Education and Inclusion Services

Starting School

Information on choosing a school for your child

2027-2028

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Cover Photograph Adam Davies/Kier

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg
This document is also available in Welsh

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2027-2028 Starting School

Introduction

Dear Parents/Carers

Choosing which school is best for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. In this book you will find all the information you need about the Council's range of schools and the arrangements for your child's admission to school.

Before you decide which school is the right one for your child, you should read this book carefully and consider whether you want your child to be taught through Welsh or English or whether you want them to attend a Faith school. More information on the benefits of a Welsh medium and Welsh language education can be found in our Being Bilingual booklet which you can view online by visiting **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/BeingBilingual**

Some children will have greater learning needs and may require specialist provision in a mainstream school or a special school. There are different arrangements in place to apply for each type of school, age group, timescales of when places are allocated and when children start schools.

If schools are full then there is guidance provided in this book to explain how places are allocated and what you can do if your child has not been given a place in the school of your choice.

If, at any time, you require any additional information or advice about this or any other educational matter, the officers in the Education and Inclusion Services Directorate will be pleased to help you.

You can have more detailed information relating to a particular school by contacting the Headteacher directly and requesting a copy of the school's prospectus or by logging on to the school website. Please note that, although the information in this book is correct for admission to schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf between September 2027 and August 2028, regulations/policies may change from time to time.

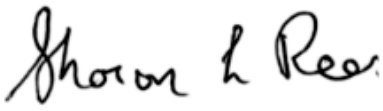
All policies within this booklet show due regard for the Equality Act 2010, including the anticipatory duties. Section 20 of the Equality Act 2010 highlights the need for the Council and schools to anticipate the needs of disabled service users and to take reasonable steps to remove barriers to accessing services. The duty is anticipatory in the sense that it requires consideration of, and action in relation to, barriers that impede people with disabilities seeking to use services and participation in experiences prior to them being accessed.

We wish your child every success at school and as a parent/carer you can do much to help achieve this, including making sure your child attends school regularly. All schools value the support of parents/carers and we hope that you will take the opportunity to find out about your child(ren)'s school and become involved in the life of the school during their time there. We look forward to working with you over the coming years.

With best wishes,

Dr Marium Haque

Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Education and Inclusion Services Directorate
Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park,
Abercynon CF45 4SN



Councillor Sharon Rees

Cabinet Member for Education,
Inclusion & Welsh Language

September 2026

Information and advice - Contact Details

The School Admissions Team are based at Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon, and are always available to give advice and assistance on school admission issues.

The School Admissions Team can be contacted as follows:

Schools Admissions Section | Education and Inclusion Services Directorate
Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon CF45 4SN
☎ 01443 281111 ✉ schooladmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk

Further information and a copy of this Starting School Book is also available on the Council's website
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schooladmissions

1. Primary and Secondary Education General Admission Arrangements

1.1 Choosing a School

1.1.1 The entry of children to schools is controlled and administered by an 'Admissions Authority'. In respect of community schools the Admissions Authority is Rhondda Cynon Taf Council (the Authority). In the case of voluntary-aided (church) schools, the Admissions Authority is the governing body of the individual church school.

1.1.2 Each school has an area that it serves called its 'catchment area'. Most parents/carers choose to send their child(ren) to their 'local' school within this 'catchment area', however, they have the right to state a preference for their child(ren) to attend any school.

1.1.3 Whether there is an offer of a place at the preferred school will depend on the outcome of the application of the Authority's admission policy.

1.1.4 The application process to Welsh Medium schools is exactly the same but the catchment area is often wider. For more information on Welsh Medium Education please read our Being Bilingual booklet **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/BeingBilingual**

1.1.5 Parents/Carers must submit an application for a school place at the following stages of their child(ren)'s education:

i. **Admission to Pre-Nursery class. (Please refer to table on page 10.)**
The term following a child's third birthday. Places are provided strictly according to availability, and are dependent on there being surplus classroom capacity in the Nursery of the individual school,they are not universally available.

ii. **Admission to Nursery.**
Schools are funded for part time places (at least 15 hours per week) for the term following a child's third birthday and full time for the term following a child's fourth birthday. The allocation of morning and afternoon places will be decided by the head teacher.

iii. **On admission to the Reception year.**

iv. **On transfer from an infant school to a junior or primary school (year 2 to year 3 only).**
Children already attending a Primary School do not need to apply for a Junior school place.
Only children attending Infant Schools need to apply for a Year 3 place.

v. **On transfer from a junior or primary school to secondary school.**
Children already attending an all through school do not need to apply for a secondary school place, unless they decide to apply to another school.

vi. **At any time that parents/carers may wish to transfer their child from one school to another.**

The admission timetable for all of the above is on page 17.

1.1.6 For admission to Voluntary aided (church) schools, please see pages 38-46.

1.1.7 The names of the secondary schools to which pupils from each of the junior/primary schools usually progress are given on pages 24-25.

1.2 Applying for a Place

1.2.1 Parents/Carers have the right to express a preference when selecting a school for their child(ren). For pupils who are due to start school September 2027, parents/carers must complete an application. Please refer to page 17 for deadline dates by which they must be completed and returned.

1.2.2 Parents of pupils due to start Nursery, Reception, transfer from Infants to Junior/Primary school or transfer from primary to secondary school in September 2027 can apply online for admission.

Applying online is quick and easy.

i. Visit **https://oneonline.rctcbc.gov.uk**
ii. Register with a valid email address.
iii. Follow the instructions on the online application web pages.

If you do not have access to your own computer free internet access is available at any Rhondda Cynon Taf Library. Alternatively, a paper application form is available by contacting the School Admissions Team on 01443 281111.

1.2.3 Only applications received by the closing date will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places.

1.2.4 Parents/Carers may wish to contact head teachers to discuss their preferences and/or to arrange to visit schools before making a final decision. Please be aware that the head teacher of a community schools is unable to offer or promise a place in their school.

1.2.5 The information given on the application must be accurate. There may be occasions when parents/carers are required to evidence the information given on the application.

1.2.6 **Parental Responsibility / Shared Responsibility**
Only persons holding parental responsibility for the named child are able to make an application and will be required to make a declaration to this effect as part of the application process. Ordinarily it is expected that this person resides at the same address as the child and is referred to as the parent for admissions purposes.

Where parental responsibility is equally shared, the council will ask the child's parents to determine which parent should submit the application. If parents cannot agree and neither has obtained a court order stating who should be making the application, the council will accept an application from the parent in receipt of Child Benefit for the child. The Council is not in a position to intervene in disputes between parents over school applications and will request that these are resolved privately.

1.2.7 **Step Parent**
If an application is received from a Step Parent, they will need to produce a parental responsibility order confirming that they have parental responsibility. Such documentation is required to proceed with processing the application.

1.2.8 **Proof of Address**
The only acceptable forms of documentary proof of address are – Council Tax statement; Child Benefit confirmation letter; recent gas, water or electricity bill. Original documents will be requested (which will be returned if required). Information provided may be cross checked and verified against information held by other departments of the Authority.

If the permanent address of the child changes after making an application, you must inform the Admission Authority as soon as possible in writing.

For those parents/carers who have moved into a new property within the last six months further documentary evidence is required namely:

i. A photo card driving licence containing details of the new address, which has to be presented in person at Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon.
ii. If the house move has been caused due to a change in domestic circumstances e.g. Divorce or Legal Separation, then copies of Court/Solicitor's documentation will be required if requested.

1.2.9 **Withdrawal of School Place**
If a place is offered at a school and subsequently it is discovered that the offer was made on fraudulent or misleading information e.g a false claim to living at an address, falsified date of birth, the place offered will be withdrawn, and can even be withdrawn after your child has started at the school.

1.2.10 **Change of Preference**
Any change of preference must be made in writing to the School Admissions Team. Any preference that has changed after the published closing date will result in the application being treated as a late application.

1.2.11 **Outcome of Application**
Parents/Carers will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application by the dates outlined on page 17.

1.2.12 **Appeals**
Part 5 details the Appeals process that parents/carers must follow if they wish to appeal against the decision.

1.2.13 **Published Admission Number**
All maintained schools must admit pupils (during compulsory education) up to their Admission Number (AN), detailed on the List of Schools page 50 onwards.

There are two ANs for primary schools with intakes from linked infant schools. The AN regulation does not apply to nursery schools, special schools or pupil referral units.

1.2.14 **Prior to your child starting at a new school, you must provide one of the following;**
An original copy of your child's birth certificate, passport or an EEA identity card to that school, to verify your child's date of birth.

1.2.15 **Authority's policy on Out of Chronological Age Applications.**
Rhondda Cynon Taf operates a separate policy on Out of Chronological Age Applications. If a parents 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.

Whilst there is no statutory barrier to children being educated outside their chronological year group, there is no duty to agree such a request and a parent/carer cannot insist on their child being educated outside of their usual age group.

1.2.16 **Top Tips**

1. **Apply on time**
   Don't be late applying for a school place! It is extremely important that you apply on time to ensure that your child's application is considered for the first round of applications.

2. **Apply online**
   Please apply online (with the exception of In Year Transfers where you need to request a form to complete). Applying online is easy and efficient.

   By applying online you receive notification when your application is received and are informed of the outcome of your application via e-mail. You can then accept or decline the place via the online system.

3. **Know which schools are in your area**
   Check which schools are in your area: **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/findaschool**
   You can also visit school websites, school prospectus and read school Estyn reports before deciding which school to apply for.
   You can also request to visit a school, by contacting the school direct to make an appointment to visit.

4. **Select more than one school preference on your application**
   We try to provide all children with a place at their first preference school, however, in some cases this may not be possible if more applications are received than places available. We will then apply our oversubscribed criteria.
   As a result of this we strongly advise that you select a second and third preference on your application. Please be assured that by doing this, it will not go against your child being offered their first preference. It just provides assurance that if we are in a position where we cannot offer a place at your first preference school, we can then look at your second preference school or third preference school.

5. **Please Accept or decline any places offered**
   When you receive your offer of a school place within RCT, it is vital that you inform us as soon as possible if you wish to accept the place.
   It is just important that you inform us if you wish to refuse the place offered and we can then allocate this place out to another child.

1.3 How Places are Allocated

1.3.1 If the number of preferences received for a school is below the school's AN, all applications for admission to the school will be granted.

1.3.2 Places cannot be reserved for 'in catchment' children unless they are children of reception age whose parent have applied for their entry to school to be deferred until a later date in the same school year.

1.3.3 If the number of preferences received for a school is above the school's AN the following over subscription criteria will be applied, in the priority order listed, to determine the allocation of available places:

1.3.4 **Oversubscription Criteria**

- **Priority Category 1:**
  Children 'Looked After' (children in public care) & children previously 'Looked After'.
- **Priority Category 2:**
  Children whose home is inside the school's catchment area and have an older sibling attending the school from the same address, at the date of application, who will continue to attend that school in September 2027.
- **Priority Category 3:**
  Children whose home is inside the school's catchment area who do not have an older sibling attending the school.
- **Priority Category 4:**
  Children whose home is outside the school's catchment area and have an older sibling attending from the same address, at the date of application, who will continue to attend that school in September 2027.
- **Priority Category 5:**
  Children whose home is outside the school's catchment area who do not have an older sibling attending the school.
  For the avoidance of all doubt the reference to 'home' in the oversubscription categories above and the 'tie breaker' overleaf refers to the actual location of the residential dwelling in which the child lives.

1.3.5 Please note that childcare/childminding arrangements or a parent's place of work cannot be taken into account when applying admissions criteria.

1.3.6 **Tie breaker**
Children will be admitted up to the Admission Number in order of priority as outlined above. If, within any one of the priority categories listed, all the applicants cannot be offered a place, preference will be given to children living nearest to the school. Distance will be measured by the Authority using the shortest, safe walking route between the home address and the nearest open school gate. For the avoidance of doubt, in areas where no safe walking route has been identified by the Authority, the shortest driving route between the home address and the nearest open school gate will be used. The distance will be measured by using the Mapinfo System only, in order to ensure equality of opportunity to all applications. Measurements calculated by any other system will not be considered.

1.3.7 **Siblings**
Children will be classified as siblings if they are half, full, step, adoptive or fostered brother/sister living full time/permanently in the same household.

Please note that cousins, nephews and nieces are not counted as siblings. In relation to secondary school, siblings must be in years 7 to 11 of the relevant school in September 2027. Siblings attending the sixth form at a comprehensive school in September 2027 are not considered for purpose of admissions of younger children.

1.3.8 **Multiple Birth Children (e.g. twins or triplets)**
If when applying the oversubscription criteria the last child to be admitted is one of a multiple birth e.g. twin or triplet then the Authority will also admit the other sibling(s).

1.3.9 **Children of UK Service Personnel**
Children of UK service personnel will be treated as residing in the catchment area if their application is accompanied by an official Ministry of Defence (MOD) or Foreign and Commonwealth Office (fco) letter declaring a definite return date and confirmation of the new address.

1.3.10 **Admission Number Variations**
Where the Authority is in the process of requesting a variation to the Admission Number of a school, due to changes in the accommodation available, the proposed number is recorded under the relevant school.

1.3.11 **Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements 2027-2028**
In line with new Welsh Government regulations, The Education (Co-ordination of School Admission Arrangements and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2024 all local authorities in Wales are required to formulate a coordinated school admissions scheme for all maintained mainstream schools in their area from the 2027-2028 school year.

Co-ordinated schemes are intended to simplify the admissions process for parents/carers whilst reducing the likelihood of any child being left without a school place. Co-ordination establishes a mechanism that ensures that, as far as is reasonably practicable, every parent/carer of a child living in a local authority area, who submits an application within the normal admissions round, is sent one, and only one, offer of a school place by their local authority.

The local authority will co-ordinate admission arrangements for applications in the normal admission rounds, that is, Reception and Year 7. The coordinated admissions arrangements do not apply to applications for nursery places, sixth form places, or places at maintained special schools.

The co-ordinated school admission arrangements do not apply to in-year admissions/transfer applications.

The co-ordinated school admission arrangements for Reception and Year 7 include all community schools and the following voluntary-aided schools:

- Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School;
- Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School;
- St Gabriel & St Raphael Catholic Primary School
- St Michael's Catholic Primary School;
- St Margaret's Catholic Primary School;
- Our Lady's Catholic Primary School;
- Cardinal Newman Catholic School; and
- St John Baptist Church in Wales High School.

Parents will need to complete an online 'Common Application Form' and can express up to three preferences for community and/or voluntary-aided schools. Parents/carers are able to complete the relevant application online at **https://oneonline.rctcbc.gov.uk**

Parents applying for a voluntary-aided school may also need to complete a supplementary application form for the individual school and provide a baptism certificate, if the school wishes to implement this form they will contact the parent direct regarding this.

Parents/carers who submit an application by the published closing time and date of an admission round will be notified by the local authority, in writing of the outcome of their application.

Late applications can be obtained from the School admissions team.

Timetable for Reception admissions for September 2027	
Action	**Date**
Opening date for submission of applications.	**1st September 2026**
Closing date for receipt of applications.	**6th November 2026**
Notification to be sent by the local authority to applicants of offer or refusal of places (that is, the 'offer date').	**16th April 2027**

Timetable for Year 7 secondary school admissions for September 2027	
Action	**Date**
Opening date for submission of applications.	**1st September 2026**
Closing date for receipt of applications.	**9th October 2026**
Notification to be sent by the local authority to applicants of offer or refusal of places (that is, the 'offer date').	**1st March April 2027**

1.3.12 **Late Applications**

Applications received after the closing date and before the offer date will be considered as late applications and only be accepted by the Admissions Authority when a good reason is given for the lateness of the application e.g. when a single parent has been ill for some time, or a family has just moved into the area.

Late Applications that are accepted by the Admissions Authority will be processed after all applications which were received by the closing date, irrespective of the reason for the lateness of the application and will be subjected to the same admissions criteria. Therefore, late applications may find that their preferred school is already full.

1.3.13 **Waiting Lists**

Following the allocation of places during the normal admission round, any pupil that is refused admission to an oversubscribed school will be placed on the waiting list. The list will be maintained until the 30th September (in line with the requirement in the School Admissions Code). Thereafter parents/carers must make a fresh application for admission (by completing an application form) and/or provide a written request to remain on the waiting list.

Admissions in respect of pupils on waiting lists are determined by application of the over-subscription criteria, not by the length of time a child has been on the waiting list.

1.3.14 **Sixth Form Admissions**

The admission of sixth form pupils to community schools is, at present, determined by individual schools. Therefore any applications in this category should be made directly to the school.

Individual schools are responsible for issuing policies on sixth form admissions in respect of entry criteria. The Authority has a policy of open access to schools' sixth forms.

2. Stages of Education – Maintained Schools

2.1 Pre-Nursery / Nursery Education

The Council continuously reviews and reserves the right to amend its admission procedures for non-statutory pre-nursery and nursery education.

2.1.1 Pre-Nursery Education

Pre- Nursery Education is provided part time to children the term following their 3rd birthday. Parents will be able to apply online in September for a pre-nursery place to start in January (term after their child's third birthday) and can apply online in January for a pre-nursery place to start in April (term after their child's third birthday).

2.1.2 Nursery Education

Nursery Education is provided part time from the September i.e. the start of the academic year in which the child turns 4. Full time places are provided the term after the child turns four.

Nursery places are not provided in REP settings and only in schools.

Admission Cohort	Age of Pupil
Pre-Nursery Admission from January 2028 onwards	**Date of birth falls between:** 01/09/2024 - 31/12/2024
Pre-Nursery Admission from April 2028 onwards	**Date of birth falls between:** 01/01/2025 - 31/03/25 (If your child's date of birth is after 31/03/25, the earliest they can start will be September 2028)

2.1.2.1 Admission Number for Pre-Nursery / Nursery

There is one Admission Number for Pre Nursery / Nursery, which is set by the Authority.
Once the Nursery accommodation is full, no further pre-Nursery pupils may be admitted.

Pre-nursery places are provided strictly subject to availability and cannot be guaranteed at any school / Registered Education Provider (REPs).

Admission of pre nursery children to any school will not be possible any later than the Friday which follows the May Half Term Break.

2.1.2.2 Nursery education is widely provided across Rhondda Cynon Taf through maintained schools and non-maintained REPs both of whom are subject to regular inspections through Estyn.

Pre-nursery and nursery places will initially only be available to parents/carers who are residents within Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough and pay council tax to the Council. There will be opportunities for residents living outside of Rhondda Cynon Taf to apply for pre-nursery and nursery places but this will be subject to availability.

