



Foreword

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardians and Carers,

Starting school and moving from primary to secondary school are very important steps for you and your child. We are here to help inform your decision on the school you choose for your child and/or children.

We recommend that you visit Blaenau Gwent schools that are ofvissEre st1 (o,e)TJ/C27

L. Muro-Morris

This booklet explains how to make an application for a school place for academic year 2025/26.

Nursery Admission 2025

All children living in Blaenau Gwent are entitled to a free part-time education place in the term following their third birthday. This is commonly referred to as a 'Rising 3' place. Admission to nursery settings usually involves your child attending on a part-basis basis for 5 days per week.

- > If your child is 3 years old between **1 September 2024 and 31 December 2024** they will be eligible for a Rising 3 place in the spring term, **January 2025**.
- > If your child is 3 years old between **1 January 2025 and 27 April 2025** they will be eligible for a Rising 3 place in the summer term, **April 2025**.
- > If your child is 3 years old between **28 April 2025 and 31 August 2025** they will be eligible for a Rising 3 place in the autumn term, **September 2025**.

*If you wish for your child to attend nursery provision, you will need to apply for a nursery place for 2025, the dates for the nursery admission round are detailed on page 4.

*Please note that attending a nursery class does not give your child priority for a place in the reception year group at any primary school, as a separate application is required.

Reception Admission 2025

If your child was born between **1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021**, you will need to apply for a reception place for September 2025. Even if you want your child to start school later (the term after your child is five), you must still apply within the admission round for reception detailed on page 4.

Secondary Admission 2025

If your child was born between **1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014**, you will need to apply for a secondary place for September 2025, you must apply within the admission round for secondary detailed on page 4.

For more information or to speak to a member of the Admissions team, please refer to the contact details on the bottom of each page of this booklet.

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Important Dates

Key dates for 2025 admission

Date	What Happens
Nursery	
7 September 2024	Nursery Admission Round Commences
18 October 2024 (5pm)	Closing Date for Nursery Applications
22 November 2024	Offer Date for Nursery Places
Reception	
6 January 2025	Reception Admission Round Commences
21 February 2025 (5pm)	Closing Date for Reception Applications
16 April 2025	Offer Date for Reception Places
Secondary	
23 September 2024	Secondary Admission Round Commences
15 November 2024 (5pm)	Closing Date for Secondary Applications
3 March 2025	Offer Date for Secondary Places

All applications and supporting evidence should be submitted no later than 5pm on the closing dates outlined in the above table.

Term Dates 2025/2026

Date	Start	Half term starts	Half term ends	Term ends
Autumn	01/09/2025	27/10/2025	31/10/2025	19/12/2025
Spring	05/01/2026	16/02/2026	20/02/2026	27/03/2026
Summer	13/04/2026	25/05/2026	29/05/2026	20/07/2026

Early Years Settings

Some parents may choose to take up their child's free part-time place in a playgroup or private day nursery, especially if the child is already in attendance at one.



Schools within Blaenau Gwent

A-Z Community Primary & Secondary Schools

Beaufort Hill Primary School

Bangor Road, Beaufort Hill, Beaufort, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5QG

HF: 01495 302624 | 9@a.UJ.beauforthill.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

<YUXHYUWYf. Phil Brookman

Admission Number Nursery	30	Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	30
Admission Number Reception	30	Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity	210	Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

Blaen y Cwm Primary School

Blaenafon Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4BR

HF: 01495 313524 | 9@a.UJ.blaenycwm.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

<YUXHYUWYf. Sarah Bryant

Admission Number Nursery		Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	20
Admission Number Reception		Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity	270	Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

The school will offer full time Nursery provision for 2025.

Bryn Bach Primary School

Merthyr Road, Tredegar, NP22 3RX

HF: 01495 722569 | 9@a.UJ.brynbach.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

<YUXHYUWYf. Matthew Oliver

Admission Number Nursery	30	Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	25
Admission Number Reception	30	Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity	210	Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

Glanhowy Primary School

Coach Bach, Tredegar, NP22 4RW

HF: 01495 722312 | 9@a UJ: Glanhowy.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

< YUXHYUWYf. Rebecca Fowler

Admission Number Nursery	65	Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception		Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity		Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

Glyncod Primary School

Badminton Grove, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5UL

HF: 01495 302402 | 9@a UJ: joanne.weightman@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

< YUXHYUWYf. Joanne Weightman

Admission Number Nursery	52	Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception	45	Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity	320	Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

Rhos y Fedwen Primary School

Honeyfield Road, Rassau, Ebbw Vale, NP23 5TA

HF: 01495 356021 | 9@a UJ: rhosyfedwen.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

< YUXHYUWYf. Sarah Helm

Admission Number Nursery		Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception	25	Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity		Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

The school will offer full time Nursery provision for 2024.

St Illtyd's Primary School

Llanhilleth, Abertillery, NP13 2JT

HF: 01495 364830 | 9@a UJ: info@stilltydsprimary.co.uk

5VWb[< YUXHYUWYf. Adele Matthews

Admission Number Nursery	30	Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception	30	Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity	210	Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

Admission Number Nursery		Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception		Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
School Capacity			

Admission Number Nursery		Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception		Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
School Capacity		Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	

Admission Number Nursery		Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception		Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
School Capacity		Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	

Admission Number		Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025	
School Capacity		Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025	
		Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	

Community Middle Schools

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community, Primary Phase

Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6AN

Hf. 01495 357755 | 9!a Uj. clllewellyn@ebbwfawr.co.uk

' !%& < YUXHYUWYf. Melanie Thomas | DfJa Ufm< YUXHYUWYf. Carys Llewellyn

Admission Number Nursery

Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)

Admission Number Reception

Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)

School Capacity

Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)

Admission Number

Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025

School Capacity

Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025

Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025

Abertillery Learning Community, Secondary Campus, Alma Street, Abertillery, NP13 1YL

DfJbVdU. Tracey Jarvis | J JW DfJbVdU. Kate Olsen

< YUX'cZGVVzbXUfm7Ua di g. