



Admissions Policy

Review Date	September 2025
Reviewed By	SLT & Governors
Next Review	September 2026
<i>Summary of changes</i>	

Head Teacher Date

Chair of Governors Date

Gnoll Primary School

Admissions Policy

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council aspires to deliver an inclusive education service that celebrates diversity and respects everyone's right to education. The Council provides access to high quality learning experiences for every child and young person by encouraging and supporting individuals to realise their ambitions, achieve their potential and become active and responsible members of society.

To meet the educational needs of children, the County Borough Council delivers a range of provision, including:

- part-time nursery education, available in all primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools. Successful learning begins in the nursery where children have access to rich experiences in a secure environment;
- primary phase education at primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools (including Welsh medium and voluntary aided schools), providing a broad education based on practical experiences designed to meet individual needs, including national curriculum areas of study.
- secondary phase education at secondary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools, (including Welsh medium and a Roman Catholic school), setting high standards in examinations, sport and cultural activities, and personal and social education. Pupils in all schools have access to a wide range of curricular opportunities and the national curriculum;
- special schools, providing rich and stimulating learning experiences for pupils with severe and complex difficulties. All pupils attending these schools have a statement of special educational needs. Specialist support for primary and secondary age pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties is available within the County Borough.
- learning support centres, based at a number of primary, secondary and 'all-through' schools, provide specialist support in mainstream schools for pupils with statements of special educational needs.

The Council's admission arrangements for community schools ensure that admission procedures do not unfairly advantage or disadvantage any groups through the application of the Welsh Government School Admissions Code 005/2013.



ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2021/2022

Admission to Nursery Classes

The Council is the admission authority for all nursery classes in community primary and 'all-through' 3-16/3-18 schools.

Children can access a part-time nursery place from the start of the term following their third birthday. Parents/carers who require a place in a nursery class will be required to submit an admission application. Application forms are available from (and, when completed, to be returned to) the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ.

Parents/carers can apply for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school.

Admission to a nursery class prior to the start of the term following the child's third birthday can only be agreed in consultation with the Admissions Officer.

The number of nursery places available may differ to the admission number of full-time year groups within a school (Reception).

Children who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs/ IDP which identifies mainstream nursery education within a community school will be guaranteed a place at that setting. Schools have a duty to admit children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs who have been placed in a school by the LA and these pupils are counted towards the number of pupils to be admitted unless their placement is within a school based Learning Support Centre.

The Council will consider each individual application received. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, places will be allocated according to the oversubscription criteria below, listed in priority order.

- Oversubscription Criteria

a) Children looked after* or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales, as defined in section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

b) Children who live within the catchment area of the nursery class for which an application is made.

c) Children who have an older sibling who will be on the register at the school at which the nursery class is based when they are admitted. A "sibling" is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person.



Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all children a place in the nursery class, the parents will be asked to decide which child should be offered a place first or the parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all children.

If children are equally entitled to a place in the nursery in categories a) to c) above, priority will be given to the child living nearest. This is measured by the shortest walking/travel route between the home and the school. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young person has started at the school, except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place, the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information, the application will be considered afresh, and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parents' principal place of residence on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered in relation to application for admission to schools in Neath Port Talbot.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with each parent for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

No account will be taken of the particular primary school the child is likely to attend subsequently or to the length of time the school has been aware of the parental intention to apply for a place at the school.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application forms will be processed in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability.



As nursery education is non-statutory provision parents have no statutory right of appeal. If they are unsuccessful in gaining a nursery place, wherever possible, children will be offered a place within two miles of the child's place of residence.

Attendance at a nursery class does not automatically entitle a child to a place at a reception class in the same school. A separate application will have to be submitted for admission to the reception class at the school the parent wishes their child to attend.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's [Home to School Travel policy](#) when applying for a place at a school for their child.

* A looked after child refers to a child who is looked after by the local authority, in accordance with section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or under Section 22(1) of the Children Act 1989 at the time an application to a school is made and who the local authority has confirmed will still be looked after at the time of admission to the school. Previously looked after children: looked after children who cease to be so because they were adopted or become subject to a residence order, or special guardianship order immediately following having been looked after.



Admissions to schools including Infant, Junior, Primary and Secondary Schools

The County Borough Council is the admission authority for all community maintained primary, secondary and 'all-through' schools, (including Welsh-medium schools and sixth form provision).

All admissions to mainstream schools are approved by the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team. Children are admitted to reception classes in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents may defer entry until the term following their child's fifth birthday. Children transfer to secondary phase education in the September following their eleventh birthday.

Application forms are available from the School Admissions Section, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which the parent should complete and return to the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ or parents can apply online at www.npt.gov.uk.

Requests for a place will be granted unless to do so would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.

Those parents who apply on time for a place at any school will be given priority over those who apply late.

