

CA16 / 1416

St Teilo's CIW High School

1. In principle the Governing Body supports the process that you are consulting upon. Representatives of the Governing Body and school attended your recent meeting and conveyed this view.
2. With regard to comments upon individual school Admissions Policies, the Full Governing Body is currently reviewing the St. Teilo's Admission Policy for 2018 Year 7 Entry and may make minor adjustments as it seeks fit, but will be unable to do so before the prescribed 27th January date. We would hope to be in a position to confirm this by the end of February.

On behalf of the Chair of Governors of St. Teilo's CIW High School

Kind regards

Andy Lewis

Clerk to the Governing Body



Mr Denton-Smith
School Organisation Team Project Officer
School Organisational Planning
City of Cardiff Council
County Hall
CF10 4UW

6th February 2017

Dear Mr Denton-Smith,

Re: Response to the consultation on Co-ordinated Secondary School Admission Arrangements

I refer to your correspondence with the Clerk to the Governors on this matter. The Governors of The Bishop of Llandaff CiW High School have discussed this at a Full Governing Body meeting and again at the most recent Admissions Committee meeting on 11th January. It is the governors' view that the proposed admissions process will add another level to a process that is unnecessary for the school. There are processes in place for the admissions to the school that are effectively managed. The governors understand the complications around the admissions process but at present do not feel the new format would be beneficial.

On page 5 it states that the local authority already has an online system for applications but you will be aware that The Bishop of Llandaff High School does not. Consequently, it is a bigger step for the school than it would be for many others to change to the co-ordinated online system. Would there be a shared online system? Who would maintain the system and who would pick up the cost?

It is difficult to follow the logic on page 7 that more pupils would be offered their preferred school as a consequence of the co-ordinated system. The school is limited in the number of Foundation and Community places it can offer which cannot be affected by the application system. Similarly, knowing which children will be admitted does not assist the school to plan its budget, class organisation or staffing arrangements.

As for resources, ranking all applicants would significantly increase the workload of the admissions staff. It is also not clear why this proposal would result in fewer appeals as there will still be significant numbers of unsuccessful applicants due to the limit on places, not the system of application, as acknowledged in the section on Transport which recognises there is no change in the supply of school places.

The Governors do not wish to be part of a pilot for such an important process, given the disruption and uncertainty of making the change in a live admissions environment. The preference is for the pilot to be conducted and the school would consider the situation again once the problems of a new county-wide system have been ironed out.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Phillips
Chair of Admissions Committee/Vice Chair of Governors

CA16/145

From: Brian Gray [<mailto:brigcardiff@aol.com>]

Sent: 17 January 2017 15:50

To: Services, Governor <G.Services@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: Re: REMINDER: Co-ordinated Secondary School Admission Arrangements Consultation

Dear Michell,

Just to inform you that S Illtyd's would like to be part of this admission pilot scheme.

If you need any further details, please let me know.

Many thanks

Fr Brian Gray

Chair of Governors

St Illtyd's Catholic High School

Sent from my iPad

CA16/147

From: Mullins, Barbara
Sent: 17 January 2017 14:40
To: Sambell, Julie <J.Sambell@cardiff.gov.uk>
Cc: Kath Brown <SAK41@hotmail.co.uk>
Subject: Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements

Dear Julie

Further to our telephone conversation, I write to confirm that the matter of Co-ordinated Admission Arrangements was discussed at our Governors' Meeting on 10 January 2017.

In the interests of trying to make the whole system fairer for everybody concerned, the decision has been made to support the pilot. It was also agreed, however, that if the new system does not work well, Governors will reassess the situation when discussing the school's Admissions Policy before the end of the pilot.

Hopefully, everything will go well. We look forward to learning of further training in the new system.

Yours sincerely

Angela Thomas
Headteacher

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Mary Immaculate RC High School

Notes for Admissions Consultation

The Governors Admissions Committee met Wednesday January 11th at 10am. Members had had sight of the proposals prior to the meeting.

General Points

1. We felt that the current window to comment on this proposal is too narrow and has therefore not allowed a full discussion at Governors. Most Governors meet every half term, meaning, depending on the deadlines set, Governors should be able to meet to discuss. The narrow window of opportunity has meant this is not possible and is a discouraging beginning to the situation;
2. We feel that a three year trial period is much too long; pilot programmes are rarely of such length because of the need to supply a more immediate assessment of progress. We would suggest a more limited geographical and time-limited approach;
3. We would like to know what the proposed monies are set aside for additional staffing or technical demands, given the expansion of the existing system.