2.1.2.3 **Welsh Medium Pre Nursery / Nursery**

The Welsh Government recognises the important part the early years sector plays in the development of children's Welsh language skills, therefore, if Welsh-medium education is your preferred option, please consider this section carefully.

2.1.2.4 **Application process**

Parents/Carers can apply for a pre-nursery place for school or REP place online at:
https://oneonline.rctcbc.gov.uk

Details of the REPS can be found on pages 48 to 49 or alternatively you can ring:

Family Information Service (FIS)
Free helpline on 0800 180 4151 (or 0300 if dialing from a mobile) 111 4151 for more information.

Non-Maintained registered education provision will not be funded cross county.
Non- Maintained registered education providers funded dates are in line with school admission dates.

2.1.2.5 **Allocation of places**

The decision to allocate a place to your child will be taken in accordance with the Authority's published criteria for Pupil Entry to school and in accordance with Welsh Government expectations section 1.3.

A formal application must be made for transfer to the nursery class from pre nursery provision at the appropriate time. There may be occasions when, due to over subscription, it will not be possible for this transfer to take place.

Pupils who are admitted either to a pre nursery or nursery class do not have an "automatic" right to continue education within that school.

2.1.2.6 **Childcare in RCT**

Rhondda Cynon Taf Childcare Team supports the childcare sector to ensure that there is sufficient English and Welsh medium childcare provision to suit the needs of parents and carers. The Childcare Team offer training courses for childcare providers, start-up grants, advice and support. They work closely with other Council services, such as Family Information Service, Resilient Families, open access play and Access & Inclusion.

They are also responsible for the implementation of the Welsh Government Childcare Offer for Wales in RCT. This offers most parents of 3 to 4 year olds 30 hours per week of combined Foundation Learning nursery education and additional funded childcare for up to 48 weeks per year.

More information about the Childcare Team, and the Childcare Offer, is available at
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/childcareteam

2.2 Primary Education

2.2.1 Primary Education

In accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996, a child begins to be of compulsory school age the term following their fifth birthday. These dates (1st September, 1st January and 1st April) are prescribed by the Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998 (S.I. 1998 No. 1607).

Therefore, for a child whose fifth birthday falls between:

- 1st April – 31st August, compulsory school age is 1st September
- 1st September – 31st December, compulsory school age is 1st January
- 1st January – 31st March, compulsory school age is 1st April
  (e.g. a child born on 1st January would not be of compulsory school age until 1st April).

2.2.2 Admission to Infant Schools or Infant Departments within Primary schools

Pupils who are admitted to an Infant school, will not have an "automatic" right to continue their education at the junior or primary school that serves the same area. A formal application must be made for transfer to the junior/primary school at the appropriate time.

There will be occasions when, due to over-subscription, it will not be possible for the transfer within the same local junior/primary school to take place. Should this be the case a place will be offered, in consultation with parents/carers, at an alternative school.

2.2.3 Transfer to Junior Schools or Junior Departments within Primary Schools

Children enter or transfer from Infant schools to Junior schools, or Junior departments in Primary schools, on the first day of the autumn term (on a given date in September) following their seventh birthday.

Children already attending a primary school do not need to apply for a junior school place.

2.2.4 Changing Schools: Primary Education

Changing schools during primary education is a serious step for your child(ren) to take. In the case of moving the family home, such a decision may well be a necessity.

If you decide that you would like your child to transfer from one school to another, please contact their present Head Teacher first to inform them of your decision. Should you wish to proceed with the transfer arrangements you should contact the School Admissions Team for advice in making your application to the new school.

Applications to any year group within a school will be judged against the relevant AN for that year group and the overall capacity of the school.

Parents should note, that classes may include more than one age group and the Head Teacher has the responsibility (authority) for placing your child in the most appropriate provision.

Pupils should continue to attend their present school until a school placement has been arranged.

If a pupil does not take up their offer of a school place within 4 weeks of the agreed start date, the school place will be withdrawn and the parent will need to re-apply.

Support is now available for any pupils looking to transfer from an English medium to a Welsh medium school should they choose. This support is currently available to pupils in Years 2-6 and enables pupils to begin their journey to becoming bilingual. If your child(ren) are in Years 1 and below and would like to transfer from an English medium to a Welsh medium school, additional support is not required and the School Admissions Team can support with this transfer.

More information on this service and the benefits of Welsh medium education can be found by visiting: www.rctcbc.gov.uk/BeingBilingual

2.3 Admission to Secondary Schools

2.3.1 Secondary Education

2.3.1.1 Children transfer from primary (junior) school to secondary school at the beginning of the academic year following their eleventh birthday. Parents/Carers are required, to complete an application stating their preference as to which secondary school they wish their child(ren) to attend. This must be done while their child(ren) are in year 6.

2.3.1.2 Being a registered pupil at an associated primary school does not guarantee or entitle your child to a place at a particular secondary school.

2.3.1.3 Children already attending an all through school do not need to apply for a secondary school place, as they are automatically transferred. Parents who wish to apply for an alternative Secondary school place, are able to do so by completing a Secondary application from.

2.3.2 Changing Schools: Secondary Education

2.3.2.1 Changing secondary schools is a serious step for your child(ren) to take. In the case of moving the family home, such a decision may well be a necessity and you may wish to contact your local school or the School Admissions Team (see page 4) for advice on this matter.

2.3.2.2 If you decide that you would like your child(ren) to transfer from one secondary school to another, in the first instance, please contact the Head Teacher of the school that the child presently attends in order to discuss any issues. If you still wish to proceed with the transfer arrangements you should contact the School Admissions Team for advice in making your application.

2.3.2.3 In considering your request for transfer, the Authority will review the AN and the number of pupils in the year group relevant to your child(ren). If that particular year group has not reached the school's published limit, then your child will be admitted to the school.

2.3.2.4 Parents/Carers should note, however, that curriculum option choices and examination syllabuses vary from school to school and it may not be possible for your child's choices to be met at a different school. This may prove particularly problematic for those pupils leading up to examinations such as those in Years 10/11, who are due to sit GCSEs and those taking AS/A Levels.

2.3.2.5 Pupils are able to transfer from an English Medium to a Welsh Medium school.

More information on the benefits of a Welsh Medium education can be found by visiting www.rctcbc.gov.uk/BeingBilingual

Please contact the School Admissions Team (see page 4) for advice on this matter.

3. Additional information re the provision of educational places

3.1 Welsh Medium Provision

3.1.1 Pupils who attend the Welsh Medium Provision at Dolau Primary School will be expected to transfer to Ysgol Llanhari, if they live within the catchment area.

3.2 Arrangements with other Local Authorities

3.2.1 Arrangements exist for pupils living in adjoining LA's to continue to attend schools, in the area of Rhondda Cynon Taf Authority that they have traditionally attended. These arrangements are subject to review each year.

3.2.2 Pupils living within the area of Brynnau, Dolau and Llanharan Primary Schools who wish to receive secondary education through the medium of English to attend Pencoed Comprehensive School should they choose to do so.

Pupils living in Gilfach Goch to attend Abercerdin Primary School to receive primary education through the medium of English should they choose to do so.

3.2.3 Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun opened in 1995 by the former Mid Glamorgan Council and was designed to accommodate pupils from the Cynon Valley and Merthyr Borough area. These arrangements remain in place today and therefore, the catchment area includes the whole of the Merthyr Borough Council area as well as the Cynon Valley.

3.3 Catchment Areas

3.3.1 Catchment areas are subject to review. The outcome of a review may result in the alteration of the primary/secondary links (as given on pages 24-25). The catchment areas of schools within Rhondda Cynon Taf end at the boundary of the county borough in respect of those schools located in proximity to the boundary.

3.3.2 The catchment areas of Y Pant and Bryncelynnog Comprehensive Schools were changed following consultation, with effect from 1st September 2015. Any child living in the areas which transferred to the Bryncelynnog catchment area, who had an older sibling attending Y Pant in July 2015 and has another sibling who will be in Years 7-11 (excluding Yr 12 & 13) in September 2027, will have their application considered as if they still resided in the Y Pant catchment area, i.e. their application will fall in to Category 2 of the Authority's published admissions criteria and not Category 4.

3.3.3 The catchment area for the sixth forms in Tonyrefail, Treorchy, Bryncelynnog and Aberdare are:

Tonyrefail:
The existing Tonyrefail Community School catchment area, the Porth Community School catchment area, and Ysgol Nantgwyn catchment area.

Treorchy:
The existing Treorchy Comprehensive School catchment area and the students that reside in the existing Ferndale Community School catchment.

Bryncelynnog:
The existing Bryncelynnog Comprehensive catchment area, the Ysgol Bro Taf catchment area and Ysgol Afon Wen catchment area.

Aberdare:
The existing Aberdare Community School catchment area and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School catchment area.

3.3.4 All of Maesycoed catchment area transferred to the catchment area of Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf) from September 2024.

3.3.5 All of Coedpenmaen catchment area transferred also to the catchment area of Pontypridd High School (Ysgol Bro Taf) from September 2024.

3.3.6 Craig Yr Hesg Primary School and Cefn Primary School closed 2026-2027 Academic Year.

3.3.7 Ysgol Gynradd Glyn-coch opened 2026-2027 Academic Year.

3.3.8 Ysgol Cambrian opened 2026-2027 Academic Year.

3.3.9 Children already attending an all through school do not need to apply for a secondary school place, as they are automatically transferred. Parents who wish to apply for an alternative Secondary school place, are able to do so by completing a Secondary application form.

3.3.10 To assist in locating your catchment school, there is a Find a School Facility on the Council's website: **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schooladmissions** or contact:

School Admissions Team
Valleys Innovation Centre
☎ 01443 281111

3.3.11 Please refer to the Council's website for details of the school term and holiday published dates Academic Year 2027-2028.

4. School Admissions Key Dates

4.1 Year Groups 2027-2028

Academic Year 2027-2028

Year	Age during Academic Year	Date of Birth between
Pre-Nursery	3	01.09.2024 – 31.08.2025
Nursery	4	01.09.2023 – 31.08.2024
Reception	5	01.09.2022 – 31.08.2023
1	6	01.09.2021 – 31.08.2022
2	7	01.09.2020 – 31.08.2021
3	8	01.09.2019 – 31.08.2020
4	9	01.09.2018 – 31.08.2019
5	10	01.09.2017 – 31.08.2018
6	11	01.09.2016 – 31.08.2017
7	12	01.09.2015 – 31.08.2016
8	13	01.09.2014 – 31.08.2015
9	14	01.09.2013 – 31.08.2014
10	15	01.09.2012 – 31.08.2013
11	16	01.09.2011 – 31.08.2012
12	17	01.09.2010 – 31.08.2011
13	18	01.09.2009 – 31.08.2010

Compulsory School Age

Date of 5th birthday falls between:	Becomes of Compulsory School Age on:
01.04.2022 – 31.08.2022	01.09.2027
01.09.2022 – 31.12.2022	01.01.2028
01.01.2023 – 31.03.2023	01.04.2028

Leaving Age

The official school leaving age is legally defined as the last Friday in June in the school year in which a pupil attains the age of 16 [Year 11].

For the 2027-2028 school year, this date is 30th June 2028.

No Year 11 student is legally able to leave school before this date even if they attain their 16th birthday on 1st September 2027.

4.2 Admission Timetable: 2027-2028 Academic Year

Admission Cohort	Age of Pupil	Applications available from	Applications to be returned by	Decision Notifications Issued
Secondary School Year 7	12th birthday falls between: **1st September 2027 and 31st August 2028**	**1st September 2026**	**9th October 2026**	**1st March 2027**
Primary School Year 3 Transfer from Infant to Junior or Primary School	8th birthday falls between: **1st September 2027 and 31st August 2028**	**1st September 2026**	**6th November 2026**	**16th April 2027**
Primary School Reception Class i.e. Age 4 before 1st Sept 2027	5th birthday falls between: **1st September 2027 and 31st August 2028**	**1st September 2026**	**6th November 2026**	**16th April 2027**
Primary School Nursery Class i.e. Age 3 before 1st Sept 2027	4th birthday falls between: **1st September 2027 and 31st August 2028**	**1st September 2026**	**6th November 2026**	**16th April 2027**
Pre-Nursery Admission from January 2028 Spring Term	3rd birthday falls between: **1st September 2027 and 31st December 2027**	**1st September 2027**	**24th September 2027**	**5th November 2027**
Pre-Nursery Admission from April 2028 Summer Term	3rd birthday falls between: **1st January 2028 and 31st March 2028**	**3rd January 2028**	**4th February 2028**	**10th March 2028**

4.3 Appeal Timetable: Year 7, Year 3 and Reception Only

Admission Cohort	Closing date for Receipt of Appeals	Appeals Heard
Secondary School Year 7	**14th March 2027**	**Within 30 school days of the specified closing date for receipt of appeals.**
Primary School Reception Class and Year 3 transfers from Infant Schools	**29th April 2027**	**Within 30 school days of the specified closing date for receipt of appeals.**

There are no appeals in respect of nursery and pre nursery admissions
Please note it is the parents responsibility to prove that an appeal request has been sent and therefore we strongly advise that all appeal requests are sent via recorded delivery or a tracked e-mail for evidence purposes.

5. Appeals

5.1 Appeals Process

5.1.1 Parents/Carers will be notified, in writing, of the outcome of their application including the means of appealing against the decision. Where there is recourse to appeal, this can be done in Welsh or English.

5.1.2 On the application parents/carers are required to enter a first, second and third choice of school. If, having applied the admissions criteria (see page 8), it has not been possible to admit the child(ren) to their first choice school, arrangements will be made for admission to the second choice. If parents/carers are unhappy with this outcome, they may lodge an appeal against the decision.*

5.1.3 Where parents/carers have not stated a second or third choice, for compulsory school age applications, they will be contacted and asked whether, they wish to:

i. Make a second choice of their own.

ii. Accept an alternative school which can be offered by the Authority.

iii. Appeal against the decision not to admit the child(ren) to the first choice school.

* Not applicable for applications for entry to nursery schools or classes, or pre nursery provision.

5.2 Appeals Procedure

5.2.1 Parents/Carers wishing to appeal against the outcome of their application for the admission of their child(ren) to a school (other than a Voluntary Aided Church school) must;

i. Give the LA written notice of their appeal within 14 calendar days (10 working days) of the admission(s) decision.

ii. Forward the letter of appeal to;
The Director of Education and Inclusion Services
Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon CF45 4SN
or e-mail
schooladmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk

iii. State in the letter, the name and date of birth of the child(ren) on whose behalf the appeal is being made. The name of the first choice school and the grounds for the appeal.

5.2.2 The LA's admissions officer will arrange for any appeals to be heard by an independent panel. Appeals will be heard within 30 school days of the closing date for the receipt of appeals (see 5.2.1).

5.2.3 Parents/Carers will be given at least 14 days, from the date of posting i.e. 10 working days, written notice of the date on which the appeal will be heard. A shorter timescale may be operated with the agreement of both parties.

5.2.4 Parents/Carers may attend the hearing and make representation to the panel (written and/or verbal). Parents/Carers will be given the option to speak Welsh at the meeting. In such circumstances where the meeting cannot wholly be conducted in Welsh, simultaneous translation services will be provided.

5.2.5 If parents/carers choose to attend the hearing, they may be accompanied or represented by a friend, adviser, interpreter or signer who will be present in a supportive capacity only, unless the parents/carers elects that the friend/representative speaks on their behalf. If parents/carers intend to be accompanied they should inform the LA in advance.

5.2.6 Should parents/carers choose to be represented by a solicitor, the Authority must be notified in writing at least 7 days before the date of the hearing (address as above).

5.2.7 Parents/Carers must not be accompanied by a member of the County Borough Council, a Local Authority Officer or local politician as this may lead to a conflict of interest.

5.2.8 Parents/Carers may choose not to attend the hearing, the outcome will then be decided on the content of the original letter (and any additional written supportive information) forwarded by the parents/carers.

5.2.9 Parents/Carers will be notified of the outcome of the appeal, in writing, within 5 working days of the conclusion of the appeal hearing.

5.2.10 Acceptance of a second choice offer does not prevent parents/carers lodging an appeal against the decision not to admit the child(ren) to the first choice school.

5.2.11 Please note it is the parents responsibility to prove that an appeal request has been sent and therefore we strongly advise that all appeal requests are sent via recorded delivery or a tracked e- mail for evidence purposes.

5.3 Nursery Appeals

5.3.1 **Nursery Aged Children (age under 5)**
There is no recourse to appeal the refusal to admit to pre nursery or nursery aged children (on either a full-time or part-time basis) to a school.

5.4 Basis of Appeal

i. All permissible appeals will be considered in light of the Authority's admissions criteria to determine whether the correct process has been followed in applying this criteria. (for criteria see page 8).

ii. If it is found that the school is full, consideration will then be given to the strength of the parent's/carer's case to determine whether the child(ren) should still be admitted to that school.

iii. In respect of an appeal against admissions to reception classes, year 1 or year 2, that are affected by the infant class size limit of 30, the panel must only look at whether the admissions criteria were applied correctly.

5.5 Appeals Update 2025-2026

During the Academic Year 2025-2026, the Authority received 9 appeals from parents/carers whose applications for children to attend community schools had been unsuccessful.

Of these 9 appeals, the outcome was :-

- **Successful: 6**
- **Unsuccessful: 3**
- **Appeal withdrawn: 0**

During the Academic Year 2025-2026, there were no appeals received from parents/carers whose applications for children to attend voluntary-aided (church) schools had been unsuccessful.

5.6 Appeals to Voluntary Aided (Church) Schools

Appeals against decisions in respect of admission(s) to Voluntary Aided (Church) Schools must be made directly to the governing body of the school concerned. This may be done by addressing the letter of appeal to the Clerk to the governing body and forwarding it to the school.

6. General Information for Parents / Carers

6.1 Regular Attendance at School

6.1.1 Regular school attendance is known to be a key factor in supporting the social, emotional and educational development and wellbeing of children and young people. For this reason poor attendance as a result of either truancy or absences condoned by parents are taken very seriously by the Local Authority.

6.1.2 Schools are responsible for tackling issues of poor or irregular school attendance in the first instance,however if improvements are not made the school is encouraged to refer pupils to the Attendance and Wellbeing Service. Under section 7 of the Education Act 1996, parents have a legal duty to ensure their children receive efficient full time education that is suitable to their children's age, ability and aptitude, either by regular attendance at school or otherwise. Where there is sufficient evidence that parents are not fulfilling this legal duty, the Local Authority has a responsibility to institute court proceedings under Section 444 (1) of the Education Act 1996. In Rhondda Cynon Taf this responsibility is devolved to the Attendance and Wellbeing Service.

