

# Co-ordinated School Admission Arrangements for Sept 2023

## RESULTS REPORT



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✉ [consultation@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@cardiff.gov.uk)



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## Background

Legislation requires admission authorities to review their School Admission Arrangements annually. The procedure which admission authorities should follow when determining their admission arrangements, includes a proper consultation being carried out and that the arrangements should be determined by 15<sup>th</sup> April in the school year beginning two years before the school year which the arrangements will be for.

Currently, parents applying for a primary school place in September submit an application to each separate admission authority. As a result of this, whilst some parents receive offers for their child at multiple schools, other parents have been unsuccessful in securing a place at any of their school preferences.

Cardiff Council has successfully co-ordinated admissions with three partner secondary schools since the 2018/2019 intake year and with St Mellons Church in Wales Primary School since September 2021.

The Council, the Catholic Archdiocese of Cardiff, the Church in Wales Diocese of Llandaff, the Church in Wales Diocese of Monmouth and a number of primary schools would like the benefits of co-ordinated admissions arrangements to be extended to primary schools and to parents of children entering primary education.

The Council is also seeking to expand the co-ordinated arrangements for secondary schools.

## Proposals

- Implement a co-ordinated primary school admissions process for the reception age group intake from September 2023.
- Include The Bishop of Llandaff C.W. High School within the co-ordinated secondary school admissions process for the Year 7 age group intake from September 2023.

## Methodology

- Publication of a Consultation Document on the Council website.
- Distribution of a letter to parents of all pupils due to start in the reception year in September 2023, outlining the proposal and giving details of how to access the Consultation Document online.
- A communication campaign via social media.
- Online drop in sessions where officers were available to answer questions.
- A consultation response slip for return by post or e-mail, attached to the consultation document.
- An online response form at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/admissionarrangements](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/admissionarrangements).

## Responses

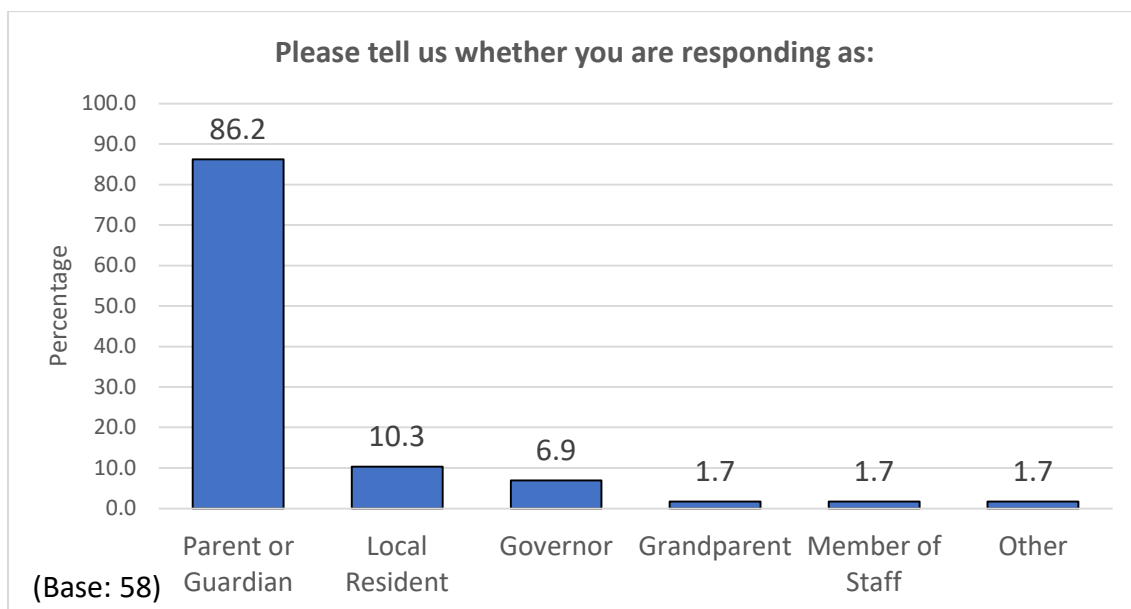
There were 58 responses received to the consultation

**CO-ORDINATED SCHOOL  
ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS  
FOR SEPTEMBER 2023 -  
RESEARCH FINDINGS**

## Results

Please tell us whether you are responding as:

Over four fifths (86.2%) of responses to the survey were from parents or guardians, this was followed by one in ten (10.3%) that came from local residents.



