference school will be offered. Any other school place that could be offered, will be offered to another child.

Decisions and responses will not be relayed over the telephone. Written confirmation (e-mail or letter) will be supplied.

Any offer not accepted by the date stated on the decision notice may be withdrawn and offered to another child.

If an offer to a higher community or voluntary controlled school preference is rejected by the applicant on the basis of the applicant declaring a former lower community or voluntary controlled school preference has become their preferred school, applicants must submit a new application for this community or voluntary controlled school preference to be re-considered.

### **9.2 No School Offers**

Applicants that receive written confirmation (e-mail or letter) advising their child has not been offered any of their school preferences, will be provided with an alternative preference form, details of community and voluntary controlled schools with vacancies and (for requests for admission to an age group of compulsory school age) information regarding their right to appeal against the Council's decision.

### **9.3 Changes of circumstances**

The Council will consider an applicant's circumstances to have changed, and that the application is considered as a new application, if:

- The applicant has changed address, or
- The applicant meets a higher oversubscription criteria than considered in their previous application.

This change of circumstances would be considered by the Council to have been from the date at which sufficient evidence of the change is received by the Council. Such evidence may be proof of residence at the new address, confirmation of the enrolment of a sibling at the school to which an applicant has stated the preference, or receipt of a letter meeting the 'compelling medical and/or compelling social grounds' criterion.

#### **9.4 Withdrawal of School Offers**

Prior to the date to which the child would start school, any place approved may be withdrawn if it is found that the child's circumstances no longer meet the grounds for admission to which they were offered the school place, if the application was found to have been made in fraudulent circumstances or if the school place offer was made in error. A new written decision (e-mail or letter) will be released.

Any offer of a place at entry to Reception Year in a community primary school will be withdrawn by the Council if the child does not attend the school within 20 school days after the start of the school term following the child's fifth birthday.

Any offer of a place at entry to Year 7 in a community secondary school will be withdrawn by the Council if the child does not attend the school within 20 school days after the start of the autumn term.

The Council may withdraw the offer of a school place from a pupil transferring between schools within the school year if the child does not attend the school within 20 school days of the place being offered.

However, if no reason has been provided for the child's failure to start, the school must notify the council's Education Welfare Service immediately so that Children Missing Education (CME) enquiries to establish the whereabouts of the child can be undertaken. Once these have been completed, the place will be re-allocated.

#### **9.5 Waiting Lists**

Where an applicant has been refused admission to a community or voluntary controlled nursery, primary or secondary school, the applicant will be placed on the waiting list for the preference school unless the applicant informs the Council to remove their child from the waiting list.

Unsuccessful applicants for admission into Nursery to start from the beginning of the term following their third (3<sup>rd</sup>) birthday, will remain on the waiting list until the end of the Summer Term.

Unsuccessful 'on-time' applicants for admission into Reception or Year 7 to start from the beginning of the academic year (also referred to as 'normal admissions round'), will remain on the waiting list until 30<sup>th</sup> September.



Unsuccessful applicants for admission into Reception to Year 11 (inclusive) whose application was received outside the normal admissions round (also referred to as an 'in-year application'), will remain on the waiting list until the end of the term to which the child would start school.

Places are not prioritised on the basis of how long a child has been on a waiting list. Priority is determined in accordance with the oversubscription criteria. Applications are considered in line with the criteria and any places that become available will be allocated on that basis. A child's position on the waiting list may change as applications may be received that have a higher degree of priority under the oversubscription criteria.

Should a child be allocated from the waiting list, the applicant will be contacted by the Council and requested to confirm if they accept the place. Acceptance of a place must be via the Admissions Online Portal, or in writing or by email. Upon acceptance, any other school place to which the child may already be allocated will be released and reallocated to another child.

Once the waiting list expiry date has been reached, should a parent wish their child to continue to be considered for admission a new application must be submitted.

**There is no guarantee of an offer of a place at a child's catchment area school nor the school at which a sibling attends.**

## Appendix 1

### School Admission Numbers 2026/27

<b>Community Primary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Adamsdown Primary School	60
Albany Primary School	60
Baden Powell Primary School	60
Birchgrove Primary School	58
Bryn Celyn Primary School	30
Bryn Deri Primary School	30
Bryn Hafod Primary School	60
Coed Glas Primary School	60 (Rec) 75 (Years 1-6)
Coryton Primary School	30
Creigiau Primary School (English-medium stream)	29
Danescourt Primary School	60
Fairoak Primary School	60
Fairwater Primary School	40
Gabalfa Primary School	30
Glan Yr Afon Primary School	30
Glyncoed Primary School	60
Grangetown Primary School	60
Greenway Primary School	30
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School (dual language stream)	30 (Rec, Years 1-3) 15 (Years 4-5)
Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School (English-medium stream)	7
Hawthorn Primary School	30
Herbert Thompson Primary School	60
Howardian Primary School	60
Hywel Dda Primary School	60
Kitchener Primary School	60
Lakeside Primary School	60
Lansdowne Primary School	60
Llanedeyrn Primary School	55
Llanishen Fach Primary School	60
Llysfaen Primary School	60
Marlborough Primary School	60
Meadowlane Primary School	45

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<b>Community Primary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Millbank Primary School	30
Moorland Primary School	60
Mount Stuart Primary School	60
Ninian Park Primary School	90
Oakfield Primary School	60
Pencaerau Primary School	30
Pentrebanne Primary School	30
Pentyrch Primary School	30
Pen-y-Bryn Primary School	30
Peter Lea Primary School	45
Pontprennau Primary School	60
Radnor Primary School	45
Radyr Primary School	60
Rhiwbeina Primary School	75
Rhydypenau Primary School	60
Roath Park Primary School	58
Rumney Primary School	60
Severn Primary School	60
Springwood Primary School	60
Stacey Primary School	30
Thornhill Primary School	60
Tongwynlais Primary School	28
Ton-yr-Ywen Primary School	60
Trelai Primary School	60
Trowbridge Primary School	30
Whitchurch Primary School	90
Willowbrook Primary School	60
Windsor Clive Primary School	60
Ysgol Bro Eirwg	60
Ysgol Gymraeg Coed-y-Gof	60
Creigiau Primary School (Welsh-medium stream)	29
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	30
Ysgol Glan Morfa	60
Ysgol Gynradd Groes-wen Primary School (Welsh-medium stream)	30 (Rec and Year 1-3 15 (Years 4-5))
Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod Y Garth Primary School (Welsh-medium stream)	26

<b>Community Primary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Ysgol Hamadryad	60
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	60
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	60
Ysgol Pencae	30
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen-Y-Groes	30
Ysgol Gymraeg Pwll Coch	60
Ysgol Gymraeg Treganna	90
Ysgol y Berllan Deg	60
Ysgol Y Wern	90
Ysgol Gymraeg Nant Caerau	30
Ysgol Pen Y Pil	30
<b>Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
St Mellons C.W. Primary School	30
<b>Voluntary Aided Primary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
All Saints C.W. Primary School	30
Bishop Childs C.W. Primary School	30
Christ The King R.C. Primary School	30
Holy Family R.C. Primary School	30
Llandaff C.W. Primary School	60
St Alban's R.C. Primary School	30
St Bernadette's R.C. Primary School	30
St Cadoc's R.C. Primary School	45
St Cuthbert's R.C. Primary School	21
St David's C.W. Primary School	30
St Fagans C.W. Primary School	30
St Francis R.C. Primary School	55
St John Lloyd R.C. Primary School	45
St Joseph's R.C. Primary School	30
St Mary The Virgin C.W. Primary School	60
St Mary's R.C. Primary School	30
St Monica's C.W. Primary School	26
St Patrick's R.C. Primary School	45
St Paul's C.W. Primary School	30
St Peter's R.C. Primary School	60
St Philip Evans R.C. Primary School	52
Tredegaville C.W. Primary School	30

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<b>Community Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Cantonian High School	240
Cardiff High School	240
Cardiff West Community High School	240
Cathays High School	240
Eastern High	270
Fitzalan High School	300
Llanishen High School	300
Radyr Comprehensive School	240
Willows High School	180
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf	240
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr	210
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Eder	180
<b>Foundation Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Whitchurch High School	390
<b>Voluntary Aided Secondary Schools</b>	<b>Admission Number</b>
Bishop of Llandaff C.W. High School	180
Corpus Christi R.C. High School	215
Mary Immaculate R.C. High School	160
St Illtyd's R.C. High School	176
St Teilo's C.W. High School	240