
EDUCATION STATEMENT

AGENDA ITEM: 12

Admissions

At Cabinet last week it was agreed to pilot a co-ordinated admissions arrangement for Cardiff Secondary schools 2018-20. Bishop of Llandaff CW High School and Mary Immaculate High School will not be part of the pilot but have indicated their intention to review their position as the pilot is progressed. It is hoped that a co-ordinated admissions arrangement will significantly reduce the uncertainty for parents and that more children will be allocated their first choice of school at the end of the first round of allocations. Cardiff will be the first local authority in Wales to trial a co-ordinated admissions process.

The admissions policy for the year 2018-19 was agreed, broadly in line with previous years. Additionally it was agreed that officers be mandated to undertake further research regarding the criteria applied by other LA admissions bodies in order to consider the potential benefits these could have in the Cardiff context given the population dynamics in the city and the growing pressure for places in some areas.

The following statistics exclude faith and foundation schools:

- **Total number of applications received by the deadline has increased from 2358 in 2016 to 2620 in 2017**
- **Total of online applications increased by over 21% compared to 2016.**
- **Total number of places allocated has increased from 2113 in 2016 to 2315 in 2017**

SOP Stakeholder Reference Group

Welsh Government have requested that the Council consider its priorities for the next phase of the 21st Century Schools programme funding, Band B, which is due to commence in the Spring of 2019. A Stakeholder Reference Group has been established to look at needs analysis and prioritisation criteria to assist in the development of the Councils Band B proposals. This group is comprised of Head teachers from all sectors of the City, including primary, secondary and special and also covering English, Welsh, faith and foundation establishments as well as a Governor representative. It is chaired by Professor Chris Taylor from Cardiff University. The first meeting of the group was held on 2 March 2017 at City Hall and a further 4 meetings will be held up until early May, when the data and needs analysis gathered from the group will be used to prioritise the investment

programme. It is anticipated that the submission will be complete by this Autumn for Cabinet approval and then submission to Welsh Government for their approval of the funding envelope.

Junior Apprenticeship Programme

The Junior Apprentice programme has been running at Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) since September 2016. This programme was set up to help address the high numbers of young people who were identified as ‘at risk’ of not making a successful transition into education, employment or training across schools in the Cardiff region.

The programme has been designed for year 10 pupils to be delivered over the two years of key stage 4. There are 6 different vocational pathways: Automotive, Construction, Hair & Beauty, Public Services, Hospitality & Catering and Digital Media.

43 Cardiff learners are currently enrolled and study a Level 2 vocational programme in their chosen junior apprenticeship pathway (equivalent to 2 GCSEs), plus GCSE English, Mathematics and Numeracy. There is also a Programme of work related education which includes CV building and work experience with a network of employers in the region.

I visited the Junior Apprentices at CAVC and spoke to several of them who were all very enthusiastic about the scheme. One of whom described it as “the best thing ever”. The apprentices spoke of the benefits which included the change of environment, very small classes for English and maths (around 12) and a clear pathway to an apprenticeship.

Update on Estyn Inspections

Since the start of the 2016-2017 academic year four primary schools and two secondary schools have been inspected under the current framework and their reports published.

School	Date of Inspection	Current Standards	Prospects for Improvement
St. Mellons CIW	Oct -16	Excellent	Good
Tredegarville	Nov-16	Good	Good
Danescourt	Nov-16	Good	Good
Stacey Primary	Nov-16	Good	Good
Michaelston CC	Oct-16	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Glyn Derw	Oct-16	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory

In addition Ninian Park Primary School was used to pilot an inspection under the 2017 proposed framework.

	Date of Inspection	Standards	Wellbeing and Attitudes to Learning	Teaching and learning experiences	Care support and guidance	Leadership and Management
Ninian Park	Nov -16	Good	Good	Adequate	Good	Good

Four other schools have been inspected but their results have not been published, Ysgol Glan Morfa, St. Cadocs, Ysgol Pencae, Fitzalan High.

St. Cadocs RC primary is being inspected week beginning 27 March 2017.

Estyn

On the 9th March, Estyn is hosting an awards evening recognising excellence in education and training in Wales, in particular the work of providers who received an overall inspection judgement of 'excellent' in the academic year 2015-2016. I am pleased to say that this includes Birchgrove Primary School, Kitchener Primary School and Severn Primary School.

Representatives from these providers will be presented with a framed certificate recognising the hard work and commitment that lies behind achieving an 'excellent' inspection judgement and will be congratulated by Meilyr Rowlands, Her Majesty's Chief Inspectors, and Kirsty Williams, Cabinet Secretary for Education.

Managing Director of Central South Consortium

The current Managing Director, Hannah Woodhouse, is leaving at the end of March to take up a new post in England. Following a recruitment process Mike Glavin, currently Assistant Director has been appointed to succeed her in the role.

Cardiff Junior Rugby Winners in Ireland

Cardiff Schools Under 11 Rugby squad is a team of 32 more able and talented children who are selected for the talents from primary schools in Cardiff. We have over 20 schools represented at the moment. The squad changes annually and children are usually 10/11 yrs old.

4 Cardiff teachers volunteer to coach the team during a weekly after school session.. The games are against teams from across Wales. We lost 2 games at the beginning of the season, but have now won 11 in a row.

We have secured 13 local business sponsors who are keen to support team work, fitness, healthy lifestyles and skills development.

During February half term the squad toured Terenure, Dublin. This is a tour that has been running for 36 years. We rarely win out in Dublin! We returned home with the 'Mike Rein' trophy after winning our games this year..

We now move on to a semi-final against The Vale Schools in a couple of weeks. If we make the final, it will be played at Cardiff Arms Park on April 3rd. Fingers crossed.

Cardiff 2020 vision certainly brought to life - learners, parents, schools, teachers, businesses, the community all working together to achieve excellence.

We are now looking to select the team for next year. We have over 100+ year 5 children joining an Easter rugby camp, based at Greenway Primary.

We look forward to sharing more success as the season draws to an end.

Soft Drinks Levy

I have written to Kirsty Williams AM asking her to consider whether the Welsh Government's could consider utilising the consequential funding that Wales will receive, via the Barnett Formula, from the proceeds of the new Soft Drinks Industry Levy to provide continued financial assistance to support the successful SHEP scheme.

Schools in Their Communities

Recent school developments have built on the existing strong commitment to ensuring that all Cardiff schools are "community focussed". The new Eastern High School, for example, will offer extensive opportunities for community use for learning, sports and leisure outside school hours. The council has engaged a leading headteacher, Sir Alasdair Macdonald, to work on this aspect of our education improvement programme as we develop our plans for the school estate over the next 10 years.

The Big Pedal

I would like to congratulate the 15 Cardiff schools taking part in the "Big Pedal" with Sustrans to encourage children to bike school with daily updates on the winners. You can follow the schools progress here:

<http://bigpedal.org.uk/schools/rankings/stage/1/5>

The schools are: Baden Powell Primary, Bishop Childs C.I.W. Primary School, Bryn Hafod Primary School, Coryton Primary School, Danescourt Primary School, Howardian Primary School, Llandaff City C.I.W. Primary School, Pentrebane Primary School, Rhydypenau Primary School, St Monica's C.I.W. Primary School, Whitchurch Primary, Willowbrook Primary School, Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd, Ysgol Mynydd Bychan, Ysgol Y Berllan Deg

Councillor Sarah Merry
Cabinet Member for Education

23 March 2017