The closing date for applications is in November.

Parents of pupils due to transfer from one educational phase to another at the end of the academic year will be sent an admission application letter by the Council during the Autumn Term. Parents will be advised of their child's allocated secondary phase education place on a given date in March and primary phase education place on a given date in April.

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

Children who are in receipt of a statement of special educational needs/ IDP which identifies mainstream education within a community school will be guaranteed a place at that school.

Oversubscription criteria primary phase education

Parents have the right to express a preference which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible. Some schools have more requests for places than there are places available. Where a school is oversubscribed preferences will still be considered but the priorities set by the Council will be applied. In deciding which children to admit to a school the Council applies the criteria set out below in the order of priority shown - a) being the highest priority.

The Council will only admit up to a school's admission number and will not breach the Infant Class Size Regulations of 30 or less, save exceptional circumstances.



a) Children looked after or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales, section as defined in 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

b) Children who live within the catchment area of the nursery class for which an application is made.

c) Children who have an older sibling / a sibling of statutory school age (statutory school age is defined as pupils who are between the age of 5 and 16 i.e. pupils in any year group between and including reception to year 11) who will be on the register at the school at which the nursery class is based when they are admitted. A “sibling” is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person. Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all children a place in the school, the parents will be asked to decide which child should be offered a place first or the parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all children.

d) Children who live outside the preferred school’s catchment area

If children are equally entitled to a place in the school in categories - a) to d) above, then priority will be given to the child living nearest. This is measured by the shortest suitable walking/travel route between the home and the school. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability.

In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent or young person (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child or young person with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young person has started at the school except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information the application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.



The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parents' principal place of residence on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child and the child lives with both parents for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an Independent Admission Appeals Panel. In the case of Primary phase education admission appeals to be submitted by 14th May 2021. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council. If the appeal is not successful a further application for a place at the same school will not be considered for the same academic year unless the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, determines that there are significant and material changes to the circumstances.

Waiting lists

The Council will keep a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants ranked in order of priority according to the Council's oversubscription criteria. As places become available these will be offered on the basis of the ranked order of priority. A waiting list will be maintained until 30th September in the school year in which the applicants applied.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's [Home to School Travel policy](#) when applying for a place at a school for their child.

Oversubscription criteria secondary phase education

Parents have the right to express a preference which will be considered individually and complied with wherever possible. Some schools have more requests for places than there are places available. Where a school is oversubscribed preferences will still be considered but the priorities set by the Council will be applied.

In deciding which children to admit to a school the Council applies the criteria set out below in the order of priority shown - a) being the highest priority.

_____ The Council will only admit up to a school's admission number.



Parents/carers can apply for a place at the catchment school or express a preference for a placement at an alternative school. Requests for a place will be granted unless to do so would prejudice the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources

Those parents who apply on time for a place at any school will be given priority over those who apply late.

a) Children and young people looked after or previously looked after by a local authority in Wales as defined in section 74 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 or England as defined in Section 22 of the Children Act 1989.

b) Children and young people attending a partner primary school* who live within the catchment area of the school for which the application is made.

c) Other children and young people who live within the catchment area of the school for which the application is made but do not attend a partner primary school.

d) Children and young people who have an older sibling who will be on register at the school when they are admitted. A “sibling” is defined as a full sibling, a half sibling (i.e. one shared parent), a step sibling (i.e. the child of a person co-habiting with a parent), a fostered sibling or an adopted sibling. In each case, at the time of the application the sibling must reside at the same address as the child or young person. Any sibling connection must be clearly stated in the application. In the case of multiple births, if it is not possible to offer all children a place in the school, parents will be asked to decide which child should be offered a place first or parents may wish to consider an alternative setting for all children.

e) Children and young people attending a partner primary school**, but who live outside the catchment area of the school for which the application is made.

If children are equally entitled to a place in the school in categories - a) to e) above, then priority will be given to the child living nearest. This is measured by the shortest suitable walking/travel route between the home and the school. The Council uses a Geographical Information System to calculate the shortest distance.

Only applications received by the published closing date for receipt of application forms will be considered in the initial round of allocation of places. Application forms received after the closing date will be considered as late applications. These will be considered on a weekly basis once the initial allocation is complete and places will be allocated in accordance with availability. In all cases evidence of permanent residence of the pupil at time of application must be supplied.

Once an offer of a school place has been made the Council will only withdraw that offer where the place offered has been on the basis of a fraudulent or intentionally misleading application from a parent or young person (for example, a false claim to residence in a catchment area) which effectively denied a place to a child or young person with a stronger claim. A school place will not be withdrawn once a child or young



person has started at the school except where that place was fraudulently obtained. In deciding whether to withdraw the place the length of time that the child had been at the school will be taken into account. Where a place is withdrawn on the basis of misleading information the application will be considered afresh and a right of appeal offered if a place is refused.

The home address is considered to be the child's along with their parents' principal place of residence on the published date, i.e. where they are normally and regularly living. If a child is resident with friends or relatives (for reasons other than fostering arrangements) the friends or relatives address will not be considered for allocation purposes.

Where parents have shared responsibility for a child/young person and the child/young person lives with both parents for part of the school week then the home address will be determined as the address where the child lives for the majority of the school week, e.g. 3 out of 5 days. Parents will be required to provide documentary evidence to support the address they wish to be considered for allocation purposes.

*Reference to a partner primary school is in relation to the school for which the application is made. For the definition of a partner primary school see para.

8. **Reference to a partner primary school is in relation to the school for which the application is made. For the definition of a partner primary school see para. 8

Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an Independent Admission Appeals Panel. In the case of Secondary phase education admission appeals to be submitted by a given date in March. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council. If the appeal is not successful a further application for a place at the same school will not be considered for the same academic year unless the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, determines that there are significant and material changes to the circumstances.

The Council will keep a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants ranked in order of priority according to the Council's oversubscription criteria. As places become available these will be offered on the basis of the ranked order of priority. A waiting list will be maintained until 30th September in the school year in which the applicants applied.

The LA will be under no duty to comply with preference expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

Although a separate policy provision, the Council recognises the inter-relationship between admission and home to school transport and advises parents to refer to the Council's [Home to School Travel policy](#) when applying for a place at a school for their child.



Admission during the academic year

Requests for children and young people to transfer between schools at periods other than at the normal transfer age will be determined by applying the above arrangements. Application forms are available from the School Admissions Section, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council which the parent (or young person in the case of a sixth form application) should complete and return to the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ. Successful applicants will receive a leaving date from the school at which they are currently enrolled and a start date for the receiving school. Moving children and young people during the academic year is not encouraged and, unless otherwise stated, admission to the receiving school will be from the beginning of the following term.

Transfer into a school within the County Borough from another local authority, or a change of school necessitated by a change of address, will be authorised as soon as possible but within 15 school days or 28 calendar days whichever is the sooner.

Children and young people who transfer due to being in receipt of a statement of special educational needs will be admitted into the named school as soon as possible but within 15 working days.

Admission number and class sizes – community schools

The admission number means the number of pupils that the Council can admit to a school. Each school has an admission number which is calculated using the Welsh Government's 'Measuring the capacity of schools in Wales' assessment. Admission to a school cannot be refused unless the admission number has been reached (appendix 5)

Legislation requires the class size for classes containing pupils the majority of whom will attain the age of 5, 6 and 7 during the course of the school year not to exceed 30 pupils save for 'excepted pupils' as specified by Regulation. The relevant age group is the group at which children and young people are normally admitted, i.e. reception for primary schools and Y7 for secondary schools.

Catchment areas and partner schools – community schools

For the purpose of admission to community schools, the term catchment area is defined as the geographical area served by a school, as determined by the Council.

For the purpose of admission to community schools, the term 'partner' school is defined as a school that has a catchment area in common with another school of the same category, e.g. an English-medium community primary with an English- medium community secondary or a Welsh-medium community primary with a Welsh-medium



community secondary (voluntary aided schools excepted). An indicative list is attached as appendix 4.

Copies of school catchment area maps may be obtained from the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team.

Admission Process overview - Community Schools

All applications for admission into a community school (including sixth form) within the County Borough must be made on the appropriate form to the Council and not to the school. Parents can apply online at www.npt.gov.uk

Head teachers do not have the authority to admit children to their school. Applications have to be made to the admission authority which, for community schools, is the Council / LA.

All parents of children known to the Council and residing within the County Borough will be forwarded an admission application letter and accompanying admission arrangement notes during the Autumn Term prior to entry into school in September of the following academic year.

Parents should request an admission application form and, when completed, return it to the Admissions Officer or apply online, by the date given on the admission arrangements.

The outcome of all admission applications will be notified to parents in writing or by email as appropriate, with all outcomes sent from the central office on the date given on the admission arrangements.

Parents who are satisfied with the placement offered should confirm acceptance of the offer in writing to the Council or via the school admission website. Unfilled places will be allocated to children and young people whose parents have applied for admission ahead of those who have not formally accepted the initial offer of a place.

Parents who are not satisfied with the placement offered have a right of appeal.

Information regarding appeals will be within the contents of the letter received. Appeals will be heard by an Independent Appeal Panel constituted for the sole purpose of hearing appeals.

Requests for admission to the relevant age group submitted on or before the administrative closing date will be processed collectively. In this respect, no advantage shall be gained from the early submission of an admission request. Requests submitted after the closing date will be processed on a weekly basis.



Admissions will not be determined on the basis of selection criteria involving the sitting of tests, viewing of school reports, interviewing pupils, with or without parents for the purpose of assessing ability or aptitude.