6.1.3 In accordance with The Education (Penalty Notices) (Wales) Regulations 2013, the local authority has a Code of Conduct for the issuing of fixed penalty notices for regular non-school attendance. All penalty notices issued for non- school attendance will be processed in line with this Code, a copy of which can be obtained from any RCT school, the Attendance and Wellbeing Service (aws@rctcbc.gov.uk), or the Council website (www.rctcbc.gov.uk).

6.1.4 Furthermore, the Council maintains a firm approach to holidays in term time; Head teachers will consider each request on its own merits and have the discretion to authorise or unauthorise every leave of absence period. Should there be any special family circumstances that prohibit a family taking a holiday during the school holiday periods, the head teacher may possibly decide to authorise the request. Again, further details can be found on the Council's website or by contacting your local school.

6.2 Authority's policy on Food and Drink in schools

6.2.1 **School Meals**
A catering service is provided in all schools and meals are cooked and served by trained staff using quality products and ingredients, which comply with all food safety legislation. All menus comply with the Welsh Government's Food & Drink Standards.

6.2.2 The Service is tailored to meet the needs of the school. Specific dietary requirements can be catered for, however, a medically prescribed dietary requirement cannot be provided until the following process has been completed:

- Parents/carers need to complete an online form on the Council's website to register a medically prescribed dietary requirement. Medical evidence from a registered medical practitioner or a registered dietitian will need to be submitted, which confirms the pupil's dietary requirements. **customerportal.rctcbc.gov.uk/medicallyprescribeddietaryrequest**
- A bespoke menu is then designed to meet the pupil's needs.
- The menu is shared by the Headteacher to all relevant staff in the school.
  This process can be initiated before a pupil starts school to avoid any delay in food provision.

6.2.3 **Primary School Free Breakfast Initiative**
A free breakfast is available between 8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m. (local time variations may be applied) in all Primary schools. Parents/carers need to complete an online form on the Council's website to register for a breakfast club place.

6.2.4 **School Milk**
Free milk is provided daily to all pupils:

- Under-age of 5 years who attend a setting for 2 hours or more,
- Between the ages 5-7 years.

6.2.5 **Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM)**
Within Rhondda Cynon Taf, the roll out the UPFSM offer was completed in April 2024, which means all primary age pupils are eligible for a free lunch. Nursery pupils need to be in full-time education to be eligible for a UPFSM.

6.2.6 **Free School Meals**
Free School Meals (eFSM) are available to pupils whose parents/carers are currently receiving one of the following benefits:

- Child Tax Credit – where total annual income is also less than £16,190
- Income Support (with responsibility for children)
- Income Based Job Seekers' Allowance (with responsibility for children)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of state Pension Credit
- Pupils who receive Income Support or income-based Job Seekers' Allowance, in their own right, are also eligible to receive eFSM
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related) (ESA(IR))
- Universal Credit (if working, annualised net earnings must be £7,400 or lower)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Parents/carers need to complete an online form on the Council's website to apply for eFSM.

Once you are entitled to eFSM you could automatically qualify for a School Essentials Grant and your school will receive additional funding for its pupils. You must apply for eFSM, even if you receive a Universal Primary Free School Meal, for your child to be eligible for School Essentials Grant.

For further information please contact:

Rhondda Cynon Taf Catering Services Team
☎ **01443 281141**
✉ **cateringservices@rctcbc.gov.uk**
or visit our website **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolcatering**

6.3 Authority's policy on School Uniform

6.3.1 The wearing of a school uniform in Primary schools in Rhondda Cynon Taf is entirely voluntary. It is compulsory for all Secondary Schools.

Note: Individual schools also have their own policies in relation to food and drink and school uniform and should be contacted directly for full details.

6.4 Authority's policy on entering pupils for public exams

6.4.1 All Rhondda Cynon Taf secondary schools offer a comprehensive range of level 2 courses to meet the need of learners, many of which are for GCSE qualifications. All the 11-18 and 3-19 schools offer a variety of level 3 courses, in the main G.C.E. A level courses and nearly all of our secondary schools offer the Welsh Baccalaureate and both Level 2 and Level 3(where appropriate). In addition, a number of schools offer a range of other courses at NVQ and GNVQ at a range of levels.

6.4.2 Individual pupils are entered by schools for examinations according to their subject choices and after careful consideration of the requirements of individual pupils by teachers, parents and the pupils themselves. In addition to advice given by schools, officers of Careers Wales will also provide advice. The School meets the costs of approved examination entries.

6.5 Welsh Medium & Welsh Language Education

6.5.1 In accordance with Welsh Governments provisions on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) and the regulations made under it, each local authority in Wales has prepared a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan outlining its commitment to improving the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh and improving the standards of Welsh medium education and the teaching of Welsh. The LA's WESP commits to ensuring that every child in Rhondda Cynon Taf has the opportunity to learn and use the Welsh language effectively, regardless of the language spoken at home. Welsh medium education can provide additional opportunities, experiences and skills for your child(ren).

6.5.2 Welsh medium education differs from the teaching of the Welsh language itself as an academic subject. Welsh as a subject is taught as a first language in Welsh medium schools. In the majority of English medium schools, Welsh is taught as a second language. Welsh is a mandatory requirement of the Curriculum for Wales. The Welsh language belongs to everyone and is one of the treasures of Wales, it is part of what defines us as people and as a nation. The ambition is that everyone learning in a school or setting in Wales is supported to enjoy using Welsh, to make continuous progress in learning Welsh and to have the confidence and language skills so they can choose to use Welsh beyond the classroom.

6.5.3 Currently provision is made for this in the following ways, in line with the LA Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

a) Education is available at Welsh Medium Primary Schools to all pupils whose parents select that medium of education. Although the main medium of instruction is Welsh, from Year 3, pupils also study English to the appropriate level as part of the Curriculum for Wales AOLE – Language, Literacy and Communication, in line with English medium primary schools.

b) Pupils will be able to continue their education at a Welsh Medium Comprehensive School. In English Medium Schools, Welsh is taught as a second language.

The teaching of Welsh as a second language in English Medium Schools.

a) In Nursery to Year 2, Welsh is taught to all pupils. The emphasis is on using the language with purpose and in meaningful situations. In addition, the incidental use of the language during the school day is encouraged.

b) In Years 3-6, the language is further developed orally and more attention is given to teaching, reading and writing skills.

c) In Years 7-11, Welsh is taught to all pupils. Opportunities are provided in all schools for pupils to continue their studies for both 16+ and "A" level examinations.

6.5.4 **Benefits of a Welsh Medium Education**

There are many benefits to being bilingual and receiving education through the medium of Welsh. The benefits continue into adulthood as speaking more than one language is an additional skill and employers in Wales need bilingual workforces to offer and deliver services bilingually.

The majority of parents/carers in Rhondda Cynon Taf who send their children to Welsh medium schools are English speaking, our schools are used to this approach and offer fantastic support. Our Being Bilingual booklet goes into further details on the benefits of Welsh Medium Education and also has a section on FAQ for parents/carers whose predominant language is English.

Take a look at our Being Bilingual booklet which is available here:
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/BeingBilingual

YSGOL
AFON WEN

7.1 Associated Primary / Secondary Schools

Please note that being a registered pupil at an associated primary school does not guarantee or entitle your child to a place at a particular secondary school.

1. Aberdare Community School

Abernant Primary
Aberdare Park Primary
Blaengwawr Primary
Capcoch Primary
Caradog Primary
Cwmaman Primary
Cwmbach Primary
Cwmdar Primary
Hirwaun Primary
Llwydcoed Primary
Oaklands Primary
Penywaun Primary

2. Bryncelynnog Comprehensive

Gwauncelyn Primary
Gwaunmeisgyn Primary
Llanilltud Faerdref Primary
Llantrisant Primary
Llwyncrwn Primary
Maesybryn Primary
Penygawsi Primary

3. Ferndale Community School

Darran Park Primary
Maerdy Community Primary
Penrhys Primary
Tylorstown Primary
Pontygwaith Primary

4. Ysgol Afon Wen

Ffynnon Taf Primary
Parclewis Primary

5. Mountain Ash Comprehensive

Abercynon Primary
Caegarw Primary
Darrenlas Primary
Glenboi Primary
Miskin Primary
Pengeulan Primary
Penrhiwceiber Primary
Perthcelyn Community Primary
Ynysboeth Primary

6. Ysgol Bro Taf

Ysgol Gynradd Glyn-coch
Coedpenmaen Primary
Coedylan Primary
Maesycoed Primary
Trallwng Infants
Trehopcyn Primary
Trerobart Primary

7. Porth Community School

Alaw Primary
Cymmer Primary
Hafod Primary
Trealaw Primary
Ynyshir Primary

8. Ysgol Nant Gwyn

Cwmclydach Primary
Llwynypia Primary
Pontrhondda Primary
Williamstown Primary

9. Tonyrefail Community School

Cwmlai Primary School
Hendreforgan Primary
Tref Yr Rhyg Primary

10. Treorchy Comprehensive

Bodringallt Primary
Gelli Primary
Parc Primary
Penpych Community Primary
Penyrenglyn Community Primary
Ton Pentre Infants
Ton Pentre Junior
Treorchy Primary

11. Y Pant Comprehensive

Brynnau Primary
Dolau Primary (English Unit)
Llanhari Primary
Llanharan Primary
Pontyclun Primary
Tonysguboriau Primary

12. Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bodringallt
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bronllwyn
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-Forwyn
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen

13. Ysgol Garth Olwg

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castellau
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Evan James
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf

14. Ysgol Llanhari

Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Gymraeg Llantrisant
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail
Dolau Primary (Welsh Unit)

15. Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun

Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Penderyn

16. Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive

Our Ladys R.C. Primary
Ss Gabriel & Raphael R.C. Primary
St. Michael's R.C. Primary

17. St. John Baptist C.I.W. High

Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary
Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary
Cross Border Arrangement
(see page 35)

18. Pencoed Comprehensive – Bridgend

Brynnau Primary
Dolau Primary
Llanharan Primary

19. Blessed Carlo Acutis Catholic School – Merthyr Tydfil

St. Margaret's R.C. Primary

8. Additional Learning Needs

Rhondda Cynon Taf Education Authority Provision for Additional Learning Needs

8.1 The Policy

It is the Authority's policy that all children, as far as is possible within the terms of the Education Act 1996 (amended by the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the Additional Learning Needs and Educational Tribunal Act 2018) should be educated in mainstream Welsh, English and dual language schools within their local communities. The Additional Learning Needs Code 2021 provides statutory advice to professionals regarding their roles and responsibilities and further guidance is provided within the Equality Act 2010. Within the context of this statement of policy, the Authority is committed to the following general principles for children with additional learning needs.

- A commitment to the principle of inclusion in so far as it is compatible with the child receiving any additional learning provision required, the provision of efficient education for the other children with whom the child is to be educated and the efficient use of resources.
- The additional learning needs of children, including those of pre-school age, will be identified, recorded, assessed and met as early as possible and will be reviewed regularly.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to participate in the process of the identification and assessment of their child's additional learning needs. Decisions regarding additional learning provision will take a person centred approach and take into account where possible, the child's own views. The collaborative approach to making provision for additional learning needs includes guidance to the parents/carers of children with additional learning needs about their statutory rights, the drafting of parent/carer representation and ways in which they can work in partnership with their child's school.
- The provision of quality educational opportunities for all children and young people and the recognition of their entitlement to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. The principle will apply regardless of gender, race, additional learning needs or disability.
- An acknowledgement that a child may, at any time, have educational needs that will require specialist provision.
- The maintenance of a flexible continuum of provision designed to meet the additional learning needs of individual pupils. The majority of children with additional learning needs will have their needs met in their local school from the school's resources. However, it is also recognised that there are children whose needs will require additional resources.
- The maintenance of a range of central support services to assist with assessment and advise on provision for children with additional learning needs.
- The importance of effective liaison with agencies, both statutory and voluntary, is recognised in determining the nature of a child's additional learning needs and the provision necessary to respond to those needs by working in partnership.
- Recognition of the duty on the Authority in its strategic planning role, to monitor and review regularly its arrangements for ensuring effective additional learning provision within the County Borough. Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council has a service for identifying the additional learning needs of any learners, as fully and promptly as possible.
- Any additional support identified is provided without undue delay. The quality of the provision and the deployment of specialist staff across the County Borough is reviewed regularly.
- The provision of guidance, support and training for Governors, Head Teachers, Additional Learning Need Co-ordinators (ALNCo) and staff in relation to their duties and responsibilities for children with additional learning needs.

The progress of each child with additional learning needs is closely monitored and reviewed at least annually.

8.2 Specialist Educational Placements

The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal Act 2018 clearly states that most pupils with additional learning needs should receive appropriate and inclusive additional learning provision within their local mainstream Welsh, English or dual language school. However, children with significant and very complex learning difficulties may be offered placement in a Learning Support Class within a mainstream school or in a special school.

Children with significant and highly complex social, emotional and behavioural difficulties may receive their education via RCT's EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) Provision.

Decisions regarding specialist placements are made by the Access and Inclusion Service following consultation with parents, schools, health professionals and other relevant support services.

8.3 Advice

If parents/carers feel that their child may have additional learning needs they should, in the first instance, arrange to discuss their child's difficulties with the Head Teacher of the child's current school.

Further information, concerning additional learning needs and the provision available in the County Borough, for meeting additional learning needs can be accessed via the www.rctcbc.gov.uk website or by contacting the Access and Inclusion Service at:

The Valleys Innovation Centre
☎ 01443 744344

Professional advice can also be obtained from all teams within the Access and Inclusion Service which includes:

Access and Inclusion
☎ 01443 744333

Additional Learning Needs Administrative Service
☎ 01443 744344

We welcome correspondence in Welsh.

9. Provision of Home to School/College Transport

Learner Travel Policy, Information and Arrangements

The Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 requires Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (the Council) to make available information about their policies and the arrangements that are put in place for transporting learners.

In doing so, the Council's Learner Travel Policy, Information and Arrangements contain guidance designed to inform parents, carers, and learners on how the policy is practically implemented and ensure that it is applied consistently and equitably across the County Borough.

Parents have a legal duty and a responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to ensure that their child of compulsory school age attends school regularly. For most parents, this means making arrangements for their child to travel to and from school.

It is for people with parental responsibility to make suitable arrangements to ensure that their child is accompanied on walking routes to school/college, if it is considered by the parents that the child's age, ability and levels of understanding make this necessary. The Council will therefore not provide transport solely because parents have not made such arrangements. In the event that parents are working or otherwise unavailable at the time their child travels to and from school/college it remains the parents' responsibility to make arrangements to ensure that their child attends school/college.

Any decisions made by Council Officers regarding entitlement will be based on this document and, subject to compliance with the information contained within, will be considered to be final.

9.1 Statutory Provision of Free Transport

There is a statutory duty placed upon the Council to:

- **Assess the travel needs of learners in its area;**
- **Provide free home to school transport for learners of compulsory school age attending primary school who live 2 miles or further from their nearest suitable school;**
- **Provide free home to school transport for learners of compulsory school age attending secondary school who live 3 miles or further from their nearest suitable school;**
- **Assess and meet the needs of children "looked after" in its area;**
- **Promote access to Welsh medium education;**
- **Promote sustainable modes of travel.**

To meet this duty, the Council provides learners with free transport to their nearest suitable school if they reside beyond safe "walking distance" to that school. The term nearest suitable school applies to the catchment area or nearest Welsh, English, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class, as appropriate.

The law relating to safe "walking distance" is defined as two miles for learners of compulsory school age receiving primary education and three miles for learners of compulsory school age receiving secondary education.

9.2 Discretionary Provision of Free Transport

Beyond the statutory minimum, the Council has determined that when assessing entitlement on the basis of safe "walking distance", to use the discretionary powers afforded to it under the provisions of the Measure to make a more generous provision to learners.

The term nearest suitable school applies to the catchment area or nearest Welsh, English, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate. This does not apply to learners who do not have a continuous history of attending a voluntary aided (faith) school of a particular religious denomination.

- **Primary Learners (Nursery to Year 6)**
  The eligibility criterion for walking distance for learners receiving compulsory primary education at their nearest suitable school has been set at 1.5 miles, instead of 2 miles as required by the Measure.

  Free transport to their nearest suitable school, where places are available, is provided to learners who meet the 1.5 mile eligibility criterion from the start of the Foundation Phase (the start of the school term after their third birthday), rather than from the start of compulsory education (the start of the school term after their fifth birthday) as required by the Measure.

- **Secondary Learners (Years 7 to 11)**
  From September 2025 the eligibility criterion for walking distance for learners receiving compulsory secondary education, at their nearest suitable school, has been set at 3 miles, in line with the Welsh Government statutory distance criteria.

- **Post 16 Learners**
  From September 2025 free transport is provided to post 16 learners who meet the 3 mile eligibility criterion for two years after the end of compulsory education, rather than until the end of compulsory education (the last Friday in June of the school year in which a learner reaches the age of 16), as required by the Measure. This provision applies to full time attendance at the nearest suitable school or college to the learner's home at which the approved course of study that they wish to pursue is offered. Further information in relation to post 16 learners can be found in section 9.15.

- **Learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**
  Free transport for learners with additional learning needs/disabilities receiving education at their catchment or nearest suitable special school, pupil referral unit or learning support class is provided if they meet the distance criteria outlined below:

  - Primary aged learners (including Foundation Phase) who have been offered a placement will receive free transport, if they live 1.5 miles or more from the school placement, instead of 2 miles as required by the Measure;
  - Secondary aged learners (including Post 16 learners who attend special schools/colleges) who have been offered a placement will receive free transport if they live 2 miles or more from the school or college placement, instead of 3 miles as required by the Measure;
  - The discretionary elements of the Council's policy are subject to review and may be discontinued. Any proposed changes will be subject to consultation with learners and parents/carers and, if taken forward by the Council, will usually apply from the start of a school year and will have regard to the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance - June 2014 or its replacement.

9.3 Transport Provision

Learners eligible to receive free school transport do not need to apply and will be notified of their entitlement by the Integrated Transport Unit. Learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will be notified of their entitlement by Education and Inclusion Services.

The provision of free school transport (as set out above) will be arranged to coincide with the start and end of the normal school day only, not at lunchtimes and shall be provided during the school term time.

It is not provided for medical appointments, collection from school or college due to illness, detention requirements, part time timetables, or examinations.