*N.B. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents could select more than one option*

Please confirm which school/s you are affiliated with:

	No.	%
Bryn Deri Primary School	1	2.2
Corpus Christi Catholic High School	2	4.4
Danescourt Primary School	1	2.2
Christ the King RC Primary School	1	2.2
Fitzalan High School	1	2.2
Llandaff CW Primary School	2	4.4
Llanishen High School	1	2.2
Llysfaen Primary School	1	2.2
Meadowlane Primary School	1	2.2
Pontprennau Primary School	2	4.4
Radyr Comprehensive School	2	4.4
Radyr Primary School	1	2.2
Rainbow Federation	1	2.2
Rhiwbeina Primary School	2	4.4
Rhydypenau Primary School	2	4.4
St Bernadette's RC Primary School	4	8.9
St Fagan's CW Primary School	1	2.2
St Joseph's RC Primary school	1	2.2

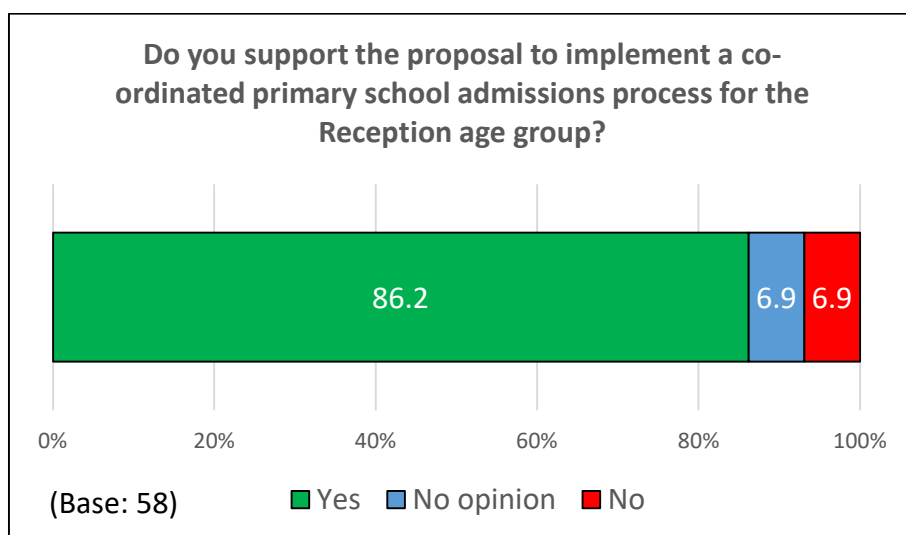
Co-ordinated Schools Admission Arrangements for September 2023

St Peter's RC Primary School	1	2.2
St Teilo's Church In Wales High School	2	4.4
St Davids CW Primary School	1	2.2
St Davids Sixth Form College	1	2.2
The Bishop of Llandaff Church In Wales High School	2	4.4
Thornhill Primary School	1	2.2
Ton Yr Ywen Primary School	2	4.4
Whitchurch High School	3	6.7
Ysgol Glan Ceubal	1	2.2
Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bro Edern	2	4.4
Ysgol Gymraeg Melin Gruffydd	1	2.2
Ysgol Gynradd Gwaelod y Garth Primary School	1	2.2
Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Pen-y-Groes	2	4.4
Ysgol Mynydd Bychan	1	2.2
Ysgol Pencae	1	2.2
Ysgol Y Berllan Deg	1	2.2
Ysgol Y Wern	1	2.2
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>-</b>

*N.B. Percentages do not sum to 100% as respondents could identify more than one school*

Do you support the proposal to implement a co-ordinated primary school admissions process for the reception age group?

Over four fifths (86.2%) of respondents support the proposal. However, if no opinion responses are removed from the analysis, then support rises to 92.6%.





A breakdown by respondent type can be viewed below:

	Parent / Guardian	Governor	Local Resident
Yes	88.0	100.0	83.3
No opinion	8.0	0.0	0.0
No	4.0	0.0	16.7
<b>Base</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

### Please explain why

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the proposal. Twenty-seven respondents left feedback as to why they supported the proposal, whilst three respondents left feedback as to why they were against the proposals. A full breakdown can be viewed below / overleaf.