Notes from Admissions Proposal document

- a. P.6 – where you say that ‘192 parents are holding 205 places’; we felt this phrase needed further explanation – for example could this be resolved by having a stricter approach to accepting places as apportioned within a narrower time window?
- b. P.7 – what evidence can you cite to support the comment ‘Children would have a better experience and more effective start to school’? If parents are unhappy with the current system, can you please outline the number and type of complaints you have received?
- c. What would happen if a pupil were noted as a category 1 entrant in multiple schools – who would define where they would go? When and how would the successful school be notified? We feel it would be necessary to have a transparent approach so that schools could see where they were ranked by parents.
- d. Where is parental choice if they are only offered one option? (p.8) How could you be sure that they would be offered their preferred school – what data can you use to support this assumption?
- e. What would happen if a parent only expressed a choice for one school and no other? What would then happen if they did not gain admission to that school?

- f. You say that continuing the current system would lead to an increase in inequality; at our school the number of appeals has reduced (even though the number of unsuccessful applications has remained the same) as our systems have become more efficient in supporting parents.
- g. What would happen if parents filled in the common form but did not fill in the school form? What does the common form look like (we should have sight of this prior to any decision), how does it operate and is the ICT system sufficiently robust to cope with this demand. Can parents only choose a VA school?
- h. If you say '*there is little or no effect on the numbers on roll*' (p.8), what do you presume the effect would be – what is your evidence?
- i. How would the system be affected if we accepted pupils from another borough?

These are key points that would need to be addressed prior to the Governors allowing Mary Immaculate to participate in any new system. We do feel that there are too many unknowns and too many un-evidenced assumptions to make a definitive decision. We certainly feel there needs to be a narrower trial to ensure these assumptions could be tested.

We look forward to your consideration of these points

H.J.Powell

Headteacher

On behalf of the Governors Admissions Panel

CA16/09

The Governors at Mary Immaculate have met on numerous occasions both as a full group and as the admissions sub-committee. It has considered thoroughly the proposals made using its wealth of experience in admissions and appeals to ask key questions of the process. The questions were posed to the consultation but the answers received did not, in our opinion, sufficiently allay the concerns we have about the process and outcomes for Mary Immaculate.

The school has continued to be open minded in its approach to this consultation but does not feel it can yet participate in its current format, although we have been awaiting notice of any changes prior to making a final decision.

The school is very much open to participating in future, but does not feel it can support the process at this time.

Regards

Rev. Prof Maurice Scanlon
Chair of Governors
Mary Immaculate High School

Whitchurch High School
Penline Road
Whitchurch
Cardiff

23rd January 2017

Dear Mr Batchelar

CO-ORDINATED SCHOOL ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

I am responding on behalf of the governing body of Whitchurch High School to the local authority's consultation regarding the proposed co-ordinated secondary school admissions with effect from 2018.

The governing body wishes to give full consideration to this proposal but there are some concerns and queries arising from the consultation. These will also need to be discussed before a final decision is made.

1. The proposal removes the right of parents to apply to more than one admission authority and thereby affects the rights of children. The consultation document does not make this clear and whilst the majority of parents already know which school they wish to apply to, there are parents and children who do not know in the Autumn Term which school their child is going to want/need in the following Autumn. I am thinking particularly of families who may wish to change the nature of the school involved eg currently in a Welsh-medium school but the family and child need to decide whether this is still the best option for secondary school; move to faith education in the secondary sector, etc. Such families are not catered for in a system asking them to list three school choices.

'The process of starting school or transferring between schools can be a time of uncertainty and anxiety therefore it is essential that the principles of fairness and openness are applied to all aspects of school admissions.'
(School Admissions Code)

The governors concern is that the proposal seems to have lost sight of the needs of certain children and is focused upon making the admission process easier for admission authorities.

2. The on-line consultation response form lacks relevance. It would have been useful to have targeted parents of Years 3, 4 & 5 in primary schools, those who would take part in the pilot scheme. As far as I can see there is no way of knowing whether any of the respondents have children in these year groups and likely to be affected.

3. Many of the authority's challenges around admission appeals are due to planning of school places issues (there are insufficient places for pupils in the right areas of Cardiff). Coming together as a shared admission service will not solve this and although the authority has indicated its strategic plans to

enhance secondary school places in the East and West of the City these are unlikely to be in place for 2018 so that appeals are likely to be a current levels, if not greater.

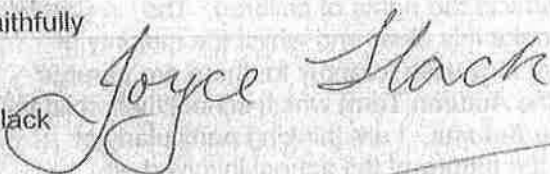
4. The governors would have liked to consult with their parents and particularly parents in feeder schools but the timescale does not allow for this.

5. The governors are concerned that the consultation documents indicates that the governing body would be required to sign up for a three year period. As the school is an Admission Authority it is felt that the local authority cannot remove this statutory right by any written contract nor would the governing body require the approval of Officers of the authority to carry out such functions. The governors would be happy to sign an agreement, in the right circumstances, but this seems heavy-handed and lacks the respect we would like to see in partnership working.

6. It is unclear from the consultation document whether the co-ordinated school admission arrangements will proceed if some of the secondary admission authorities do not sign up to the co-ordinated school admission arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Joyce Slack
Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Slack". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name and title.