Where the Council has arranged for a learner to attend an out of county residential school, transport will only be provided at the start and end of each half term.

Transport will normally be provided from pick up points at approved bus stops on the nearest public transport route to the learner's home. Transport will not be provided to alternative addresses to suit parent's work or other commitments. Where a learner has to walk an unreasonably long distance to the bus stop, special transport arrangements may be made. For learners with ALN, transport is usually provided to and from the home address, with every effort being made to collect / drop off at the kerbside. It is for parents/carers to take / meet their child(ren) to / from the vehicle. Transport will not be provided onto un-adopted roads, private land, or farm access tracks.

It will not always be possible to arrange the routes for our contracted vehicles to pass close to the home of a learner. In such circumstances, it may be necessary for parents or carers to make arrangements for the learner to reach the nearest available pick-up point on the contracted route allocated to them. Every effort will be made to keep the distance from a learner's house to the pick-up point as short as possible and will normally not exceed one mile.

It is the intention of the Council to provide a system of transportation that will seek to carry learners safely, comfortably and without unreasonable levels of stress.

9.4 Children Looked After

The same age and distance criteria apply to children 'looked after' (CLA) as to children who are not looked after. If the Council determines that a child looked after should attend a school other than the nearest suitable school then transport will be provided, upon request by the child's social worker, and authorised by the appropriate Social Work Team Manager.

This will be done in accordance with the Council's agreed policy on walking distance and safe routes (as set out above). Local authorities who place CLA learners in Rhondda Cynon Taf are responsible for funding the travel arrangements.

9.5 Parental Preference

Where parents/carers choose to place their child(ren) in a school other than the local catchment area school (Welsh, English, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate) then those parents/carers are totally liable to organise and pay for the cost of transport to the chosen school, unless that school is nearer to the learner's home than the designated catchment school.

9.6 Cross Border Arrangements

Transport may be provided to eligible learners attending courses of study outside the County Borough where such attendance is consistent with it being the nearest suitable school rather than the designated catchment school.

9.7 Over-Subscribed Schools

If a learner cannot be admitted to the nearest suitable school (the catchment area Welsh, English, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate) and, as a result, has to attend another school beyond the walking distance from their home then transport will be provided to the next nearest suitable school. In such circumstances consideration will be given to transporting siblings to the same school.

9.8 Protected Provision – Catchment Area Variations

Where the Council decides to vary the catchment area for a school (Welsh, English, dual language or voluntary aided (faith) mainstream school or special school/class as appropriate), existing transport arrangements will be protected for the learners living in the areas affected for the duration of their attendance at the school or until they reach the end of that phase. In exceptional circumstances, consideration may be given to transporting siblings to the same school.

9.9 Special Arrangements - Hazardous Routes

The criterion used to determine the eligibility to receive free school transport is based on safe walking distance, measured by the shortest, available walking route. A route is considered to be available if it is safe for a learner to walk alone or, if appropriate for the age of the learner, accompanied by an appropriate adult. It is recognised that occasions will arise when routes may become hazardous. In these circumstances, the Council reserves the right to provide free school transport over distances below the discretionary limits, if this is recommended by appropriate officers in the interests of the safety of the relevant learners.

In determining the comparative safety of a walking route, the Council will conduct an assessment of the risks that escorting parents/carers and learners might encounter along the route between home and school. The assessment of a route will take place at the time of the day and on the days of the week that learners would be expected to use the route. It will take a road safety perspective and follow the Welsh Government Statutory Guidance on Risk Assessing Walked Routes to School.

In accordance with the Learner Travel Operational Guidance, all routes are assessed on the assumption that pupils are accompanied as necessary by a responsible person, but it is for a parent to decide whether or not a child needs supervision on their journey, and this is for the parent/carer to arrange if they are unable to do it themselves.

As a matter of policy, routes that have been determined unavailable may be reviewed and discretionary provision may be withdrawn where the identified hazard has been mitigated and the route identified as available to walk in safety. Parents/carers will be given at least one term advance notice of the withdrawal of such discretionary transport.

9.10 Children with Additional Learning Needs/Disabilities

A learner's catchment or nearest special school, pupil referral unit or learning support class is determined by Education and Inclusion Services, with transport only provided upon this determination.

Applications for transport on distance grounds must be made once a school place is confirmed by the Council's Access and Inclusion ALN Panel. Details are available from the Council's website at **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport**

If parents/carers decline an offer of a placement at their catchment or nearest special school, pupil referral unit or learning support class, then those parents/carers are totally liable to organise and pay for the cost of transport to the chosen establishment.

Learners with disabilities (as defined by the Equality Act 2010) may be entitled to assistance with transport from home to an appropriate school/college even though the Council's agreed criteria on safe walking distance (as set out above) are not met. Applications must be supported by appropriate medical evidence. Assistance may include transport from after school provision. Such provision is subject to referral to, and approval by, the Council's Access and Inclusion ALN or Gatekeeping Panels. Any such referrals must be supported by appropriate evidence, as detailed in section 9.12 and each case will be considered on the basis of individual needs.basis of individual needs.

9.11 Dual Residency

Only permanent established living arrangements are considered e.g. a learner who stays two nights of every school week with one person with parental responsibility and three nights of every school week with the other, or alternate weeks with each parent. Such arrangements do not apply where a learner spends weekends with a different parent from where the learner lives during the school week. The nights of the school week are Sunday evening/Monday morning to Thursday evening/Friday morning inclusive.

Transport from/to the second home address is only provided where the learner meets the eligibility criteria specified in section 9.2.

9.12 Transport on Medical Grounds

Free transport to and from a learners nearest suitable school/college may be provided on medical grounds where a learner's medical needs affect their ability to travel to and from school/college, accompanied as necessary by a responsible adult.

It is for people with parental responsibility to make suitable arrangements to ensure that their child is accompanied on walking routes to school/college, if it is considered by the parents that the child's age, ability and levels of understanding make this necessary. The Council will therefore not provide transport solely because parents have not made such arrangements. In the event that parents are working or otherwise unavailable at the time their child travels to and from school/college it remains the parents' responsibility to make arrangements to ensure that their child attends school/college.

Applications must include written primary evidence based on a medical professional's knowledge of the condition and circumstances and will be accepted from any of the following registered health professionals: Specialist consultants, Paediatricians, Clinical psychologists, Psychiatrists, Occupational Therapists, and General Practitioners. All evidence must be dated within 6 months of the application.

Letters or reports from schools/colleges and/or Social Care Professionals are accepted as supporting evidence only.

Each application must specify:

- **The nature of the medical need;**
- **The reason that this impacts on travel to school;**
- **The extent of the impact e.g. expected duration.**

Transport may not be in the form of a dedicated vehicle from the house address, where a reasonable adjustment to the Council's normal practices can be made, in order to accommodate the learner's specific needs e.g. the allocation of a seat on a nearby contracted school or public service bus.

Each case will be considered on its own merits and will be on the evidence supplied by the medical professional and subject to confirmation by the Council's Medical Transport Gatekeeping Panel. Where agreed, this provision will be subject to a regular review.

9.13 Transport to Welsh Medium and Dual Language Schools

There is no statutory requirement to provide transport to Welsh medium and dual language schools. The Council's current policy is that learners attending the nearest Welsh medium or dual language school receive free transport in accordance with the Council's agreed policy on walking distance and safe routes (as set out above).

9.14 Transport to Voluntary Aided (Faith) Schools

There is no statutory requirement to provide transport to voluntary aided (faith) schools. The Council 's current policy is that learners attending the nearest voluntary aided school of the parent/carers denomination receive free transport, in accordance with the Council's agreed discretionary policy on walking distance and safe routes (as set out above).

This does not apply to learners who do not have a continuous history of attending a voluntary aided (faith) school of a particular religious denomination.

9.15 Provision for Learners Aged 16 to 19

There is no statutory requirement to provide transport for post 16 learners. The Council's policy is that post 16 learners, who meet the 3 mile eligibility criterion (as set out above) will only be eligible for free transport to the nearest suitable school/college/campus at which the approved 16 to 19 study courses are available. If the same courses are available in a number of schools / campuses, free transport is only provided to the nearest.

This transport policy covers school sixth form and college full time further education courses approved by Qualifications Wales and does not extend to higher education courses funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

No transport will be provided for mainstream learners beyond the second academic year after the end of compulsory education. In exceptional circumstances, transport may be provided until the end of the academic year in which a learner attains their 19th birthday. Travel arrangements in respect of any subsequent attendance are the responsibility of the learner.

- **Learners attending Mainstream School 6th Form**
  Learners who meet the criteria outlined, and wish to continue their studies at their current school after year 11, (GCSE or equivalent) need to take no further action. Where a learner is to attend a different school to access post 16 education, because there is no post 16 provision at their current school, the new school will co-ordinate such transport requests and will make the Integrated Transport Unit aware of their enrolment. This will enable entitlement to free transport to be assessed in accordance with the policy.
- **Learners attending College**
  Learners who wish to pursue a college course are required to complete an online transport application available at **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport**

Transport to voluntary aided (faith) schools/colleges will only be provided to post 16 learners who have a continuous history of attending a voluntary aided (faith) school of a particular religious denomination, unless the approved 16 to 19 study courses are not available at a nearer establishment.

In accordance with the Council's agreed discretionary policy on walking distance and safe routes (as set out above), transport provision may be made for learners pursuing approved full time educational programmes at Bridgend College, Cardiff and Vale College, The College Merthyr Tydfil, Neath Port Talbot College, Coleg Y Cymoedd (Ystrad Mynach), Futsal (Cardiff) and St David's Catholic Sixth Form College (Cardiff).

Details of the approved educational programmes are available from the;

School Improvement Team
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Education and Inclusion Services,
Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon CF45 4SN.

Post 16 learners may be eligible for the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA), funded by Welsh Government and administered on their behalf by Student Finance Wales. The EMA is intended to support post 16 learners to access post 16 education. Details to determine eligibility for EMA are available from the Student Finance Wales website at **www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/fe/ema**

Bus passes are issued for all eligible learners. Where learners are allocated to the local public bus network app-based electronic tickets are provided. Physical tickets are only provided in exceptional circumstances and upon request.

Where learners do not take up an offer of, or withdraw from, a school sixth form or college further education course, passes should be returned to the Integrated Transport Unit. Failure to do so will result in the cost of transport being reclaimed.

Information about public transport services is available from the Traveline Cymru website at **www.traveline.cymru**

9.16 Provision for Learners Aged 16 to 19 with Additional Learning Needs

The Council's current policy for post 16 learners with additional learning needs is that free transport is provided to those whose home address is 2 miles or more from the nearest available special school / class / college, at which the approved timetabled courses are studied, until the end of the academic year in which they attain their 19th birthday. Travel arrangements in respect of any subsequent attendance are at the discretion of the learning provider. Please contact Student Services at the college to confirm transport arrangements before enrolling into college.

No provision will be made by the Council for learners with additional learning needs following the academic year that any such learner attains their 19th birthday. Where the course continues into subsequent years, the learner will be entirely responsible for arranging and funding their transport needs for continued attendance.

9.17 Travel Training

Travel training is provided by the Council's Integrated Transport Unit (ITU) to learners to allow them to walk to school or college or travel independently on contracted or local public transport.

Travel training is provided free of charge on a 1 to 1 basis or as part of a group to learners. Training provides road safety awareness and knowledge of how to travel to school or college, either by walking or on contracted or public transport. The necessary support is given to undertake journeys independently, and may include the use of bus passes, timetables, and money where appropriate.

Successful travel training also offers the opportunity to develop a set of essential skills which promotes independence for further education, employment, social and leisure opportunities in the future. To be successful, travel training requires parents/carers to be supportive and engage with the travel training programme.

Taxis are provided for learners with ALN under exceptional circumstances only, on receipt of appropriate supporting medical evidence (see section 9.12) or if agreed by the Post 16 ALN Group. Failure to engage and participate with travel training will result in school or college transport being withdrawn.

For further details of the travel training programme please refer to
www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport

9.18 Eligibility and Mileage Assessment

There is no means testing to assess whether or not a learner is eligible for the provision of transport. The only eligibility criteria are the qualifying distances, as set out above, from home to the nearest open school/college gate (as set out above). Learners are assessed in accordance with these eligibility criteria and eligible learners or their parents/carers are notified of the arrangements in advance of the provision commencing.

The measurement undertaken by the Council will be the final and definitive distance and will be used to assess transport eligibility. When measuring walking routes, the Council uses MapInfo Professional which calculates route measurements using Government standard Ordnance Survey data. This determines address points by using 6 digit geo-codes, which are accurate to 1m and is generally accepted to be the most accurate data available. Distances calculated by driving routes, online routing software, electronic GPS tracking/measuring devices, or any other type of measuring device, are not accepted as evidence of eligibility.

In order to determine transport eligibility, and/or the nearest suitable school/college, it is for the Council to determine the most appropriate route against which to undertake a comparative measurement. This may be via paths, roads or by a combination of routes. Private driveways or un-adopted roads that are not maintained by the Council are not included in such measurements. Where it is found that the Council has provided free transport in error, the parent or carer will be informed of this, with notice given that transport will be withdrawn at the end of the school term.

The Council takes any attempt to gain an advantage by giving false information very seriously, and will investigate fraudulent claims. If school/college transport is offered and it is then discovered that the offer was made on fraudulent or misleading information e.g. a false claim to living at an address or having an incorrect date of birth, incorrect course, that offer will be withdrawn and the cost of transport will be reclaimed. This could cause considerable distress, particularly for the learner involved.

The Council will process the information provided by parents/carers in accordance with the Data Protection legislation. Any personal information will be held in confidence, with only the necessary people able to see or use it. The information provided may be given to any organisation, including other Council departments, legitimately investigating allegations of fraud, other criminal offences or child protection. In addition, it may also be cross-checked and verified against information held by other Council departments. For further information please refer to the Corporate Privacy Notice and the Transportation Service Privacy notice on the Council's website at **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/DataProtection**

9.19 Bus Passes

Bus passes are issued to all entitled secondary school learners at the start of year 7. They remain valid for the duration of their time at their mainstream secondary school. College students are issued with passes at the start of their course and will be valid for one academic year only. If a student leaves college before the end of the academic year, the pass is to be returned, otherwise the cost of the pass will be recovered. If a college student returns for a second year, they must re-apply for a bus pass.

Bus passes for use on contracted services are colour coded to correspond with the coloured sign, which is located at the front of each school/college bus. The Council applies a no pass no travel policy. Learners are expected to produce their passes for inspection by the driver on every journey undertaken. No exception is made and parents/carers must ensure that learners do not leave home without a valid bus pass. Lost passes can be replaced at a nominal cost, with the charge being reviewed annually. Details are available on the Council's website at **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport**

Learners who share their pass or provide their pass to another learner for it to be copied will be suspended from travelling. In the case of such learners who had been issued with bus passes for use on the local public transport network, action may also be taken by the bus operator, which might involve the Police.

All issues relating to the operation of the no pass no travel policy, either by the operators or the schools/colleges, must be taken up with the Council's Integrated Transport Unit. Do not approach the driver or contact the transport operator.

Primary school learners are not issued with a bus pass. Their eligibility to travel is checked from a list as they board the bus.

Bus passes for eligible learners that are allocated to the local public bus network are provided with app-based electronic tickets. Physical tickets are only provided in exceptional circumstances and upon request.

9.20 Mode of Transport

In all cases, the efficient use of resources will dictate the mode of transport provided (subject to any additional needs requirements). Transport may be provided by means of contracted school/college transport services or existing public transport services which, together with the size and type of transport (bus, minibus, train, taxi, etc.) will be dictated by cost effectiveness.

In exceptional cases, learner or parental reimbursement will be offered where this is the most cost-effective method of providing transport. The provisions of Section 88 of the Transport Act 1985 place a duty on the Council to secure, in the interests of its residents, the best value for money from expenditure on public passenger transport as a whole. The Council will therefore be mindful of its duty to provide socially necessary (public transport) bus or train services when arranging transport provision for learners.

9.21 Journey Times

The Council does not specify a time limit for journeys. However, journey times should be reasonable, taking into account the age and individual needs of the learners, and the nature, purpose and circumstances of each journey. Where parents/carers express preferences for their children to attend Welsh/dual language schools or voluntary aided (faith) schools/colleges that are some distance away from their homes, journeys may generally be longer. This will also apply to some ALN journeys.

9.22 Change of Family Home - Transport Arrangements

Learners in receipt of free transport whose families move to an address outside the local area of the school/college, to which transport has been provided, will be assessed in accordance with the eligibility criteria.

Families need to be mindful of this fact when they are considering moving home, especially in the years when learners have commenced formal examination courses (years 10 and 11 for GCSE or equivalent and years 12 and 13 for AS and A level or equivalent).

9.23 Monitoring

All vehicles will be available for random checks by DVSA or other appropriate body, when required. Any complaints received by the Council concerning services or vehicles will be immediately investigated. In the event of the complaint being upheld, the necessary and appropriate steps will be taken in accordance with the contract or as a matter of urgency. The Council will undertake random checks on contracts, to ensure that the contracts are being operated in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract. As part of the monitoring exercise, checks will be made to include; punctuality, adherence to route, size of vehicle, licences, use of DBS cleared staff and the checking of bus passes, all of which are designed to ensure safe and stress free travel.

9.24 The Travel Behaviour Code – Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

The Welsh Government has introduced an initiative called “The Travel Behaviour Code” to promote safe travel for all children and young people, by setting out the standards of behaviour required when travelling between home and school/college. The Code encourages schools/colleges and the Council to work proactively with learners, their parents/carers and the community to promote positive behaviour. It is compulsory to wear a seat belt on dedicated mainstream school/college transport. Parents/carers are requested to emphasise the importance of wearing a seat belt to their child(ren). If learners misbehave whilst travelling on school/college transport and do not follow the Travel Behaviour Code, action may be taken and the right to transport may be removed for a specified period depending on the severity of the incident. Vehicles used for school/college transport may be fitted with CCTV. The footage is confidential but may be used in evidence in cases of misconduct or misbehaviour. Any damage to the vehicle caused by a learner could result in the operator taking criminal proceedings against the learner and seeking to obtain reimbursement to cover the cost of repairs.

9.25 Work Experience

Where, as part of a course of study, learners follow a work experience placement they are required to make their own transport arrangements. No provision will be made by the Council.

