

Response from Cllr. Robert Hopkins, Liberal Democrat Education spokesperson

Response to consultation on draft School Admissions Policy

Please find below comments in relation to the consultation.

Section 1.4 Community School Catchment Areas

I wish to make a request for a local consultation to review and redesignate the catchment area for numbers 1-7 Werngoch Road, Cyncoed from the English medium schools Springwood Primary School and Llanishen High School to Lakeside Primary School and Cardiff High School.

On the catchment area map these properties are in the catchment area of Springwood Primary School and Llanishen High School. I believe this to be inappropriate for the following reasons:

- All the properties on the opposite side of the same Werngoch Road are in the catchment area of Lakeside Primary School and Cardiff High School.
- There are only seven properties on Werngoch Road affected by an historic anomaly.
- There is no road/ vehicular access from Werngoch Road to Hillrise in the Springwood Primary catchment area.
- All other roads leading off Cyncoed Road are within the catchment areas of either Lakeside or Rhydypenau Primary Schools and, in some instances, are further away from Lakeside Primary School than Werngoch Road.
- Llanishen High School is significantly further from Werngoch Road than is Cardiff High School.
- While there are some addresses in the Cyncoed ward designated as within other catchment areas – for example Glyncoed Primary School or Llanedeyrn Primary - these properties are in a different location being located on the north-eastern edge of the Cyncoed electoral ward.
- Numbers 1-7 Werngoch Road have been designated as within the catchment of the English medium catchments of Springwood and Llanishen High since electronic records began in 2000. In previous correspondence, it has been confirmed that there is no record or rationale showing how the catchment area for these seven properties were determined prior to this. This would seem, therefore, to strengthen the case for a review as requested.

Section 2.7 Changing school during academic year

This section refers to a child being placed on a waiting list where there is no place available in the relevant year group. Would it not be helpful to make clear that parents wishing to remain on a waiting list beyond the end of the school term would need to make further applications.

Section 4.6 Ysgol Gynradd Groes-Wen

This section refers to the lower admission number of 15 per stream in 2025/2026. Would it be helpful to clarify that the admission number from 2026/2027 will increase year on year in line with the admission numbers in reception, year 1 and year 2 as pupils move through the school.