#### **Support for the proposal**

- It streamlines the application process and applicants will be treated fairly.
- Makes much more sense and unfair for people to be holding multiple places.
- It is not fair that people can hold more than one school offer when others receive a rejection on results day.
- The advantages all make sense, with no real disadvantages expect to those who wish to 'play' the system.
- The increased coordination and cooperation of all schools will make it a more straightforward process for parents and pupils.
- More likely that each child will be offered a place.
- Better use of council resources. No one needs to hold multiple school places.
- It could give parents more opportunities to secure a school place for their children. Also, having the same rules for more schools in terms of paperwork submitted and admissions criteria would make the process easier for all sides.
- Coordination of admissions processes for a greater number of schools makes the allocation of school places more efficient. The advantages proposed out way the disadvantages.
- It reduces "game playing" and increases efficiency for the application process.
- Easier process and avoid places being blocked.
- A fairer process.
- To avoid unnecessary stress for those who don't get a place initially because some families apply to multiple schools.
- As Chair of Governors and in discussion with the Executive Head we have agreed that the proposed changes will make for a more streamlined system. We are in favour of the proposals as it gives greater clarity to families and schools.
- To release hundreds of school places in the first round and to help ensure that all children get their preferred school so that their wellbeing is not negatively impacted.
- The separate admissions policies cause confusion for parents and council officers.
- I think it is much fairer and it will increase the chances that every child secures a place from the first round.

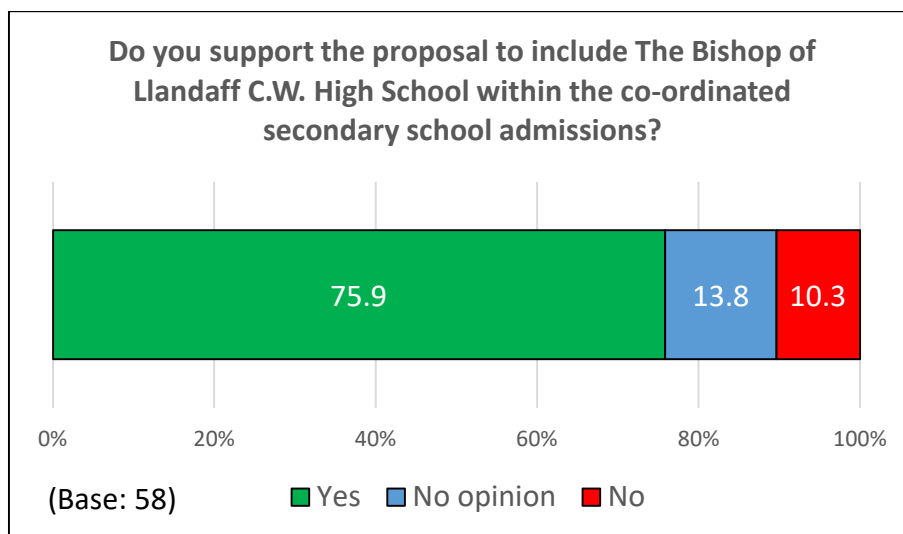
- Misleading to have different criteria for different schools and system is open to abuse.
- When applying for a faith school, I also had to apply for a non-faith school. Total waste of time for me, and the non-faith school that offered my daughter a place.
- It streamlines the process and standardises it for all applicants. Also, I didn't find out about my son's place until the afternoon when I'd had the other offers.
- It will significantly reduce inefficiencies and create a fairer system.
- The arrangements from the previous two years have been successful.
- It would make sense to co-ordinate allocations on school admissions for primary aged pupils as spaces are offered on location rather than parental choice. However, improvements to the waiting times for informing allocation of place within primary schools could be changed for dates to co-inside with February Half-term. This would then take the pressure off uniform shops in the six weeks holidays. Also, consider looking into additional 'logo/ emblem' shops to cater for the schools in Cardiff. Three specialist uniform shops cannot always cope with the demands on purchasing uniform.
- This school has a current problem with being over subscribed.
- Each year there has been a number of children unable to be offered places at Ysgol Pencae whilst parents decide whether to take up a place at the school or at Llandaff City. I hope this will help.
- There will be less children holding more than one school place, allowing other children to be given their first choice school earlier and allow families to plan in advance.
- For the reasons articulated in the consultation paper.

#### **Against the proposal**

- Everyone knows how the process works now, complicated to change it.
- Primary schools should be for local children.
- It is unnecessary.

Do you support the proposal to include The Bishop of Llandaff C.W. High School within the co-ordinated secondary school admissions?

Three in four (75.9%) respondents support the proposal. However, if no opinion responses are removed from the analysis, then support rises to 88.0%.



A breakdown by respondent type can be viewed below:

	Parent / Guardian	Governor	Local Resident
Yes	76.0	100.0	66.7
No opinion	16.0	0.0	16.7
No	8.0	0.0	16.7
<b>Base</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

#### Please explain why

Respondents were given the opportunity to explain their reasoning for supporting or not supporting the proposal. Nineteen respondents left feedback as to why they supported the proposal, whilst four respondents left feedback as to why they were against the proposals. A full breakdown can be viewed below / overleaf.

#### **Support for the proposal**

- Own Admission Authority Schools (Faith Schools) governing bodies can decide the application criteria at the moment. (E.g. giving preference to students from certain faiths overruling catchment area criteria thus students in the catchment area will dropout).
- It is fairer for everyone to apply in the same way. In the current system the people who choose faith schools have a greater advantage.
- The advantages all make sense, with no real disadvantages expect to those who wish to 'play' the system.
- The more schools included in this process the better it will work.
- Better use of council resources. No one needs to hold multiple school places.

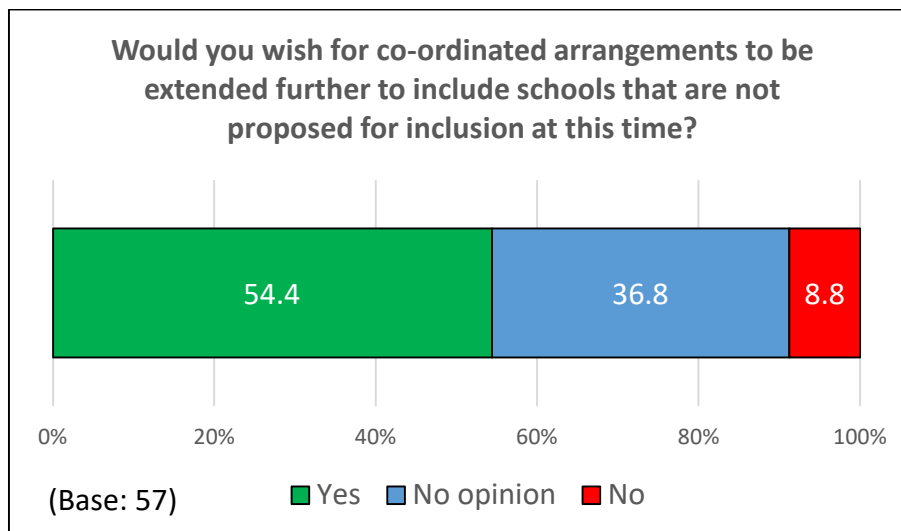
- It can help to make the admissions process more straightforward and transparent.
- Improved efficiency of place allocations.
- Fairer admissions
- I don't see why faith schools get to pick and choose pupils when others have guidelines.
- I can only see advantages in having faith schools as part of the mainstream system. In particular it should provide greater clarity to decision makers and learners.
- There is no strong argument not to.
- Schools will be clear if pupils are actually applying for them or just putting it as a backup for a faith school.
- Current system allows school to cherry pick students to suit school values.
- Simplifies the admission process.
- For same reasons as outlined previously. It seems unfair that some pupils have multiple admissions options, and are able to hold places, which could negatively impact on others who either didn't get allocated a place or not their preference.
- It will benefit all schools if every school takes part.
- It makes sense for all schools to be in it.
- There will be less children holding more than one school place, allowing other children to be given their first choice school earlier and allow families to plan in advance.
- If it is the wish of the school to be so involved.

#### **Against the proposal**

- This should be based on church attendance.
- A fairer process, parents choosing faith school should not have the advantage of 2 'first choice' schools when other families do not.
- It's the only church school this side of Cardiff.
- Faith-based schools are not funded by the LEA so why on earth would the council even consider changing the application process for faith-based schools. If you add faith-based schools in the application process how are pupils with genuine faith be granted a place. Will the council provide funding to faith-based schools for offering additional places? If you do one faith school then have them all on the application form.
- The high school should have its own admission arrangements.

Would you wish for co-ordinated arrangements to be extended further to include schools that are not proposed for inclusion at this time?