9.26 Availability and Accessibility of this Policy Statement

The Learner Travel Information (Wales) Regulations 2009 require the Council to publish and make available its learner travel policy, information and travel arrangements to learners, and their parents/carers, prior to admission to school or college, and on request. Copies must also be provided for their reference at the Council's offices, as well as schools, colleges and libraries within Rhondda Cynon Taf. It is also published on the Council's web site at **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport**

9.27 Feedback

The Council is committed to using any feedback received to improve service quality. We welcome correspondence in Welsh. If you have any comments on the content of this document, please contact:

Integrated Transport Unit
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, Frontline Services
Tŷ Glantaf, Unit B23, Taffs Fall Road, Treforest Industrial Estate
Pontypridd CF37 5TT

☎ **01443 425001**

✉ **hometoschooltransport@rctcbc.gov.uk**

✉ **alntransport@rctcbc.gov.uk**
✉ **collegetransport@rctcbc.gov.uk**

9.28 Further Information for Learners Seeking Transport Support

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions and details of contracted bus routes and pick up points can be found on the Council's website at; **www.rctcbc.gov.uk/schoolandcollegetransport**

Contacts

Coleg y Cymoedd Student Services
☎ 01443 662800
https://www.cymoedd.ac.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taf
Education and Inclusion Services
School Admissions:
☎ 01443 281111
✉ schooladmissions@rctcbc.gov.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taf Prosperity
Development and Frontline Services
Integrated Transport Unit:
☎ 01443 425001
✉ hometoschooltransport@rctcbc.gov.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taf
Public Health, Protection
& Community Services
Youth Engagement and Participation Team (YEPS):
☎ 01443 744000

Other Sources of Information:

Careers Wales
https://careerswales.gov.wales/

Individual School / College Prospectuses

Traveline Cymru
Information about public transport
☎ 0800 464 0000
www.traveline.cymru

Welsh Government
- Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008
- Learner Travel Statutory Provision and OperationalGuidance - June 2014

mytravelpass
16 to 21 year olds save approximately 30% off bus travel
www.mytravelpass.gov.wales

The Travel Code

10. Admissions Policies: Voluntary Aided and Controlled (Church) Schools

Background

Within Rhondda Cynon Taf there are 8 voluntary aided (Church) schools which are financed largely by the LA but which are organised and run by either the Church in Wales or Roman Catholic (R.C.) Diocesan Education Authority in partnership with the Authority.

These are:

- **Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary**
- **Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary**
- **Our Lady's R.C. Primary**
- **Ss Gabriel and Raphael R.C. Primary**
- **St. Margaret's R.C. Primary**
- **St. Michael's R.C. Primary**
- **Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive**
- **St. John Baptist (Church in Wales) High School**

The admission arrangements for these schools have been formulated by the schools governing bodies in consultation with the Authority. Requests for admission to these schools are the responsibility of the relevant governing body. Details of the admissions policies for these schools are given below.

Appeals

Appeals against decisions in respect of admission(s) to Voluntary Aided (Church) Schools must be made directly to the governing body of the school concerned. This may be done by addressing the letter of appeal to the Clerk to the governing body and forwarding it to the school.

10.1 Primary Schools Policies

Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School

Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School is an English medium, voluntary aided primary co-educational Church in Wales Primary School.

Admissions Policy

Parents and carers should be aware that religious education and worship takes place according to the denominational teaching and practice of the Church in Wales. Parents wishing to enrol a child at Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School are welcome to visit before making any formal application; such parents are invited to telephone school beforehand, to make an appointment for the visit. The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taf and there is a requirement that parents with children in Nursery and Year 6 complete applications for Reception and Year 7 via the local authority online portal. For Nursery admissions please request an admission form directly from the school as part of the process for applying for a place. The information will be kept on a waiting list until the child is eligible for admission. This will not give an automatic entitlement to a place. In the event of not enough places being available the following criteria are applied in all cases:

Oversubscription criteria:

Where the number of applicants for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded under categories below in the following order of priority.

1. **Children Looked After (in the care of the Local Authority)**
2. **Children from Church in Wales families (Confirmation will be sought of Parish Clergy as to the extent of the Church connection)**
3. **Other children who attend other Christian Churches**
4. **Children will siblings (brothers or sisters) already attending the School. (This would include half and adoptive brothers or sisters)**
5. **Other children whose families wish their child to be educated in a Church in Wales School**

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the setting of tests, inspection of school reports, or interviews of pupils (with or without parents) for the purpose of assessing the ability or aptitude; but may be directed to Church commitment.

In the event that there are excessive demands for places from “Church” pupils resident in parishes other than Aberdare, available places will be allocated to those living nearest to the school. The closest distance, in this instance , being that between home and the school measured by the shortest, safest walking route.

Appeals Procedure

Families whose application to the school has been unsuccessful have the right to appeal. When an application is refused, and the matter cannot be resolved informally, the right of appeal will exist to a specially constituted Appeals Committee. Arrangements will then be made for an independent panel to consider the appeal. The Llandaff Diocesan Board of Education, according to the Welsh Government’s Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals, administers this.

Enquires relating specifically to the admissions process at Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School should initially be made of the Headteacher (who may refer to the Chair of Governors).

Headteacher:	**Mrs Catrin Walters** **Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School, Wind Street, Aberdare, CF447HF**
Chair of Govering Body:	**Mrs Zoe Lummis** **c/o Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary School**

Cwmbach Church In Wales Primary School

Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary is a voluntary aided school in the village of Cwmbach on the outskirts of Aberdare. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to individual pupils needs which enable all children to achieve their maximum potential. We also strive to ensure all pupil's develop an enthusiasm for, and a love for learning.

Admission Procedures

Parents and carers should be aware that religious education and worship takes place according to the denominational teaching and practice of the Church in Wales. Parents wishing to enrol a child at Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School are welcome to visit before making any formal application; such parents are invited to telephone beforehand, to make an appointment for the visit. The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taf and there is a requirement that parents with children in Nursery and Year 6 complete applications for Reception and Year 7 via the local authority online portal. For Nursery admissions please request an admission form directly from the school as part of the process for applying for a place. The information will be kept on a waiting list until the child is eligible for admission. This will not give an automatic entitlement to a place. In the event of not enough places being available the following criteria are applied in all cases:

Oversubscription Criteria:

Where the number of applicants for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded under categories below in the following order of priority.

1. **Children Looked After (in the care of the Local Authority)**
2. **Children from Church in Wales families (Confirmation will be sought of Parish Clergy as to the extent of the Church connection)**
3. **Other children who attend other Christian Churches**
4. **Children will siblings (brothers or sisters) already attending the School. (This would include half and adoptive brothers or sisters)**
5. **Other children whose families wish their child to be educated in a Church in Wales School**

Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the setting of tests, inspection of school reports, or interviews of pupils (with or without parents) for the purpose of asessing the ability or aptitude; but may be directed to Church commitment.

In the event that there are excessive demands for places from "Church" pupil's resident in parishes other than Aberdare, available places will be allocated to those living nearest to the school. The closest distance, in this instance, being that between home and the school measured by the shortest, safest walking route.

Appeals Procedure

Families whose application to the school has been unsuccessful have the right to appeal. When an application is refused, and the matter cannot be resolved informally, the right of appeal will exist to a specially constituted Appeals Committee. Arrangements will then be made for an independent panel to consider the appeal. The LLandaff Dioceasn Board of Education, according to the Welsh Government's Code of Practice on School Admission Appeals, administers this.

Enquires relating specifically to the admissions process at Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School should initially be made of the Headteacher (who may refer to the Chair of Governors).

Headteacher: Miss Rhian Shellard
Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School, Aberdare, CF440AT

Chair of Governing Body: Mr Jason Toghill
c/o Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary School

St. Margaret's Roman Catholic Primary School

In The Federation of Mary Immaculate

St Margaret's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided school functioning under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Cardiff and Menevia. Admission to St Margaret's School accepts children between the ages of 3 and 11 years old.

Admissions Policy

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to the school and is charged with preserving its Catholic ethos. St Margaret's serves the academic, cultural, moral, social and spiritual needs of pupils in Aberdare and the surrounding areas. Governors warmly welcome applications from parents who want their children to be educated in a Catholic, religious and moral setting.

Admissions Limit

The Admission Number (IAN) has been set at 20.

Admission Control

The right to admission is overseen by the governors of the school.

Parents may register their requirement for a child to attend the school. The information will be maintained on a waiting list until the child is eligible for admission. This will not give an automatic entitlement to a place. The admissions criteria as given below must be applied in all cases. The Governing Body will be offering, at present, full time Nursery places in the Academic Year.

Oversubscription Criteria:

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded in the under mentioned categories in the following order of priority.

1. **Looked after children (children in public care) of the Catholic faith.**
2. **Looked after children (children in public care).**
3. **The baptised children of Catholic parents living in the Parish of Mary Immaculate, Aberdare and Hirwaun.**
4. **The baptised children of practising Catholic parents living in the parishes adjoining the above parishes, with the permission of their parish priest.**
5. **Siblings of children already in the school, eg full, half, step brothers and sisters, adopted and fostered children.**
6. **Other baptised Christian denominations and siblings who are already attending the school.**

If the governors are unable to admit all applicants within a particular category, priority will be given to those residing closest to the school as measured by the safest walking route from the front door of the child's residence to the main school gate. The child's birth certificate is required to verify the date of birth.

Admissions Process

The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with RCT and there is a requirement that applicants complete the LA online Portal for Reception and Yr 7 places for September 2027, in addition to the school's own application form as part of the process of applying for a place. Failure to complete both forms within the set timeframe will result in a place not being offered.

- Mid term applications will be considered only if places are available, in such cases the admissions criteria as given above will apply or if the application(s) meet the Permissible Exceptions Criteria.

Appeals Procedure

Appeals against a decision, not to admit, should be addressed to:

The Clerk of the School's Governing Body
St. Margaret's Catholic Primary
Tŷ Fry, Aberdare CF44 7PP

Arrangements will then be made for an independent panel to consider the appeal.

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

In The Federation of Mary Immaculate

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School is a voluntary aided school functioning under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Cardiff and Menevia. Admission to Our Lady's School accepts children between the ages of 3 and 11 years old.

Admissions Policy

The Governing Body has responsibility for admissions to the School and is charged with preserving its Catholic ethos. Our Lady's serves the academic, cultural, moral, social and spiritual needs of pupils in the Mountain Ash and Abercynon areas. Governors warmly welcome applications from parents who want their children to be educated in a religious and moral setting.

Admissions Limit

The Admission Number (IAN) has been set at 17.

Admission Control

The right to admission is overseen by the governors of the school.
Parents may register their requirement for a child to attend the school. The information will be maintained on a waiting list until the child is eligible for admission. This will not give an automatic entitlement to a place. The admissions criteria as given below must be applied in all cases. The Governing Body will be offering, at present, full time Nursery places in the Academic Year.

Oversubscription Criteria:

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded in the under mentioned categories in the following order of priority.

1. **Looked after children (children in public care) of the Catholic faith.**
2. **Looked after children (children in public care).**
3. **The baptised children of Catholic parents living in the parishes of Mary Immaculate, Mountain Ash, and St Thomas, Abercynon.**
4. **The baptised children of practising Catholic parents living in the parishes adjoining the above parishes, with the permission of their parish priest.**
5. **Siblings of children already in the school, eg full, half, step brothers and sisters, adopted and fostered children.**
6. **Other baptised Christian denominations and siblings who are already attending the school.**

If the governors are unable to admit all applicants within a particular category, priority will be given to those residing closest to the school as measured by the safest walking route from the front door of the child's residence to the main school gate. The child's birth certificate is required to verify the date of birth.

Admissions Process

The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with RCT and there is a requirement that applicants complete the LA online Portal for Reception and Yr 7 places for September 2027, in addition to the school's own application form as part of the process of applying for a place. Failure to complete both forms within the set timeframe will result in a place not being offered.

- Mid term applications will be considered only if places are available, in such cases the admissions criteria as given above will apply or if the application(s) meet the Permissible Exceptions Criteria.

Appeals Procedure

Appeals against a decision, not to admit, should be addressed to:

The Clerk of the School's Governing Body

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Miskin Road, Mountain Ash CF45 3UA

Arrangements will then be made for an independent panel to consider the appeal.

St. Michael's Roman Catholic Primary School

☎ 01443 570090

St. Michael's Catholic Primary School which is a voluntary-aided school founded by the Archdiocese of Cardiff. The Governing Body has sole responsibility for admissions to the School and can admit pupils to the school's admission number which is 32.

Admissions Process

The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with RCT and there is a requirement that applicants complete the LA online Portal for Reception and Yr 7 places for September 2027, in addition to the school's own application form as part of the process of applying for a place. Failure to complete both forms within the set timeframe will result in a place not being offered.

A copy of the child's birth certificate is required to verify the date of birth. Only the Governing Body may admit and no representation by any person including governor, staff member, clergy or anyone elected to or employed by the local authority can be regarded as an indication of offer or promise of a place. Only a written offer from the governing body can be accepted as an admission offer. A place in the Nursery Class is not a guarantee of a place in the Reception Class and parents must apply for a place in Reception. Priority will not be given to parents of pupils that have attended the Nursery Class. In the case of oversubscription, the criteria shown below will apply.

Oversubscription Criteria:

When there are more applicants than available places, admission will be made in accordance with the order of priority in the over-subscription criteria and procedure listed below. If the governors are unable to admit all applicants within a particular category, priority will be given to those residing closest to the school as measured by the safest walking route.

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded in the following order of priority:

1. **Looked after children and previously looked after children of the Catholic faith.**
2. **Looked after children and previously looked after children.**
3. **Children who are Baptised into the Roman Catholic Church and living in the designated catchment areas for St. Michael's.***
4. **Baptised siblings of Roman Catholic pupils who are already attending the school.**
5. **Siblings of pupils of other Christian denominations who are already attending the school.**
6. **Siblings of children of other faiths who are already attending the school.**
7. **Catholic pupils resident outside the catchment area.**
8. **Other children**

Religious affiliation will need to be demonstrated by the child's baptismal certificate.

*** Designated Catchment areas:**
Bedlinog, Trelewis and Edwardsville (Merthyr LA); Nelson (Caerphilly LA); Cilfynydd, Pontypridd, Glyncoch, Ynysybwl, Church Village, Beddau, Llantrisant, Dolau, Pontyclun, Miskin, Talbot Green, Efail Isaf (RCT LA); Creigiau, Pentyrch, Gwaelod y Garth, Ty Rhiw and Tongwynlais (Cardiff LA).

Admissions Level:

The Admission Number has been set at 32.

Appeals Procedure:

Parents have a statutory right of appeal against a decision not to admit a pupil.
Appeals should be addressed to:

The Chairperson of St. Michael's Governing Body
St. Michael's R.C. Primary School, John Place Treforest, Pontypridd CF37 1SP

Arrangements will then be made for an independent panel to consider the appeal.Details of the appeals process will be made available to parents when they are notified of a refusal of a place (or if they request such information from the Governing Body).

Ss Gabriel and Raphael Catholic Primary School

☎ 01443 433094

Ss Gabriel and Raphael Catholic Primary School is a voluntary-aided Catholic School functioning under the trusteeship of the Archdiocese of Cardiff.

The Governing Body are the admission authority for the School and has sole responsibility for admissions to the school and can admit pupils to the school's admission number of 18.

Admission Process

The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with RCT and there is a requirement that applicants complete the LA online Portal for Reception and Yr 7 places for September 2027, in addition to the school's own application form as part of the process of applying for a place. Failure to complete both forms within the set timeframe will result in a place not being offered.

The right to admission is controlled by the Governors of the school.

A copy of the child's birth certificate is required to verify the date of birth. Only the Governing Body may admit and no representation by any person including governor, staff member, clergy or anyone elected to or employed by the local authority can be regarded as an indication of offer or promise of a place.

Only a written offer from the Governing Body can be accepted as an admission offer. A place in the Nursery Class is not a guarantee of a place in the Reception Class and parents must apply for a place in Reception.

Priority will not be given to parents of pupils that have attended the Nursery Class. In the case of oversubscription, the criteria shown below will apply.

Oversubscription Criteria:

When there are more applicants than available places, admission will be made in accordance with the order of priority in the over-subscription criteria and procedure listed below. If the governors are unable to admit all applicants within a particular category, priority will be given to those residing closest to the school as measured by the safest walking route.

Where the number of applications for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded in the following order of priority:

1. **Looked after children and previously looked after children of the Catholic faith.**
2. **Looked after children and previously looked after children.**
3. **Children who are Baptised into the Roman Catholic Church and living in the designated catchment areas for Ss Gabriel and Raphael.***
4. **Baptised siblings of Roman Catholic pupils who are already attending the school.**
5. **Siblings of pupils of other Christian denominations who are already attending the school.**
6. **Siblings of children of other faiths who are already attending the school.**
7. **Catholic pupils resident outside the catchment area.**
8. **Other children**

Religious affiliation will need to be demonstrated by the child's baptismal certificate.

* Designated Catchment areas:

Ss Gabriel and Raphael serves the academic, cultural, moral, social and spiritual needs of pupils in the Rhondda Fach, Rhondda Fawr, Tonyrefail and Gifach Goch within the Parish of Our Lady of the Valleys.

Appeals Procedure:

Parents have a statutory right of appeal against a decision not to admit a pupil. Appeals should be addressed to:

The Chairperson of the School's Governing Body,
Saints Gabriel and Raphael Catholic Primary School, Primrose Street, Tonypandy. CF40 1BJ

Arrangements will then be made for an independent panel to consider the appeal. Details of the appeals process will be made available to parents when they are notified of a refusal of a place (or if they request such information from the Governing Body).

Cardinal Newman Catholic School

☎ 01443 494110

Oversubscription Criteria Order of Priority

Cardinal Newman Catholic School is a Catholic Voluntary Aided School. We are an inclusive school that is open to everyone that is supportive of our values, aims and beliefs. However, the Governors have a responsibility, laid down by the law, to maintain the Catholic character of the school.

Admissions Policy

Parents have a right to express a preference as to which school their children attend. Admissions to the school will be made in accordance with parental choice subject to available places. When there are more than 200 applicants, admissions will be made in accordance with the order of priority in the over-subscription criteria below.

The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taf for pupils moving from Year 6 into Year 7. Applicants must complete the online application via the Local Authority portal.

If the governors are unable to admit all applicants within a particular category, priority will be given to applicants who met the published application deadline before late applicants. If the school is unable to allocate places to the whole of a certain category, then the proximity test is applied to that particular category. Proximity is measured as residing closest to the school by the shortest distance from the nearest public kerbside to the home to the main school gates on public roads by car.