Where requests for admission exceed the number of places available, places will be allocated by applying the Council's oversubscription criteria.

The Council will keep a waiting list of unsuccessful applicants ranked in order of priority according to the Council's oversubscription criteria. As places become available, these will be offered on the basis of the ranked order of priority. A waiting list will be maintained until 30th September in the school year in which applications were received applied.

Right of Appeal

Parents/carers will be informed, in writing, as to whether their application has been successful. Where their application has been refused parents/carers will be informed in writing that they have right of appeal to an Independent Admission Appeals Panel. In the case of primary phase education admission appeals to be submitted by a given date in May. Any decision made by the Panel being binding on the Council. If the appeal is not successful a further application for a place at the same school will not be considered for the same academic year unless the Admissions Officer, School and Family Support Team, determines that there are significant and material changes to the circumstances.

Children attending the nursery class will not have an automatic right of admission to full time education at the same school. Similarly, children transferring from primary phase education to secondary phase education do not have an automatic right of admission to any school. Children admitted to the primary phase of an 'all-through' school do not have to apply for a place at the same school at secondary transfer.

The Council will be under no duty to comply with preferences expressed otherwise than in accordance with its arrangements.

Separate admission arrangements apply to pupils for whom the Council holds a statement of special educational need/ IDP. Pupils with a statement of educational needs must be admitted to the school named on their statement.

Children who are Looked After (CLA) and previously looked after children must, after children with a statement of educational needs, be given first priority in the case of oversubscription.



Schedule of Events Community Schools Secondary Phase Education & Sixth Form Admission

Given Date in October

Application forms / School Prospectus / Information for Parents Handbook distributed to parents. Parents of young people entering a new school (Year 7) have a minimum of 6 weeks to apply to a school of their choice.

Application forms to be returned to:

Mrs H Lewis, Schools Admissions Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council,
Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

- Closing date of submission of Admission Application Forms
- Applications processed

Given Date in February

Children with statements of special educational needs/idp have placements confirmed.

Given Date in March

Parents and schools informed of allocation of secondary places to mainstream pupils.

Given Date in March

Appeals against refusal to admit



Schedule of Events for Community Schools Primary Phase Education Admissions

Given Date in October

Application forms / School Prospectus, Information for Parents Handbook distributed to parents. Parents of children entering a new school (Reception) have a minimum of 6 weeks to apply to a school of their choice.

Application forms to be returned to: Mrs H Lewis, Schools Admissions Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Given Date in November

- Closing date of submission of Admission Application Forms
- Applications processed

Given Date in February

Children with statements of special educational needs/idp have placements confirmed.

Given Date in April

Parents and schools informed of allocation of primary places to mainstream pupils.

Given Date in May

Appeals against refusal to admit

Schedule of Events for Community Schools Nursery Class Admission

Given Date in October

Application forms distributed to parents.

Application forms to be returned to: Mrs H Lewis, Schools Admissions Officer, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Port Talbot Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ

Given Date in March

- Closing date of submission of Admission Application Forms
- Applications processed

Given Date in May

Parents and schools informed of allocation of nursery places.



Partner Community Schools

NB: Attendance at a partner school does not guarantee a place at the preferred school nor does it prevent parents applying to alternative schools of their choice. This table does not include voluntary aided schools which are subject to separate admission arrangements.

Secondary	Primary
Cefn Saeson	Crynallt Primary, Gnoll Primary, Melin Primary, Tonnau Primary.
Cwmtawe	Alltwen Primary, Godre'rgraig Primary, Llangiwig Primary, Rhos Primary, Rhydyfro Primary, Tairgwaith Primary.
Ysgol Bae Baglan	Awel Y Mor Primary, Ysgol Carreg Hir, Baglan Primary, Blaenbaglan Primary, Sandfields Primary, Tywyn Primary.
Dwr Y Felin	Abbey Primary, Blaenhonddan Primary, Coedffranc Primary, Crymlyn Primary, Waunceirch Primary.
Ysgol Cwm Brombil	Central Primary, Coed Hirwaun Primary, Cwmafan Primary, Eastern Primary, Croeserw Primary, Cymer Afan Primary, Glyncorrwg Primary, Pen Afan Primary.
Llangatwg	Blaendulais Primary, Blaengwrach Primary, Catwg Primary, Cilffriw Primary, Creunant Primary, Cwmnedd Primary, Maesmarchog Primary, Ynysfach Primary.
Ysgol Gymraag Ystalyfera - Bro Dur	YGG Blaendulais, YGG Castell-Nedd, YGG Cwmllynfell, YGG Cwmnedd, YGG Gwaun Cae Gurwen, YGG Pontardawe, YGG Rhosafan, YGG Trebannws, YGG Tyle'r Ynn.