Over a half (54.4%) of respondents would like co-ordinated arrangements to be extended to include schools that are not proposed for inclusion at this time. However, if no opinion responses are removed from the analysis, then agreement rises to 86.1%.



A breakdown by respondent type can be viewed below:

	Parent / Guardian	Governor	Local Resident
Yes	51.0	75.0	66.7
No opinion	40.8	25.0	33.3
No	8.2	0.0	0.0
<b>Base</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

Please name schools and explain why:

Twelve respondents left feedback to this question; these comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

- It should include all schools.
- All Cardiff Schools should be included to make it a streamlined process and remove unnecessary steps and associated costs into the process.
- All schools should be in a single application process to streamline for parents, admissions teams and school. It'll also offer greater transparency.
- Radyr comprehensive.
- All schools to make it fair across the city.

- If any school get government funding it should be included in the system.
- All faith schools should be included on one form. As a retired faith schoolteacher, I'm aware how complicated and disjointed the process can be.
- Unknown but I feel there should be one system for all schools.
- All primary and high schools within Cardiff, including faith schools should be coordinated admissions managed by the LA.
- What about Mary Immaculate or Corpus Christie and St Teilo's.
- All schools should be in it.
- No specific school in mind, but it would seem inherently fairer for each pupil to only have one offer rather than several.

#### Do you have any other comments?

Respondents were invited to leave any other comments they had in relation to the consultation. Nine respondents left feedback; these comments can be viewed below / overleaf:

- Even with this improved process there are issues. Housing is being built at a much greater rate than school places are increasing. North East Cardiff needs a new secondary school.
- All schools should be included in the process of ease.
- In order to be a strong and fair system, it needs to include all the schools.
- All schools in Cardiff should be included.
- Sibling groups must be prioritised in admissions. Splitting up families is not something that should happen regardless of whether school is faith based or not. Once one child is in all family siblings should be accepted.
- If it's not broken why try to fix it? Everyone is used to the separate application process for faith based schools as these are NOT funded by the LEA they are funded by the main relevant faith of the school. Instead of making a mess of the application process, why can't the council make improvements on the anti-social behaviour of secondary school aged pupils in Ely and Caerau? What about the replacement of the Zebra Crossing road safety person for the crossing at the bottom of Caerau Lane for the schools in the area? How about improving the standards of the delivery of education across all schools in Cardiff?

- The consultation information makes a clear rationale for the changes and if they are supported by the faith sector bodies then all schools should be included. Any schools that opt not to be involved should be held to account for the impact on other schools.
- It should be up to the school if they wish to be part of the council's policy.
- Schools should have their own arrangements - the local authority should have no say in these if they do not wish it.

## About You

Please provide your postcode below to allow us to more accurately pinpoint respondents' views and needs by area

	No.	%
Llanishen	6	13.6
Pontprennau/Old St. Mellons	6	13.6
Radyr	4	9.1
Cyncoed	3	6.8
Heath	3	6.8
Whitchurch and Tongwynlais	3	6.8
Caerau	2	4.5
Fairwater	2	4.5
Llandaff	2	4.5
Pentwyn	2	4.5
Riverside	2	4.5
Trowbridge	2	4.5
Other Ward	7	15.9
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100.0</b>

What was your age on your last birthday?

	No.	%
25-34	5	8.9
35-44	36	64.3
45-54	6	10.7
55-64	2	3.6
65-74	2	3.6
Other age group	2	3.6
Prefer not to say	3	5.4
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Are you...?

	No.	%
Female	38	69.1
Male	16	29.1
Prefer not to say	1	1.8
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>100.0</b>



Do you identify as a disabled person?

	No.	%
Yes	1	1.8
No	53	94.6
Prefer not to say	2	3.6
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Please tick any of the following that apply to you:

Four people identified a health condition that applied to themselves, these can be viewed below:

- Mental health difficulties
- Mobility impairment
- Long-standing illness or health condition (e.g. cancer, diabetes, or asthma)

What is your ethnic group?

*(Where the term 'British' is used, this refers to any of the four home nations of Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland, or any combination of these).*

	No.	%
White - Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	45	80.4
White - Any other white background	4	7.1
Asian/Asian Welsh/British - Other	3	5.4
Arab	1	1.8
Any other ethnic group (please specify)	1	1.8
Prefer not to say	2	3.6
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100.0</b>