Accordingly, the admission of pupils into Cardinal Newman Catholic School will be governed by the following criteria in order of priority:

1. **Catholic Looked After Children/ previously 'Looked After'.**
2. **Other Looked After Children/ previously 'Looked After'.**
3. **The school has the responsibility to serve its Catholic contributory schools and parishes. These children will be given priority.**
   a. The contributory schools are St. Michael's, Treforest, St. Helen's Caerphilly, Our Lady's Mountain Ash and S.S. Gabriel & Raphael, Tonypandy.
   b. A list of parishes served by Cardinal Newman is attached.
4. **Baptized Catholic children in the catchment area will be given priority over other children wishing to be admitted.**
5. **Baptized Catholic children from outside the school's catchment area will be considered after the above.**
6. **Brothers and sisters of children already in the school will be given consideration next.**
7. **Baptized Christian children from other denominations will be given consideration next.**
8. **Non Catholic children will be offered places if the parents or carers of the children request a faith based education for their children and the Governors are satisfied that the religious and moral atmosphere and teaching of the school is of prime importance to those making the application.**

Appeals Procedure

If a parent or carer has expressed a preference by applying for a place in the school and the Governors refuse the application, the parent or carer has the right to appeal. Appeals against the decision of the Governors not to admit a child to the school should be addressed to:

Mrs Rebecca Crumbie (Clerk to the Governing Body),
Cardinal Newman Catholic Comprehensive, Dynea Road, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd, CF37 5DP

Contributory Parishes

- St Dyfrig's Treforest
- All Hallows Llantrisant
- Our Lady's Mountain Ash
- St. Thomas' Abercynon
- SS Gabriel & Raphael Tonypandy
- St. Mary Magdalene Ynyshir
- St. Peter's Bargoed
- St. Helen's Caerphilly

St. John Baptist (Church In Wales) High School ☎ 01685 875414

Admissions Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 St John Baptist CiW High School is an 11-18 co-educational faith school. The school admits children from Aberdare, the Cynon Valley, adjoining areas of Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough and nearer parts of the County Boroughs of Neath and Port Talbot, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly and the County of Powys.

1.2 The school fully respects the beliefs of parent(s)/carer(s) and children from all Christian denominations, other faiths and those with no faith background. However, as a school with religious character, governors expect that parent(s)/carer(s) applying for a place for their child will accept and uphold the Christian character and ethos of the school.

1.3 An Open Evening is held annually in October where interested families are invited to the school and meet the Headteacher, staff and existing pupils. A school prospectus, prospectus supplement and application form for admissions are made available at the open evening. However, these are also published on the school's website in early September.

2. Procedure for Admission

2.1 The Published Admission Number (PAN) has been independently set at 160. This is based on Welsh Government calculations of school capacity.

2.2 The Governing Body is the admitting authority at St John Baptist CiW High School. Where there are 160 applications or fewer, all applicants will be allocated a place at the school. However, where there are more applications than the number of places available, then governors will apply the published oversubscription criteria in the order set out in 2.4 of this policy.

2.3 The following definitions are used by governors to help determine places against the oversubscription criteria. Prior to completing the school's application form, applicants should consider these definitions

2.3.1 **Looked after child(ren)** are children who are registered in the care of the local authority (under section 31 of the Children Act 1989) or who are provided with accommodation by the local authority (under section 20 of the Children Act 1989) at the time of application and/or where the local authority confirms they will be looked after at the time when the child is admitted to the school.

2.3.2 **"Committed/Practising"** are terms used to refer to the level of faith commitment of an applicant and their family. Governors define this as Church attendance, at least, once per fortnight for a minimum of the past 18-months. For example, for admission in September 2027, the level of commitment will be verified from March 2026 onwards. Governors will independently seek a reference from the applicant's named priest/minister to verify faith commitment.

2.3.3 **Christian Churches** refers to those denominations affiliated to the Churches Together in Wales (Cytûn) or Evangelical Alliance, as recognised at the point governors determine places. Cytûn should include denominations affiliated to other national member bodies of the World Council of Churches; Evangelical Alliance should include denominations affiliated to other national member bodies of the World Evangelical Alliance.

2.3.4 **Sibling** is defined as a biological brother or sister; half-brother or half-sister; adopted or fostered brother or sister who will still be on the school register (of statutory school age) at the time of admission. Evidence may be required to verity sibling status.

2.4 The oversubscription criteria used to determine places to St John Baptist CiW High School are set out as follows

1. Children who are looked (see 2.3.1) after, or have been previously looked after;
2. Children who, and whose families, can demonstrate they are committed/practising (see 2.3.2) Anglicans and attend an Anglican School;
3. Anglican children, as set out above, who attend a non-Anglican School;
4. Pupils, other than Anglican, who attend an Anglican School;
5. Children who, and whose families, can demonstrate they are committed/practising members (see 2.3.2) of another Christian Church (at set out in 2.3.3);
6. Other pupils who attend a non-Anglican, Church school;
7. Children who have a sibling (see 2.3.4) already attending St John Baptist CiW High School at the time of admission to the school (ie. Statutory School age); and
8. Other pupils at a Community School and/or Elective Home Education and wish to receive a faithbased education

2.5 Proximity is used by governors where there is a "tiebreaker". In other words, where a whole category of entry cannot be offered a place. Distance is measured by the local authority using the shortest, safe walking route between the home address and the school gate. For the avoidance of doubt, in areas where no safe walking route has been identified by the local authority, the shortest driving route between the home address and the school gate. The distance is measured by using the Mapinfo System only, to ensure equality of opportunity for all applications. Measurements calculated by any other system will not be considered.

2.6 Whilst not part of the school's oversubscription criteria, governors will consider those children who have been prioritised, after consideration, applying current legislation, local and/or diocesan priorities. For example, children of service personnel. However, this does not mean prior consideration.

2.7 The school is part of the co-ordinated admissions arrangements with Rhondda Cynon Taf and there is a requirement that applicants complete the local authority online portal, in addition to the school's own application form as part of the process of applying for a place. Parent(s)/Carer(s) applying for a place at St John Baptist CiW High School must express a preference for a place at the school on the online portal whilst completing school's application form. These are distributed at Open Evening and is also available via the school's website **https://www,stjohnbaptist.co.uk/195/admissions**. The online portal is designed to support the local authority in the management of applications at multiple schools. Failure to complete both forms within the set timeframe will result in a place not being offered.

3.1 Following completion of the admission process, all parents/carers of children who have been offered a place, will receive support with transition to the school

3.1.1 **For Year 7 entry.** Parent(s)/Carer(s) will be invited to attend a meeting prior to the start of the new academic year. Pupils who will be joining Year 7, around the same time, will receive an opportunity to visit the school to familiarise themse!lves with their new surroundings prior to their first day at the school. Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) will receive enhanced support, relative to their specific needs.

3.1.2 **For all other year group entry (eg. In-Year admission etc).** Parent(s)/Carer(s) and pupils will have an opportunity to visit the school and meet with the relevant staff (eg. Pastoral Leaders). This will enable them to receive a bespoke level of support, prior to joining the school. Pupils with ALN will receive enhanced support, relative to their specific needs.

4. Appeals Procedure

4.1 In accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998; Welsh Government School Admissions Code and School Appeals Code, the governors have established an appeals procedure. Parent(s)/Carer(s) of a child who has not been admitted to the school may appeal against the decision.

4.2 An independent panel will be appointed by the Diocese of Llandaff. Notice of intention to appeal must be sent to the Admissions Officer at the school within the set timeframe (ie. 14-days of the notification of decision) who will then coordinate the Diocesan Officer for Education. Details of appeal hearings are provided by the school. However, any outcome of an independent appeal hearing is communicated by the clerk to the panel.

4.3 In line with the School Admission Code, all unsuccessful applicants will remain on a "waiting list" until the end of September (ie. 30th September 2027). Where a place becomes available, the oversubscription criteria will be applied. Beyond this point, families who wish to be considered for a place will need to submit a new application.

5. Accuracy of Information

5.1 The Governing Body at St John Baptist CiW High School accepts no responsibility or liability for the information provided by applicants and/or priests/ministers in supporting applications. It is the responsibility of those providing the information to ensure accuracy for a fair assessment to be made at the time places are allocated. Failure to do so may result in a place not being offered. This may be impossible to subsequently rectify if all available places have already been allocated.

5.2 Please be aware that if parent(s)/carer(s) have been found to have provided misleading or fraudulent information as part of their application, then the offer of a place will be withdrawn and, is likely to lead to the removal of a place after the child has started at the school.

Addysg a Gwasanaethau Cynhwysiant • Education and Inclusion Services

Dechrau'r Ysgol
Starting School

Rhestr o Ysgolion a Meithrinfeydd sy'n annibynnol ar y Cyngor

List of Schools and Council Nursery Settings

2027-2028

RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Meithrinfeydd | Nursery Settings

Canolfan | Centre	Cyfeiriad | Address	E-bost | Email	Ffôn | Telephone
Meithrinfa Bizzi-day **Bizzi-day Nursery**	Heol y Twyn, Pont-y-clun CF72 9FG Heol y Twyn, Pontyclun CF72 9FG	bizzidaynursery@hotmail.co.uk	**01443 228608**
Cylch Chwarae Penrhiwceibr **Penrhiwceibr Playgroup**	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Penrhiwceibr** Stryd yr Eglwys, Penrhiwbceiber, Aberpennar CF45 3YD **Penrhiwceibr Primary School** Church Street, Penrhiwceiber, Mountain Ash CF45 3YD	penrhiwceibr@camaucyntaf.co.uk	**01443 476116** **07963 312008**
Cylch Meithrin Abercynon	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Abercynon** Teras Cae-glas / Greenfield Terrace, Abercynon CF45 4TH	cylchmeithrinaberdar5@gmail.com	**01443 744377**
Cylch Meithrin Aberdâr	**Canolfan yr Urdd** Aberdâr / Aberdare CF44 7HD	cylchmeithrinaberdar@outlook.com	**07751 523729**
Cylch Meithrin Bronllwyn	Canolfan Ieuenctid Bronllwyn, Heol Colwyn, Gelli CF41 7NW Bronllwyn Youth Centre, Colwyn Road, Gelli CF41 7NW	cylchmeithrinbronllwyn@yahoo.co.uk	**07479 961314**
Cylch Meithrin Bysedd Bach	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Llwyncelyn** Ffordd y Grug / Heather Way, Llwyncelyn, Porth CF39 9TL	cm.b.b-2018@outlook.com	**07811 072296**
Cylch Meithrin Cwmdâr	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Aberdâr** Rhodfa'r Tresi Aur, Cwmdâr, Aberdâr CF44 8RT Laburnum Drive, Cwmdare, Aberdare CF44 8RT	cylchmeithrincwmdar@gmail.com	**01685 652509** **07751 523729**
Cylch Meithrin Cwm Elái	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Tonyrefail** Cilgant Martin / Martin Crescent, Tonyrefail CF39 8NT	cmcwmelai@outlook.com	**01443 670319**
Cylch Meithrin Evan James	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg (YGG) Evan James** Ffordd Rhondda, Pontypridd CF37 1HQ	cylchevanjames@outlook.com	**07791 751185**
Camau Cyntaf | First Steps Llanhari	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Llanhari** Llanhari / Llanharry CF72 9XE	Llanhari@camaucyntaf.co.uk	**07852 952002**
Cylch Meithrin Nant Dyrys	**Adeilad Gofal Plant, drws nesaf i YGG Ynyswen** Ffordd y Clinig, Ynys-wen, Treorci CF42 6ED **Childcare Building, next to YGG Ynyswen** Clinic Road, Ynys-wen, Treorchy CF42 6ED	Nantdyrys@hotmail.co.uk	**01443 777706**
Camau Cyntaf | First Steps Rhydyfelin	Canolfan Plant, Stryd y Celyn, Rhydfelen, Pontypridd CF37 5DB Children's Centre, Holly Street, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd CF37 5DB	rhydyfelin@camaucyntaf.co.uk	**07983 142010**
Cylch Meithrin Seren Fach	**Tŷ Harri Webb** Heol y Dyffryn, Aberpennar CF45 4DA Duffryn Road, Mountain Ash CF45 4DA	serenfachinfo@gmail.com	**01443 520020**
Cylch Meithrin Ynys-hir / Wattstown	Pafiliwn Wattstown, Parc Wattstown, Wattstown CF39 0RA Wattstown Pavilion, Wattstown Park, Wattstown CF39 0RA	wattsmeithrin@hotmail.co.uk	**01443 732414** **07814 571421**
Dragon Tots at Dylan's Den	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Treorci** Stryd Tynybedw, Treorci CF42 6PY **Treorchy Primary School** Tynybedw Street, Treorchy CF42 6PY	info@dylansden.org	**01443 744395** **07519 041890**
Camau Cyntaf | First Steps Gruffalo's Den	**Canolfan Cymuned Glyn-coch** Clos Clydach, Glyn-coch CF37 3DA **Glyncoch Community Centre** Clydach Close, Glyncoch CF37 3DA	gruffalos@camaucyntaf.co.uk	**01443 405349**
Cylch Chwarae Giggles **Giggles@Gwaunmeisgyn**	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Gwaunmeisgyn** Heol y Goedwig, Beddau, Pontypridd, CF38 2SE **Gwaunmeisgyn Primary School** Woodland Road, Beddau, Pontypridd, CF38 2SE	gigglesplaygroup2@hotmail.com	**07766 734961**
Little Ferns Ferndale	**Hen Ysgol Babanod** Heol y Gogledd, Glynrhedynog CF43 4PS **Former North Road Infants** North Road, Ferndale CF43 4PS	olly.rowlands@fernpartnership.co.uk	**01443 570021**

