

**Minutes of the meeting of the Ceredigion Schools Admissions Forum, held in Ystafell Teifi, Penmorfa, Ceredigion on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2019.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Catrin Miles (Chair), Barry Rees, Corporate Director; Philippa Davies (Parent-Governor, Ysgol y Dderi); Gareth Evans (Acting Headteacher Ysgol Bro Teifi);

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Cheryl Evans (School Admission Officer) and Kay Davies (Democratic Services Officer)

(14:00 – 15:20)

**1. Apologies**

Meinir Ebbsworth (Corporate Lead Officer: Schools/Chief Education Officer), Councillor Endaf Edwards, (Chair, Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Carol Davies (Head Teacher Ysgol Dyffryn Cledlyn), Jane Wyn (Headteacher Ysgol Bro Pedr), Enid Brophy (Acting Head St Padarn's RC Primary School) and Peter Leggett (Headteacher Ysgol Rhydypennau) apologised for their inability to attend the meeting.

**2. Procedure**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting. Mrs Meinir Ebbsworth was wished well for a full and speedy recovery following her treatment in hospital.

**3. Disclosure of Personal Interests**

There were no disclosures of personal interests.

**4. Minutes of Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019.**

It was resolved to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 as a correct record.

**5. Matters arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2019**

6. Cashless system – it was noted that the system is in English only. The original contract stated that the system should be bilingual but the provider has yet to amend this. The Corporate Director stated that he would look into the situation and bring information to the next meeting in relation to the term of the current contract and when it is due for re-tender.

**6. Information for Parents Document**

The School Admission Officer reported that the document will be updated in the autumn. It was noted that Dyffryn Cledlyn School is in the process of being adopted as a voluntary controlled school. No objections have been received. It was proposed that an explanatory note is included in the Information for Parents document.

A discussion ensued in relation to school application forms. It was agreed to bring drafts to the next meeting for consideration. Points to consider included information as to where the transfer is from; language category of previous schools; indication at the top of the form as to nursery, reception etc.; list of previous schools and dates and gaps in schooling. It was noted that the questionnaire has been

formulated jointly with other authorities; however, it is thought that objections to any proposed improvements would be unlikely.

The Information for Parents Document is available on line and copies are available if required.

It was agreed to note the information provided.

## **7. Admissions Policy 2020-2021**

It was noted that Cabinet approved the Admissions Policy 2020-21 on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The draft for 2021/22 is to be presented at the next meeting in the autumn.

A Forum Member raised concerns around the policy in relation to applications from non-Welsh speaking pupils to Welsh medium schools and the need for Welsh language centres to improve Welsh learners' skills and Welsh language immersion for non-speakers was noted.

The challenges and pressures to schools and their finances to support those with little or no Welsh were noted.

It was noted that reinstating language centres is not included in the current CySGA strategy. It was agreed to refer the concern to Meinir Ebbsworth (Corporate Lead Officer: Schools/Chief Education Officer), Menna Beaufort Jones and Silyn Roberts from the Schools Service in order that they may refer back to the Corporate Director.

The Corporate Director noted concerns in relation to capacity and the requirement to explore the extent of need in the county.

It was agreed to note the information provided.

## **8. Year 7 numbers for Secondary Schools – September 2019.**

The list of school year 7 numbers for September 2019 had been circulated. The School Admissions Officer stated that updated figures indicate that 5 pupils have yet to apply for their chosen schools.

It was noted that there has been a slight decrease in numbers at Bro Teifi School and Cardigan as some pupils have opted to attend schools in Carmarthenshire or Pembrokeshire. Possible repercussions to Penglais School were noted due to a substantial decrease in year 6 numbers for 2020 and also for 2021.

It was agreed to note the information provided.

## **9. Reception Year Numbers September 2019**

It was reported that some schools are oversubscribed. The appeals process has permitted some schools to exceed their admission numbers.

It was agreed to note the information.

**10. Mid-year Admission Appeals 2018-19**

Information in relation to the Mid-year Admission Appeals 2018 – 19 was noted. It was noted that three appeals have been held since the last meeting with a further two to be held in the next few weeks.

It was agreed to note the information.

**11. Any other business**

There were no other business matters.

**12. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday, 15 October 2019 at 2pm, Ystwyth Room, Penmorfa.