

School Admission Arrangements 2020-2021 consultation feedback

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Whilst in principle we agree with the admission arrangements our greatest concern as a school is the fact that as an oversubscribed school we do have a large number of pupils in our catchment that do not get places at Fitzalan when they transfer from primary school.

Due to the nature of the families they find it very difficult to get to schools when there is no school transport. They then remain out of school for long periods of time, which is very detrimental to the education of some of the most vulnerable learners.

We are keen to work with County to ensure that all pupils are placed successfully within Cardiff by September 1st to avoid stress for families and placing children at risk.

Specific feedback on points

7.2 If a pupil moves out of catchment before starting at the school, it is vital that the admissions team are clear and explicit with their communication to us of the name and address of the pupil so they can be removed from our pre-admissions prior to them starting. This would be better facilitated if the admissions team are contactable during the summer holidays and the first few weeks of term.

9.4 There should be NO pupils without a school place for September. Families need to be supported by County to ensure this happens.

From: Ceri RhAG <ceri@rhag.cymru>

Sent: 21 February 2019 14:57

To: School Responses \ Ymatebion Ysgolion <SchoolResponses@cardiff.gov.uk>

Subject: School Admissions Arrangements 2020-2021 (Cardiff) – comments RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education)

Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to present the following comments on behalf of Parents for Welsh Medium Education:

- We suggest the a revision of current School Admissions arrangements is needed to establish a transparent and co-ordinated system, and also to prevent parents from claiming more than one place in several schools. Fairness and consistency need to be secured, which will allow parents to apply for only one place.
- At the moment, three authorities administer school admissions completely separately, namely the Local Authority (community schools), Faith Schools (Anglican and Catholic).
- We strongly recommend that Cardiff Council set a protocol of mutual understanding between the three Admissions authorities, in order to create one list for primary and secondary sectors, which will allow them to share information about applications.
- The current arrangement also suggests that the way the county presents their figures is misleading. The numbers for successful entries refer to single children, but a child can be refused a place more than once and every child who is refused is counted, which leads to the impression that the refusals are a lot more than they really are.
- We also believe that the Admissions policy should make provisions for considering the unique situation of children of armed forces families as well as children who are relocated due to their parents' work. They are forced to apply for school places – and to move during the school year – depending completely on their parents' work situation, which more often than not is out of their control. We believe that children who apply for places in Welsh Medium Schools – as there are fewer places and a high demand for places in a number those schools – are affected disproportionately in this context.