Meithrinfeydd | Nursery Settings

Canolfan | Centre	Cyfeiriad | Address	E-bost | Email	Ffôn | Telephone
Cylch Chwarae Little Folk **Little Folk Playgroup**	**Capel Bethel** Yr Heol Fawr, Pentre'r Eglwys CF38 1PN **Bethel Chapel** Main Road, Church Village CF38 1PN	Littlefolk-playgroup@outlook.com	**07718 907465**
Cylch Chwarae Little Friends **Little Friends Playgroup**	**Adeilad Cymunedol, Ysgol Gynradd Ffynnon Taf** Heol Caerdydd, Ffynnon Taf CF15 7PR **Community Building, Ffynnon Taf Primary School** Cardiff Road, Taffs Well CF15 7PR	littlefriends123@hotmail.com	**07825 163605**
Little Inspirations Llantrisant	Parc Busnes Llantrisant, Llantrisant CF72 8YW Llantrisant Business Park, Llantrisant CF72 8YW	llantrisant@little-inspirations.co.uk	**01443 222660**
Little Inspirations Pen-Y-Waun **Little Inspirations Penywaun**	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gynradd Pen-y-waun** Coed Glas, Pen-y-waun, Aberdâr CF44 9DR **Penywaun Primary School** Coed Glas, Penywaun, Aberdare CF44 9DR	penywaun@little-inspirations.co.uk	**01685 812151**
Little Inspirations Pontypridd	YMa, Stryd y Taf, Pontypridd, CF37 4TS YMa Building, Taff Street, Pontypridd, CF37 4TS	pontypridd@little-inspirations.co.uk	**01443 849545**
Little Inspirations Rhydfelen **Little Inspirations Rhydyfelin**	**Canolfan Plant Rhydfelen** Stryd y Celyn, Pontypridd CF37 5DB **Rhydyfelin Children's Centre** Holly Street, Pontypridd CF37 5DB	rhydyfelin@little-inspirations.co.uk	**01443 406097**
Little Inspirations Tonyrefail	AR SAFLE | ON SITE OF: **Ysgol Gymuned Tonyrefail** Heol Gilfach, Tonyrefail CF39 8HG **Tonyrefail Community School** Gilfach Road, Tonyrefail CF39 8HG	tonyrefail@little-inspirations.co.uk	**01443 805104**
Meithrinfa Garth Olwg	**Campws Cymuned Garth Olwg** Heol Sant Illtyd, Pentre'r Eglwys Pontypridd CF38 1RQ **Garth Olwg Community Campus** St. Illtyd's Road, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 1RQ	rheolwr@meithrinfagartholwg.co.uk	**01443 209120**
Meithrinfa Once Upon a Time **Once Upon a Time Nursery**	Heol y Beddau, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2AG	hello@onceuponatimenursery.wales	**01443 206640**
Camau Cyntaf | First Steps **Pentre Penguins**	**Canolfan Hamdden Llanilltud Faerdref** Parc Canol, Pentre'r Eglwys CF38 1RJ **Llantwit Fardre Leisure Centre** Central Park, Church Village CF38 1RJ	Pentre@camaucyntaf.co.uk	**07983 362003**
Rachael's Playhouse Aberdâr | Aberdare	5 Stryd Dean, Aberdâr CF44 7BN 5 Dean Street, Aberdare CF44 7BN	rachaelsplayhouseaberdare@gmail.com	**07805 777706**
Camau Cyntaf | First Steps **Rainbow Room**	**Camau Cyntaf, Canolfan Gymuned Dai Davies** Heol Eurwen Davies, Trebanog, Porth CF39 9AZ **First Steps Rainbow Room, Dai Davies Community Centre** Heol Eurwen Davies, Trebanog, Porth CF39 9AZ	rainbows@camaucyntaf.co.uk	**01443 683919**
Meithrinfa Oriau Dydd SELCA **SELCA Day Nursery**	**Yr Hen Neuadd Efengylu** Teras y Rhosyn, Llanharan,CF72 9RH **The Old Gospel Hall** Rose Terrace, Llanharan CF72 9RH	businessmanager@selcadaynursery.co.uk	**01443 266582**
Cylch Chwarae Tonysguboriau **Talbot Green Playgroup**	**Y Pafiliwn** Heol Glan-elái, Tonysguboriau CF72 8HY **The Pavilion** Lanelay Road, Talbot Green CF72 8HY	clairewatkins@hotmail.co.uk	**07789 880135**
Ton Tiddlywinks	25 Heol Gell, Tonpentre, Cwm Rhondda CF41 7LR 25 Gelli Road, Tonpentre, Rhondda CF41 7LR	tontiddlywinks15@gmail.com	**07824 703568**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Abercynon **Abercynon Community Primary**	Heol Ynysmeurig, Abercynon CF45 4SU Ynysmeurig Road, Abercynon CF45 4SU	**Mr D Jewitt** **01443 743060** Admin@AbercynonPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**261**	**46**	**325**	**40**
Ysgol Gynradd Parc Aberdâr **Aberdare Park Primary School**	Ffordd Hirwaun, Trecynon, Aberdâr CF44 8LU Hirwaun Road, Trecynon, Aberdare CF44 8LU	**Mrs K Wilcox** **01685 874026** Admin@AberdareParkPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**211**	**42**	**294**	**35**
Ysgol Gynradd Tref Aberdâr yr Eglwys yng Nghymru **Aberdare Town Church in Wales Primary**	Stryd y Gwynt, Aberdâr CF44 7HF Wind Street, Aberdare CF44 7HF	**Mrs C Walters** **01685 871520** Admin@AberdareTownCIWPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**241**	**37**	**259**	**28**
Ysgol Gynradd Abernant **Abernant Primary School**	Teras Richmond, Aber-nant, Aberdâr CF44 0SF Richmond Terrace, Aber-nant, Aberdare CF44 0SF	**Mrs J Kucia** **01685 871597** Admin@AbernantPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**90**	**16**	**118**	**8**
Ysgol Gynradd Alaw **Alaw Primary School**	Stryd yr Aifft, Trealaw, Tonypandy CF40 2UU Egypt Street, Trealaw, Tonypandy CF40 2UU	**Miss R Davies** **01443 432350** Admin@AlawPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**129**	**29**	**207**	**15**
Ysgol Gynradd Blaengwawr **Blaengwawr Primary School**	Stryd Gwawr, Aberaman, Aberdâr CF44 6YP Gwawr Street, Aberaman, Aberdare CF44 6YP	**Mrs N Poole** **01685 871064** Admin@BlaengwawrPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**201**	**28**	**200**	**19**
Ysgol Gynradd Bodringallt **Bodringallt Primary School**	Teras Bodringallt, Ystrad, Cwm Rhondda CF41 7QE Bodringallt Terrace, Ystrad, Rhondda CF41 7QE	**Mr S Howells** **01443 434292** Admin@BodringalltPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**61**	**12**	**87**	**14**
Ysgol Gynradd Brynnau **Brynnau Primary School**	Stryd William, Brynna, Llanharan CF72 9QJ William Street, Brynna, Llanharan CF72 9QJ	**Mrs B Atkin** **01443 237828** Admin@BrynnauPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**217**	**33**	**235**	**15**
Ysgol Gynradd Caegarw **Caegarw Primary School**	Heol Troed-y-rhiw, Caegarw, Aberpennar CF45 4BH Troed-y-rhiw Road, Caegarw, Mountain Ash CF45 4BH	**Mr H Griffiths** **01443 473730** Admin@CaegarwPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**136**	**26**	**185**	**27**
Ysgol Gynradd Cap-coch **Capcoch Primary School**	Stryd yr Ysgol, Abercwmboi, Aberdâr CF44 6AD School Street, Abercwmboi, Aberdare CF44 6AD	**Mr S Gardner** **01443 472746** Admin@CapcochPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**133**	**25**	**176**	**22**
Ysgol Gynradd Caradog **Caradog Primary School**	Stryd Clifton, Aberdâr CF44 7PB Clifton Street, Aberdare CF44 7PB	**Ms R Derrick** **01685 874715** Admin@CaradogPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**151**	**31**	**223**	**17**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Glyn-coch	Lon y Cefn, Glyn-coch, Pontypridd CF37 3BP Cefn Lane, Glyn-coch, Pontypridd, CF37 3BP	**Ms E Byars** Pennaeth Dros Dro Acting Headteacher **Rhif ffôn i'w gadarnhau.** **Telephone Number to be confirmed** Admin@ygglyncoch.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	N/a	42	300	30
Ysgol Gynradd Coedpenmaen **Coedpenmaen Primary School**	Clos Coedpenmaen, Pontypridd CF37 4LE Coedpenmaen Close, Pontypridd CF37 4LE	**Ms A Ansell-Jones** **01443 486828** Admin@ CoedpenmaenPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	164	I/I: 25 I/J: 41	239	16
Ysgol Gynradd Coed-y-lan **Coedylan Primary School**	Heol Tyfica, Graig-wen, Pontypridd CF37 2DB Tyfica Road, Graig-wen, Pontypridd CF37 2DB	**Mrs A Prys Evans** **01443 486829** Admin@ Coed-Y-LanPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	136	21	148	12
Ysgol Gynradd Cwmaman **Cwmaman Primary School**	Heol Glanaman, Cwmaman, Aberdâr CF44 6LA Glanaman Road, Cwmaman, Aberdare CF44 6LA	**Mrs J South** **01685 661001** Admin@ CwmamanPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	171	30	210	29
Ysgol Gynradd Cwm-bach yr Eglwys yng Nghymru **Cwmbach Church in Wales Primary**	Heol Tirfounder Cwm-bach, Aberdâr CF44 0AT Tirfounder Road, Cwm-bach, Aberdare CF44 0AT	**Miss R Shellard** **01685 873336** Admin@ CwmbachCiWPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	80	17	120	18
Ysgol Gynradd Cwm-bach **Cwmbach Primary School**	Heol Llan-gors, Cwm-bach, Aberdâr CF44 0HS Llangorse Road, Cwm-bach, Aberdare CF44 0HS	**Mrs S Jones** **01685 876115** Admin@ CwmbachPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	224	38	272	29
Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Clydach **Cwmclydach Primary**	Stryd y Wern, Cwm Clydach, Tonypandy CF40 2BQ Wern Street, Clydach Vale, Tonypandy CF40 2BQ	**Mrs L Owen** **01443 433005** Admin@ CwmclydachPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	157	33	235	20
Ysgol Gynradd Cwmdâr **Cwmdâr Primary School**	Y Sgwâr, Cwmdâr, Aberdâr CF44 8UA The Square, Cwmdare, Aberdare CF44 8UA	**Mrs M Evans** **01685 871198** Admin@ CwmdarPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	229	37	262	32
Ysgol Gynradd Cwmlai **Cwmlai Primary School**	Heol Penygarreg, Tonyrefail, Porth CF39 8AS Penygarreg Road, Tonyrefail, Porth CF39 8AS	**Mr A Hughes** **01443 670356** Admin@ CwmlaiPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-11	344	60	423	61
Ysgol Gynradd y Cymer **Cymmer Primary School**	Stryd Fawr Cymer, Porth CF39 9EY High Street, Cymmer, Porth CF39 9EY	**Mrs I Elliott** **01443 570020** Admin@ CymmerPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	3-7	175	42	294	29

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Parc y Darren **Darran Park Primary**	Stryd y Nant, Glynrhedynog CF43 4LE Brook Street, Ferndale CF43 4LE	**Mr C Coole** **01443 730450** Admin@DarranParkPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**267**	**51**	**359**	**29**
Ysgol Gynradd y Darren-las **Darrenlas Primary**	Stryd Kingcraft, Darran-las, Aberpennar CF45 3LT Kingcraft Street, Darran-las, Mountain Ash CF45 3LT	**Mrs V Morris** **01443 473291** Admin@DarrenlasPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**182**	**34**	**242**	**24**
Ysgol Gynradd Ffynnon Taf **Ffynnon Taf Primary**	Heol Caerdydd, Ffynnon Taf, Caerdydd CF15 7PR Cardiff Road, Taffs Well, Cardiff CF15 7PR	**Ms K Price** **02920 810452** Admin@FfynnonTafPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**120**	**33**	**236**	**16**
Ysgol Gynradd y Gelli **Gelli Primary**	Heol Ystrad , Ystrad, Pentre, Cwm Rhondda CF41 7PX Ystrad Road, Ystrad, Pentre, Rhondda CF41 7PX	**Mrs C Flanary-Davies** **01443 435311** Admin@GelliPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**177**	**28**	**200**	**19**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Glenbói **Glenbói Community Primary**	Heol Abercwmboi Isaf, Glenbói CF45 3DW Abercwmboi Isaf Road, Glenbói CF45 3DW	**Mrs A Prys Evans** Pennaeth Dros Dro Acting Headteacher **01443 473747** Admin@GlenboiPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**127**	**19**	**138**	**9**
Ysgol Gynradd Gwauncelyn **Gwauncelyn Primary**	Heol Deg, Ton-teg, Pontypridd CF38 1EU	**Mr R Jones** **01443 562210** Admin@GwauncelynPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**289**	**57**	**399**	**38**
Ysgol Gynradd Gwaunmeisgyn **Gwaunmeisgyn Primary**	Ffordd y Goedwig, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2SE Woodland Road, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2SE	**Mr W Barrett** **01443 203079** Admin@GwaunmeisgynPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**304**	**44**	**314**	**42**
Ysgol Gynradd yr Hafod **Hafod Primary**	Stryd Wayne, Trehafod, Pontypridd CF37 2NL Wayne Street, Trehafod, Pontypridd CF37 2NL	**Miss E Bradley** **01443 682234** Admin@HafodPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**92**	**16**	**113**	**12**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Hendreforgan **Hendreforgan Community Primary**	Heol-Y-Mynydd, Hendreforgan, Gilfach-goch, Porth CF39 8UH Heol-Y-Mynydd, Hendreforgan, Gilfach Goch, Porth CF39 8UH	**Mr A Pugsley** **01443 672394** Admin@HendreforganPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**187**	**34**	**243**	**21**
Ysgol Gynradd Hirwaun **Hirwaun Primary**	Stryd Glanant, Hirwaun, Aberdâr CF44 9NF Glanant Street, Hirwaun Aberdare CF44 9NF	**Mrs B Hill** **01685 811619** Admin@HirwaunPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**258**	**46**	**322**	**22**
Ysgol Gynradd Llanharan **Llanharan Primary**	Teras Llwynbrain, Llanharan, Pont-y-clun CF72 9PW Llwynbrain Terrace, Llanharan, Pontyclun CF72 9PW	**Mrs B Price** **01443 237831** Admin@LlanharanPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**119**	**23**	**161**	**17**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y Llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Llanhari **Llanhari Primary**	Aelfryn, Llanhari, Pont-y-clun CF72 9LQ Aelfryn, Llanharry, Pontyclun CF72 9LQ	**Mrs E Coates** **01443 237832** Admin@LlanhariPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**135**	**29**	**203**	**14**
Ysgol Gynradd Llanilltud Faerdref **Llanilltud Faerdref Primary**	Heol Sant Illtyd, Pentre'r Eglwys Pontypridd CF38 1DB St. Illtyd's Road, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 1DB	**Mr T Lewis** **01443 204626** Admin@LlanilltudFaerdrefPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**166**	**30**	**210**	**22**
Ysgol Gynradd Llantrisant **Llantrisant Primary**	Coed yr Esgob, Llantrisant CF72 8EL	**Mrs L Davies** **01443 237829** Admin@LlantrisantPrimarySchool.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**98**	**18**	**128**	**13**
Ysgol Gynradd Llwydcoed **Llwydcoed Primary**	Stryd Corner House, Llwydcoed, Aberdâr CF44 0YA Corner House Street, Llwydcoed, Aberdare CF44 0YA	**Mrs N Drew** **01685 871110** Admin@LlwydcoedPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**119**	**20**	**140**	**18**
Ysgol Gynradd Llwyn-crwn **Llwyncrwn Primary**	Heol Llwyncrwn, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2BE Llwyncrwn Road, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2BE	**Mrs C Charles** **01443 203557** Admin@LlwyncrwnPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**228**	**45**	**319**	**15**
Ysgol Gynradd Llwynypïa **Llwynypïa Primary**	Teras yr Ysgol, Llwynypïa, Tonypandy CF40 2HL School Terrace, Llwynypïa, Tonypandy CF40 2HL	**Mrs S Dessent** **01443 432354** Admin@LlwynypiaPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**163**	**29**	**205**	**14**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned y Maerdy **Maerdy Community Primary**	Graigwen, Y Maerdy, Cwm Rhondda CF43 4TW Graig Wen, Maerdy, Rhondda CF43 4TW	**Miss H Gregory** **01443 755227** Admin@MaerdyPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**248**	**41**	**288**	**32**
Ysgol Gynradd Maes-y-bryn **Maesybryn Primary**	Rhodfa Caerhirfryn, Yst. Bryn y Goron, Llantwit Fardre CF38 2NS Lancaster Drive, Crownhill Est. Llantwit Fardre CF38 2NS	**Mr S Roberts** **01443 202928** Admin@MaesybrynPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**269**	**53**	**376**	**29**
Ysgol Gynradd Maes-y-coed **Maesycoed Primary School**	Heol Llanwern, Maes-y-coed, Pontypridd CF37 1EQ Lanwern Road, Maesycoed, Pontypridd CF37 1EQ	**Mrs S Roberts** **01443 486835** Admin@Maes-Y-CoedPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**208**	**44**	**314**	**23**
Ysgol Gynradd Meisgyn **Miskin Primary**	Stryd Caerefrog, Meisgyn, Aberpennar CF45 3BG York Street, Miskin, Mountain Ash CF45 3BG	**Mrs C Smith-Thomas** **01443 476426** Admin@MiskinPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**74**	**22**	**157**	**9**
Ysgol Gynradd Oaklands **Oaklands Primary**	Maes y Deri, Aberaman, Aberdâr CF44 6TF Maes y Deri, Aberaman, Aberdare CF44 6TF	**Ms C Briley** **01685 882577** Admin@OaklandsPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**176**	**29**	**205**	**23**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol y Forwyn Fair Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain **Our Lady's R.C. Primary**	Heol Meisgyn, Meisgyn, Aberpennar CF45 3UA Miskin Road, Miskin, Mountain Ash CF45 3UA	**Miss J Conway** **01443 472230** Admin@OurLadysRCPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**98**	**17**	**119**	**16**
Ysgol Gynradd Parc Lewis **Parc Lewis Primary**	Broadway, Pontypridd CF37 1BE	**Mrs C Hughes** **01443 486836** Admin@ParcLewisPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**218**	**34**	**244**	**27**
Ysgol Gynradd y Parc **Parc Primary**	Stryd Tallis, Cwm-parc CF42 6LY Tallis Street, Cwm-parc CF42 6LY	**Mr D Williams** **01443 776601** Admin@ParcPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**200**	**33**	**236**	**36**
Ysgol Gynradd Pengeulan **Pengeulan Primary**	Heol Penrhiwceibr, Meisgyn, Aberpennar CF45 3UW Penrhiwceiber Road, Miskin, Mountain Ash CF45 3UW	**Mr J Webster** **01443 473365** Admin@PengeulanPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**115**	**21**	**152**	**7**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Pen-pych **Pen-Pych Community Primary**	Heol Blaenrhondda, Tynewydd, Treorci CF42 5SD Blaenrhondda Road, Tynewydd, Treorchy CF42 5SD	**Mr T Lewis** **01443 771434** Admin@Pen-PychCommunity Primary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**133**	**28**	**196**	**19**
Ysgol Gynradd Penrhiwceibr **Penrhiwceibr Primary**	Stryd yr Eglwys, Penrhiwceiber, Aberpennar CF45 3YD Church Street, Penrhiwceiber Mountain Ash CF45 3YD	**Mrs L Tudge** **01443 472247** Admin@PenrhiwceibrPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**97**	**20**	**141**	**12**
Ysgol Gynradd Pen-rhys **Penrhys Primary**	Heol Pendyrus, Pen-rhys, Tylorstown, Glynrhedynog CF43 3PL Heol Pendyrus, Penrhys Tylorstown, Ferndale CF43 3PL	**Mr A Williams** **01443 730037** Admin@PenrhysPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**73**	**18**	**130**	**2**
Ysgol Gynradd Penygawsi **Penygawsi Primary**	Llys Derwen, Llantrisant CF72 8PZ	**Mrs A Black** Pennaeth Gweithredol Acting Headteacher **01443 237834** Admin@PenygawsiPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**189**	**34**	**240**	**14**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Pen-yr-englyn **Penyrenglyn Community Primary**	Stryd Baglan, Treherbert CF42 5AW Baglan Street, Treherbert CF42 5AW	**Mrs M Hutchings** **01443 772433** Admin@PenyrenglynCommunityPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**165**	**29**	**208**	**33**
Ysgol Gynradd Pen-y-waun **Penywaun Primary**	Coed Glas, Pen-y-waun, Aberdâr CF44 9DR Coed Glas, Penywaun, Aberdare CF44 9DR	**Mr N Vaughan** **01685 661005** Admin@PenywaunPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**144**	**33**	**232**	**26**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymuned Perthcelyn **Perthcelyn Community Primary**	Stryd Morgannwg, Perthcelyn, Aberpennar CF45 3RJ Glamorgan Street, Perthcelyn, Mountain Ash CF45 3RJ	**Mrs E Hook** **01443 473296** Admin@PerthcelynCommunity Primary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**107**	**19**	**135**	**12**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Pontrhondda **Pontrhondda Primary**	Heol Pontrhondda, Llwynypïa CF40 2SZ Pontrhondda Road, Llwynypïa CF40 2SZ	**Mrs A James** **01443 433004** Admin@PontrhonddaPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**103**	**26**	**182**	**9**
Ysgol Gynradd Pont-y-clun **Pontyclun Primary**	Heol-Y-Felin, Pontyclun CF72 9BE	**Mr H Roberts** **01443 237833** Admin@PontyclunPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**319**	**64**	**450**	**52**
Ysgol Gynradd Pont-y-gwaith **Pontygwaith Primary**	Stryd y Graig, Pont-y-gwaith CF43 3LY Graig Street, Pont-y-gwaith CF43 3LY	**Mrs R Scott** **01443 730471** Admin@PontygwaithPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**112**	**22**	**160**	**21**
Ysgol Gynradd y Seintiau Gabriel a Raphael Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain **Ss Gabriel & Raphael R.C. Primary**	Stryd y Briallu, Tonypandy CF40 1BJ Primrose Street, Tonypandy CF40 1BJ	**Mrs J Taylor** **01443 433094** Admin@SsGabrielRaphaelRcPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**134**	**18**	**128**	**20**
Ysgol Gynradd y Santes Fererid Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain **St. Margaret's Catholic Primary**	Tŷ Fry, Aberdâr CF44 7PP Tŷ Fry, Aberdare CF44 7PP	**Miss J Conway** Pennaeth Gweithredol Executive Headteacher **01685 876072** Admin@StMargaretsRCPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**78**	**20**	**141**	**16**
Ysgol Gynradd Mihangel Sant Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain **St. Michaels Primary**	Maes John, Trefforest, Pontypridd CF37 1SP John Place, Treforest, Pontypridd CF37 1SP	**Mrs J Taylor** Pennaeth Gweithredol Executive Headteacher **01443 570090** Admin@StMichaelsRcPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**217**	**32**	**227**	**15**
Ysgol Babanod Tonpentre **Ton Pentre Infants**	Stryd yr Ysgol, Tonpentre, Pentre CF41 7LS School Street, Tonpentre, Pentre CF41 7LS	**Mrs S Williams** **01443 435438** Admin@TonPentreInfants.rctcbc.cymru	**3-7**	**117**	**48**	**145**	**39**
Ysgol Iau Tonpentre **Ton Pentre Junior**	Stryd Bailey, Tonpentre CF41 7EL Bailey Street, Tonpentre CF41 7EL	**Mr I Evans** **01443 435436** Admin@TonPentreJunior.rctcbc.cymru	**7-11**	**144**	**41**	**165**	**N/a**
Ysgol Gynradd Tonysguboriau **Tonysguboriau Primary**	Stryd Stuart, Tonysguboriau, Pont-y-clun CF72 8AA Stuart Street, Talbot Green, Pontyclun CF72 8AA	**Mrs T Harries** **01443 237836** Admin@TonysguboriauPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**213**	**31**	**223**	**23**
Ysgol Babanod Trallwng **Trallwng Infants**	Heol Tresimwn, Trallwng, Pontypridd CF37 4RD Bonvilston Road, Trallwng, Pontypridd CF37 4RD	**Miss C Sullivan** Pennaeth Gweithredol Acting Headteacher **01443 486842** Admin@TrallwngInfants.rctcbc.cymru	**3-7**	**48**	**29**	**90**	**15**
Ysgol Gynradd Trealaw **Trealaw Primary**	Trealaw, Cwm Rhondda CF40 2QW Trealaw, Rhondda CF40 2QW	**Mrs S Francis** **01443 430633** Admin@TrealawPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**101**	**22**	**156**	**15**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cyfrwng Saesneg | English Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Tref-y-rhyg **Tref-y-rhyg Primary**	Y Goedlan, Tonyrefail, Porth CF39 8PR The Avenue, Tonyrefail, Porth CF39 8PR	**Miss W Blyth** **01443 670306** Admin@ Tref-Y-RhygPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**63**	**21**	**151**	**4**
Ysgol Gynradd Trehopcyn **Trehopcyn Primary**	Heol Plymouth, Trehopcyn, Pontypridd CF37 2RH Plymouth Road, Hopkinstown, Pontypridd CF37 2RH	**Mrs N Prewett** **01443 486844** Admin@ TrehopcynPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**89**	**22**	**160**	**11**
Ysgol Gynradd Treorci **Treorchy Primary**	Heol Glyncoli, Treorci CF42 6SA Glyncoli Road, Treorchy CF42 6SA	**Mrs E Anstee** **01443 773084** Admin@ TreorchyPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**356**	**53**	**375**	**38**
Ysgol Gynradd Trerobart **Trerobart Primary**	Stryd Crawshay, Ynys-y-bwl, Pontypridd CF37 3EF Crawshay Street, Ynys-y-bwl, Pontypridd CF37 3EF	**Mrs Beth Griffiths** Pennaeth Dros Dro Acting Headteacher **01443 790233** Admin@ TrerobartPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**143**	**31**	**217**	**17**
Ysgol Gynradd Tylorstown **Tylorstown Primary**	Stryd Edmund, Tylorstown CF43 3HH Edmund Street, Tylorstown CF43 3HH	**Mr R Taylor** **01443 730396** Admin@ TylorstownPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**91**	**25**	**180**	**13**
Ysgol Gynradd Trewiliam **Williamstown Primary**	Campws Cymuned Penrhiw-fer, Gorllewin Dinas Isaf, Trewiliam, Tonypandy CF40 1AG Penrhiw-fer Community Campus, Dinas Isaf West, Williamstown, Tonypandy CF40 1AG	**Mr D Anstee** **01443 432186** Admin@ WilliamstownPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**269**	**43**	**301**	**20**
Ysgol Gynradd Ynys-boeth **Ynysboeth Primary**	Yr Heol Fawr, Ynys-boeth, Abercynon CF45 4LJ Main Road, Ynys-boeth, Abercynon CF45 4LJ	**Mrs B Wade** **01443 749040** Admin@ YnysboethPrimarySchool.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**104**	**30**	**214**	**14**
Ysgol Gynradd Ynys-hir **Ynyshir Primary**	Heol Llanwynno, Ynys-hir, Porth CF39 0HU Llanwonno Road, Ynys-hir, Porth CF39 0HU	**Mr P Milinczuk** **01443 685208** Admin@ YnyshirPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**199**	**38**	**270**	**27**

