

**Minutes of the meeting of the Ceredigion Schools Admissions Forum,  
held remotely via ZOOM on Friday, 1 July 2022**

**PRESENT:** Meinir Ebbsworth, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture; Councillor Wyn Thomas (Chair), Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills; Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of the Council; Councillor Endaf Edwards, Chair of Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee; Mike Carruthers, Head Teacher: Comins Coch Primary School; Jane Wyn, Head Teacher: Ysgol Bro Pedr; Dorian Pugh, Head Teacher: Ysgol Henry Richard; Mair Hughes, Head Teacher: Penglais School & Gary Davies, Parent Governor: Ciliau Parc Primary School.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Cheryl Evans, School Admission Officer; Chris Macey, Service Accountant- CLO Support; Neris Morgans, Democratic Services Officer; Carol Thomas, Translator & Rhidian Jones, Translator.

(10.00am – 10.25am)

**1. Apologies**

- i) Gwion Dafydd, Corporate Manager: Accountability and Progress; Carol Davies, Head Teacher: Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn; Peter Leggett, Head Teacher: Ysgol Gymunedol Rhydypennau; Stephen Cooper, Parent Governor: Ysgol Bro Pedr & Chris Evans, Parent Governor: Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.
- ii) Councillors Wyn Thomas and Bryan Davies apologised that they had to leave the meeting early due to other Council commitments.

**2. Procedure**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.

**3. Disclosure of personal interest**

There were no disclosures of personal interests.

**4. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2019**

It was RESOLVED to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2019 as a correct record.

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 October 2019**

None.

**6. Admissions Policy 2023-2024**

The Chair presented the latest draft. It was noted that other than St Padarn Roman Catholic Primary School where all applications should be made to their Governing Body, Ceredigion Local Authority (LA) was the Admission Authority for all maintained and Voluntary Controlled schools within the county. All Ceredigion Secondary and Middle Schools were responsible for their 6<sup>th</sup> form admissions and all applications should be made direct to the school of choice. The Ceredigion Admission Forum met twice a year to discuss local admission issues.

The Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture explained that the Admissions Policy for 2023-2024 had been adopted via the democratic process. Any comments by head teachers or governors regarding the Admissions Policy would be considered for the 2024-2025 policy.

In response to Councillor Bryan Davies's query related to Ukrainian refugees, the Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture explained that education had been provided to 84 pupils at a Welcome Centre within the authority via the Welsh Government's Super Sponsor Scheme. In addition, children placed with families via the Home for Ukraine Individual Sponsor and Families Scheme attended Ysgol Bro Pedr, Plascrug School, St Padarn Roman Catholic Primary School and Penglais School. There were pre-admissions for an additional four schools. It was noted that refugee children were not prioritized and were subject to the school admissions policy and in line with this, a child had been refused their first choice due to the school's admissions number. The number of refugee children either in schools or pre-admissions was less than ten. In addition, funding had been allocated for the pupils by the Home Office. As families move on from the Welcome Centre, there would be challenges to ensure all children had access to education.

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

#### **7. Year 7 Numbers - September 2022**

It was noted that all pupils had been accepted to their first choice of school in September. There continued to be capacity in all schools, although a few were close to the admission number.

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

#### **8. Reception Year Numbers – September 2022**

It was noted that the majority of pupils had been accepted to their first choice of primary school. Aberaeron Primary School had increased from 28 to 32 as 2 pupils had won an appeal and 2 Looked-after-children (LAC) had received a place. Despite no capacity, regulations in place do not permit LAC children to be refused a school place. Ciliau Parc Primary School were 1 pupil over-capacity after a parent won an appeal.

In response to Endaf Edwards' query regarding Pontrhydfendigaid Primary School which were also over capacity, the School Admission Officer clarified there had been no appeals. Following discussions with the school, they were happy to accept additional pupils as the year above had been under the set admissions number and it would be a mixed class. Discussions with schools regarding their circumstances were normal practice.

The Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture explained there was legislation in place set by Welsh Government (WG) that limited all infant classes to 30 pupils. In addition, if a child attended a nursery within the

school, they were not automatically accepted for statutory education at the same school as there was a separate admissions process for full-time education.

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

*The Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture took over as the Chair as Councillor Wyn Thomas had to leave due to other council commitments.*

#### **9. Mid-Year Admission Appeals 2021-2022**

Information related to the Mid-year Admission Appeals 2021–22 was noted. The LEA had won 2 and lost 6 appeals for Aberaeron Primary School. Of the 4 appeals held related to Plascrug Primary School, the LEA had won 1 and lost 3. The LEA lost 2 appeals for Comins Coch Primary School.

The Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture highlighted that independent members sat on the admissions panel.

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

#### **10. Any other business**

The Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture noted that all pupils in full-time education from reception to year 2 would receive free school meals from September onwards. Discussions were ongoing with WG in terms of the eligibility for the Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Access Grant in moving forward as free schools means had been used as a proxy. The promise from WG was that all pupils in primary education would receive free school meals in the future; further details were yet to be published.

#### **11. Date of next meeting**

Date of next meeting to be circulated in due course.