CA16/17

Sent: 28 February 2017 20:42

To: Duddridge-Hossain, Michele <MDuddridgeHossain@cardiff.gov.uk>; Denton-Smith, Paul <PDenton-Smith@cardiff.gov.uk>

Cc: JONES-WILLIAMSH <JONES-WILLIAMSH@whitchurch.cardiff.sch.uk>

Subject: Whitchurch High School

Dear Michelle and Paul

Thank you again for your time this evening and for enabling us to raise our concerns and queries with you.

The full governing body at our last meeting delegated authority to the Admissions Sub Committee to make a decision regarding the Co-ordinated Secondary School Admissions proposal. I am pleased to tell you that after some discussion it was agreed to be part of the local authority's co-ordinated secondary school admission pilot; we look forward to working with you further on this matter.

Best wishes
Joyce

CA16/62

Radyr Comprehensive School

The proposal would make things a lot easier for schools and remove the fears that some parents have with other children holding more than one place.

Andrew Williams
Headteacher
Radyr Comprehensive

Phillips, Rosalie

From: TStephens <TStephens@cathays.cardiff.sch.uk>
Sent: 06 December 2016 08:50
To: School Responses
Subject: Admissions arrangements

I agree with the proposal for the admissions arrangements to change from 2018/19. For Cathays High School who admit pupils from all over the city and from a large number of primary schools we currently suffer from the situation where parents apply to us and to other secondary schools, therefore our admission number in March is never the same as the pupils that turn up in September. The new arrangements will mean we can plan using the list that is supplied in March and plan accordingly.

Tracey Stephens - Headteacher
Cathays High School
Address: Crown Way, Cardiff, CF14 3XG
Tel: 029 2034 4400; Fax: 029 2034 4401
Web: www.cathays.cardiff.sch.uk; Twitter: @CathaysHHS



Fitzalan High School

We have struggled for many years to seek a coordinated approach and so this new proposal would go a long way to achieving this. At present we have to request from parents via our close links with primary schools as to which school they wish to take up and even then this often turns out not to be the case in September. We do however still have a concern across different authorities as the number of our cluster pupils who hold places in the Vale will still continue. The major concern that we still have is that our cluster is still too large. Even with increasing our pupil numbers to 300 (which we do not have space for) there are still over 600 pupils in our 9 cluster schools – this still will pose a very large problem for our parents. We also believe that more needs to be done to accommodate the high numbers of families that we have who do not speak English and do not have an email address let alone access to the internet at home. The new Hub/online system has proved particular challenging this year and so any future changes would need to be mindful of this. We have met with Julie Samball this year to address these concerns and have offered to pilot or consult on the impact of any proposed changes.

Best wishes

Yvonne Roberts-Ablett
Head of KS2 (transition) and KS3
Fitzalan High School, Cardiff.
Ysgol Uwchradd Fitzalan, Caerdydd.

From: John Hayes <JDH@plasmawr.cardiff.sch.uk>
Sent: 15 January 2017 17:14
To: School Responses
Cc: Catrin Redknap
Subject: Consultation response re Secondary School Admission Arrangements

Response by: John Hayes, Headteacher, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr on behalf of the school's governing body.

Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr
Pentrebane Rd
Fairwater
Cardiff
CF5 3PZ

The Governing Body approve the proposal to co-ordinate secondary school admissions for the Year 7 age group.

Other comments: Members of the Governing Body are pleased to know that officers are monitoring birth rates; the yield from proposed housing and the patterns of take up in Welsh medium provision at primary and secondary age with a view to bringing forward appropriate plans to meet the increased demand. The Governing Body would wish to be consulted with at an early stage of any proposal that would have an impact on the admission number or existing catchment of Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Plasmawr.

Phillips, Rosalie

From: Boyle, Joe (Cllr)
Sent: 23 January 2017 15:40
To: School Responses
Cc: Kelloway, Bill (Cllr); Burfoot, Patricia (Cllr)
Subject: Coordinated secondary school admissions proposals

Re. Coordinated secondary school admissions arrangements, 2018-20

We are writing, as elected members for Penylan, to support the council's proposals for co-ordinated secondary school admissions. We believe these are sensible proposals. They may reduce some of the pressure being faced by many residents in our ward in their efforts to secure a place for their children at their catchment school, Cardiff High.

We are confident the proposals will not have an adverse impact on any one particular group and therefore do not fall foul of any equality requirements.

Finally, we note that many children in Penylan still look likely to miss out on a place at their catchment area, irrespective of these proposals. There is no guarantee that a co-ordinated admissions policy will have any impact on that pressure, as many families may simply choose to list Cardiff High School as their preferred choice and opt out of the non-community route altogether.

Penylan residents need a longer term solution. With additional year groups in three of Cardiff High's partner primary schools beginning to rise through the system, that solution is needed in short order.

Regards,

Joe Boyle, Bill Kelloway, Tricia Burfoot
Councillors for Penylan