Ysgolion Cynradd Dwy Iaith | Dual Language Schools Primary Schools

Ysgol Gynradd Dolau gan gynnwys Uned Cyfrwng Cymraeg **Dolau Primary** Including Welsh Medium Provision	Heol Pen-y-bont, Llanharan, Pont-y-clun CF72 9RP Bridgend Road, Llanharan, Pontyclun CF72 9RP	**Miss N Pugh** **01443 237830** Admin@ DolauPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**453**	**63**	**441**	**77**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cymraeg | Welsh Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Awel Taf	Stryd y Celyn, Rhydfelen, Pontypridd CF37 5DB Holly Street, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd CF37 5DB	**Mrs C Jones** **01443 490750** Admin@YGGAwelTaf.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**294**	**64**	**450**	**59**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon gan gynnwys Canolfan Blynyddoedd Cynnar y Gorlan Fach Including Gorlan Early Years Centre	Teras Cae-glas, Abercynon, Aberpennar CF45 4TH Teras Cae-glas, Abercynon, Mountain Ash CF45 4TH	**Mrs M Barry** **01443 740239** Admin@YGGAbercynon.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**234**	**46**	**322**	**39**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdâr	Rhodfa'r Tresi Aur, Cwmdâr, Aberdâr CF44 8RT Laburnum Drive, Cwmdare, Aberdare CF44 8RT	**Mrs J Wardill** **01685 872939** Admin@YGGAberdar.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**371**	**60**	**444**	**47**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bodringallt	Teras y Bryn, Ystradyfodwg CF41 7RX Bryn Terrace, Ystradyfodwg CF41 7RX	**Dr N Pike** **01443 434096** Admin@YGGBodringallt.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**112**	**24**	**172**	**21**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bronllwyn	Heol Colwyn, Gelli CF41 7NW Colwyn Road, Gelli CF41 7NW	**Mrs N Gould** **01443 435294** Admin@YGGBronllwyn.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**202**	**33**	**236**	**46**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Castellau	Ffordd Castellau, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2AA Castellau Road, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2AA	**Mr D Jones** **01443 562206** Admin@YGGCastellau.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**203**	**37**	**263**	**31**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Evan James	Ffordd y Rhondda, Pontypridd CF37 1HF Rhondda Road, Pontypridd CF37 1HF	**Mrs E Smith** **01443 486813** Admin@YGGEvanJames.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**264**	**45**	**319**	**51**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Gymraeg Llantrisant	Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy, Meisgyn, Pont-y-clun CF72 8TL Ffordd Cefn yr Hendy, Miskin, Pontyclun CF72 8TL	**Mr R O'Neil** **01443 237837** Admin@YGGGLlantrisant.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**182**	**40**	**280**	**24**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn	Ffordd y Grug, Llwyncelyn, Porth CF39 9TL Heather Way Llwyncelyn, Porth CF39 9TL	**Mr G Ashcroft** **01443 562220** Admin@YGGLlwyncelyn.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**313**	**44**	**309**	**43**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llyn-y-forwyn	Ystad Ddiwydiannol Maerdy, Heol Maerdy, Glynrhedynog CF43 4AB Maerdy Industrial Estate. Maerdy Road, Ferndale CF43 4AB	**Miss P Davies** **01443 730278** Admin@YGGLlynYForwyn.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**145**	**30**	**210**	**22**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Penderyn	Pontprenllwyd, Penderyn, Aberdâr CF44 9JW Pontprenllwyd, Penderyn, Aberdare CF44 9JW	**Mr A Wood** **01685 811259** Admin@PenderynPrimary.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**164**	**33**	**231**	**23**

Ysgolion Cynradd Cymraeg | Welsh Medium Primary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Derbyn Medi 2026 Written applications Reception Sept 2026
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail	Cilgant Martin, Tonyrefail, Porth CF39 8NT Martin Crescent, Tonyrefail, Porth CF39 8NT	**Mr A Lewis** **01443 670319** Admin@YGGTonyrefail.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**163**	**46**	**328**	**16**
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen	Ffordd y Clinig, Ynys-wen, Treorci CF42 6ED Ffordd y Clinig, Ynyswen, Treorchy CF42 6ED	**Miss C Roberts** **01443 772432** Admin@YGGYnyswen.rctcbc.cymru	**3-11**	**193**	**42**	**300**	**32**

Ysgolion Pob Oed | All through Schools

Ysgol Afon Wen	Lôn yr Ysgol, Y Ddraenen-wen, Pontypridd CF37 5AL School Lane, Hawthorn, Pontypridd CF37 5AL	**Mrs C Crockett** **01443 841228** Admin@YsgolAfonwen.rctcbc.cymru	**3-16**	**U/S: 683** **C/P: 404**	**U/S: 155** **C/P: 61**	**U/S: 776** **C/P: 430**	**D/R: 50** **B/Yr 7: 126**
Ysgol Bro Taf	Campws Cymunedol Parc Hen, Lofa'r Albion, Cilfynydd, Pontypridd CF37 4SF Albion Community Campus, Cilfynydd, Pontypridd CF37 4SF	**Mr M Thomas** **01443 486133** Admin@YsgolBroTaf.rctcbc.cymru	**3-16**	**U/S: 761** **C/P: 136**	**U/S: 199** **C/P: 25**	**U/S: 995** **C/P: 180**	**D/R: 18** **B/Yr 7: 167**
Ysgol Garth Olwg Ysgol Gymraeg Welsh Medium School	Heol Sant Illtyd, Pentre'r Eglwys, Pontypridd CF38 1DX St. Illtyds Road, Church Village, Pontypridd CF38 1DX	**Mr T Edwards** **01443 570070** Gweinyddol@gartholwg.cymru	**3-19**	**U/S: 830** **C/P: 324**	**U/S: 193** **C/P: 58**	**U/S: 1110** **C/P: 409**	**D/R: 48** **B/Yr 7: 110**
Ysgol Llanhari Ysgol Gymraeg Welsh Medium School	Coedlan Addison, Llanhari, Pont-y-clun CF72 9XE Addison Avenue, Llanharry, Pontyclun CF72 9XE	**Mrs M Thomas** **01443 237824** Admin@YsgolLlanhari.rctcbc.cymru	**3-19**	**U/S: 476** **C/P: 144**	**U/S: 156** **C/P: 27**	**U/S: 914** **C/P: 194**	**D/R: 21** **B/Yr 7: 101**
Ysgol Nant-gwyn	Stryd Llewellyn, Pen-y-graig CF40 1HQ Llewellyn Street, Pen-y-graig CF40 1HQ	**Mrs L Morris** **01443 436171** Admin@YsgolNantgwyn.rctcbc.cymru	**3-16**	**U/S: 632** **C/P: 312**	**U/S: 161** **C/P: 64**	**U/S: 805** **C/P: 450**	**D/R: 29** **B/Yr 7: 80**
Ysgol Gymuned y Porth **Porth Community School**	Ffordd y Fynwent, Porth CF39 0BS Cemetery Road, Porth CF39 0BS	**Ms L Dober** **01443 682137** Admin@PorthCommunitySchool.rctcbc.cymru	**3-16**	**U/S: 690** **C/P: 177**	**U/S: 163** **C/P: 42**	**U/S: 816** **C/P: 296**	**D/R: 7** **B/Yr 7: 130**
Ysgol Gymuned Tonyrefail **Tonyrefail Community School**	Heol Gilfach, Tonyrefail CF39 8HG Gilfach Road, Tonyrefail CF39 8HG	**Mr G Pope** **01443 670647** Admin@TonyrefailCommunity School.rctcbc.cymru	**3-19**	**U/S: 1383** **C/P: 332**	**U/S: 212** **C/P: 59**	**U/S: 1449** **C/P: 415**	**D/R: 16** **B/Yr 7: 231**

Ysgolion Uwchradd Saesneg | English Medium Secondary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Blwyddyn 7 2026 Written applications Year 7 2026
Ysgol Gymunedol Aberdâr **Aberdare Community School**	Yr Ynys, Aberdâr CF44 7RP Ynys Site, Aberdare CF44 7RP	**Mr R Owen** **01685 888500** Admin@ AberdareCommunitySchool. rctcbc.cymru	**11-19**	**1291**	**283**	**1574**	**297**
Ysgol Gyfun Bryncelynnog **Bryncelynnog Comprehensive**	Heol Penycoedcae, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2AE Penycoedcae Road, Beddau, Pontypridd CF38 2AE	**Dr D Duddridge** **01443 203411** Admin@ BryncelynnogComprehensive. rctcbc.cymru	**11-19**	**1343**	**276**	**1616**	**219**
Ysgol Gyfun y Cardinal Newman Eglwys Gatholig Rhufain **Cardinal Newman R.C. Comprehensive**	Heol Dynea, Rhydfelen, Pontypridd CF37 5DP Dynea Road, Rhydyfelin, Pontypridd CF37 5DP	**Mr J O'Sullivan** **01443 494110** Admin@ CardinalNewman.rctcbc.cymru	**11-16**	**938**	**200**	**998**	**228**
Ysgol Gymuned Glynrhedynog **Ferndale Community School**	Teras Excelsior, Y Maerdy, Glynrhedynog CF43 4AR Excelsior Terrace, Maerdy, Ferndale CF43 4AR	**Mr N Prygodzicz** **01443 755337/755657** Admin@ FerndaleCommunitySchool. rctcbc.cymru	**11-16**	**628**	**141**	**704**	**125**
Ysgol Gyfun Aberpennar **Mountain Ash Comprehensive**	Heol Newydd, Aberpennar CF45 4DG New Road, Mountain Ash CF45 4DG	**Mrs S Evans** **01443 479199** Admin@ MountainAshComprehensive. rctcbc.cymru	**11-16**	**835**	**257**	**1394**	**156**
Ysgol Uwchradd Ioan Fedyddiwr yr Eglwys yng Nghymru **St. John Baptist C.I.W. High**	Ffordd Glan, Aberdâr CF44 8BW Glan Road, Aberdare CF44 8BW	**Mr J Davies** **01685 875414** **Admin@** **StJohnBaptistCIWHigh.rctcbc.cymru**	**11-19**	**936**	**161**	**966**	**172**
Ysgol Gyfun Treorci **Treorchy Comprehensive**	Pengelli, Treorci CF42 6UL Pengelli, Treorchy CF42 6UL	**Mr G Mcnamara** Pennaeth Gweithredol Acting Headteacher **01443 773128** Admin@ TreorchyComprehensive.rctcbc.cymru	**11-19**	**1419**	**262**	**1877**	**171**
Ysgol Gyfun y Pant **Y Pant Comprehensive**	Heol y Bont-faen, Pont-y-clun CF72 8YQ Cowbridge Road, Pontyclun CF72 8YQ	**Mrs B Cheetham** **01443 562250** Admin@ YPantComprehensive.rctcbc.cymru	**11-19**	**1463**	**256**	**1556**	**298**

Ysgolion Uwchradd Cymraeg | Welsh Medium Secondary Schools

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details	Amrediad Oedran Age Range	Nifer ar y llyfrau No. on Roll	Nifer derbyn Admission Numbers	Capasiti Capacity	Ceisiadau ar bapur Dosbarth Blwydwyn 7 Medi 2026 Written applications Year 7 Sept 2026
Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun	Rhodfa Lawrence, Pen-y-waun, Hirwaun CF44 9ES	**Ms L Williams** **01685 813500** Admin@YsgolGyfunRhydywaun.rctcbc.cymru	**11-19**	**1047**	**216**	**1225**	**185**
Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda	Heol Graig-wen, Cymer, Porth CF39 9HA	**Mr C Spanswick** **01443 680800** Admin@YsgolGyfunCwmRhondda.rctcbc.cymru	**11-19**	**648**	**180**	**1023**	**125**

Darpariaeth Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol | Additional Learning Needs Provision

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details
Ysgol Arbennig Maesgwyn **Maesgwyn Special**	Heol Cwmdâr, Aberdâr CF44 8RG Cwmdare Road, Aberdare CF44 8RG	**Mr D Mogford** **01685 873933** Admin@MaesgwynSpecial.rctcbc.cymru
Ysgol Arbennig Park Lane **Park Lane Special**	Lôn y Parc, Trecynon, Aberdâr CF44 8HN Park Lane, Trecynon, Aberdare CF44 8HN	**Mr S Type** **01685 874489** Admin@ParkLaneSpecial.rctcbc.cymru
Ysgol Cambrian	Parc Hen Lofa'r Cambrian, Cwm Clydach, CF40 2XX Cambrian Park, Clydach Vale, Tonypandy, CF40 2XX	**Mr A Bradley** **01443 424050** Admin@ysgolcambrian.rctcbc.cymru
Ysgol Hen Felin	Parc Gelligaled, Ystrad CF41 7SZ Gelligaled Park, Ystrad CF41 7SZ	**Mr A Bradley** **01443 431571** Admin@YsgolHenFelin.rctcbc.cymru
Ysgol Tŷ Coch	Rhodfa Lansdale, Ton-teg, Pontypridd CF38 1PG Buarth-y-Capel, Ynys-y-bwl, Pontypridd CF37 3PA Lansdale Drive, Tonteg, Pontypridd CF38 1PG Buarth-y-Capel, Ynys-y-bwl, Pontypridd CF37 3PA	**Mr S Wilson** **01443 203471** Admin@YsgolTyCoch.rctcbc.cymru

Unedau Atgyfeirio Disgyblion AEY | EBD and Pupil Referral Units

Enw'r Ysgol School	Cyfeiriad Address	Enw a Manylion Cyswllt y Pennaeth Head Teacher, Contact Details
Canolfan Addysg Tŷ Gwyn **Tŷ Gwyn Education Centre**	Y Dolydd, Aberdâr CF44 8EX Y Dolydd, Aberdare CF44 8EX	**Ms V Cox-Wall** **01685 652525** Admin@TyGwyn.rctcbc.cymru
Canolfan Addysg Tai **Tai Education Centre**	Stryd yr Esgob, Pen-y-graig, Tonypandy CF40 1PQ Bishop Street, Pen-y-graig, Tonypandy CF40 1PQ	**Mrs M Chadney** **01443 422666** Admin@TaiCentre.rctcbc.cymru