

**Formal response to the consultation:****Cllr. Robert Hopkins, Liberal Democrat Education spokesperson**

Cllr. Robert Hopkins gave a response on behalf of the Liberal Democrat council group.

**Response to consultation on School Admissions Policy:2024/25**

The comments below relate to the specific changes in the admissions policy which are described in the consultation as:

- Clarification on children with ALN who have an IDP.
- The inclusion of Mary Immaculate High School in then coordinated admissions process
- Clarification on the applicant
- Information on admission arrangements for St. Mellon's Church in Wales Primary School and Ysgol Gynradd Groeswen.
- Clarification on the timeframe for applying in advance of taking up a place for in year applications.

**Response**

1. Paragraph 1.6 outlines factors that will be considered when the council may determine that it should name a school in an IDP. The range of factors are appropriate but the reference to "any other factors" is rather broad and potentially unclear. It would be helpful if this could be made more specific or examples given such as, for example, proximity to the child's home. This may well be an important consideration in specific cases.
2. Paragraph 1.10 refers to the fact that the council is consulting on whether Mary Immaculate High School should be part of the coordinated admissions arrangements. Notwithstanding any outcome of the consultation, there are clear precedents in relation to three other faith schools and the one foundation school.
3. Paragraph 2.3 provides helpful guidance on the application procedure to be followed where more than one person has parental responsibility. Note is made of cases where there may not be agreement and advice given on making an urgent application to the courts. The section makes clear that where more than one application is received it is the first received that will be administered. However, it is unclear from the policy what steps may need to be taken where the first application received may be in conflict with the second.
4. Paragraph 4.5 makes clear that applications for admission to St. Mellon's Church in Wales Primary School should be made to the council.

5. Paragraph 4.6 sets out arrangements for admission to Ysgol Gynradd Groeswen. Notification is given that admissions to Reception and Year 1 in 2024/25 will be of 30 pupils per stream but only 15 pupils per stream in the case of Years 2 and 3. It would be helpful if the policy could explain why this is the case beyond the more general reference to a phased increase at the beginning of this paragraph.
6. It is difficult to locate in the policy the specific references to clarification on the timeframe for applying in advance of taking up a place for in year applications.