

Minutes of the meeting of the Ceredigion Schools Admissions Forum held remotely via Teams on Thursday, 5 December 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Wyn Thomas (Chair), Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills; Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Democratic Services, Policy, Performance and People and Organisation; Enid Brophy, Head Teacher: Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Padarn Sant; Lee Burrows, Head Teacher: Ysgol Cenarth a Llechryd; Carol Davies, Head Teacher: Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn; Peter Leggett, Head Teacher: Ysgol Gynradd Rhydypennau and Dorian Pugh, Head Teacher: Ysgol Henry Richard.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Elen James, Chief Education Officer and Corporate Lead Officer: Lifelong Learning; Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement; Gwion Dafydd, Corporate Manager: Accountability and Progress; Cheryl Evans, School Admission Officer and Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer.

(4.00pm – 4.20pm)

1. Apologies

Mair Hughes, Head Teacher: Ysgol Penglais and Catryn Lawrence, Head Teacher: Ysgol Penrhynoch ac Ysgol Penllwyn apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

2. Disclosure of personal interest

There were no disclosures of personal interests.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 May 2024

It was **RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2024 as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Information for Parents Document

The School Admission Officer explained that the 2024-25 version was available online. The 2025-26 version would be published online in January, to ensure it was available 2 terms before the beginning of the academic year.

It was **AGREED** to note the information.

6. Admissions Policy 2025-2026

The School Admission Officer reported that the Admissions Policy for 2025-2026 had been approved by the Cabinet and was available on the Council's website. The consultation on the Admissions Policy for 2026-2027 will open in January 2025 for schools and governing bodies. There were two changes to the 2026-2027 policy, with the closing date for applications for primary-aged pupils across Wales changed from 31 January to 15 January and the closing date for secondary school

admissions had changed from the end of December to the end of October. The change in dates may change when secondary schools held open evenings. Parents would be informed of the change and encouraged to apply for schools earlier in the year.

It was **AGREED** to note the information.

7. Year 7 Numbers - September 2024

The School Admission Officer explained that data for September 2024 had been circulated for information. Admissions were open for September 2025, and to date, over 450 applications have been received, with approximately 150 applications pending. The closing date for applications was 20 December 2024.

It was **AGREED** to note the information.

8. Reception Year Numbers – September 2024 & 2025

The School Admission Officer reported that there had not been many issues with the admission of reception-aged pupils as most schools had not reached their admission number. Ysgol Gynradd Aberaeron had 3 pupils more than the admission number following appeals, whilst Ysgol Gynradd Penparc and Ysgol Henry Richard had accepted more pupils than the admission number as the school years above had fewer pupils.

Following a question by the Chair and Councillor Bryan Davies, it was reported that Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron due to open in January 2025 had a capacity of 210. At present, 177 pupils have been accepted to the school and despite concerns raised that pupils from the wider area would apply and would result in admission issues, this had not yet been the case. There were two large classes in the lower school, however with a decrease in the birth rate in Ceredigion, this would balance out hopefully.

The Corporate Lead Officer: Lifelong Learning explained that further pupils would join the ALN unit in Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron in time, once pupils from the 3 closing schools had settled in.

The Chair thanked the Highways and Environmental Services for their recent work outside Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron. He added that he looked forward to the school opening in the new year.

It was **AGREED** to note the information.

9. Mid-Year Admission Appeals 2024-2025

The School Admission Officer reported that two appeals had been received to date. From the two appeals, the Local Authority had lost one appeal with the child awarded a place at Ysgol Gynradd Aberaeron. The Local Authority had won the other appeal, with the child awarded a place in a nearby school until Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron opened in January 2025.

It was **AGREED** to note the information.

10. Any Other Business

None.

11. Date of next meeting

Date of next meeting to be circulated in due course.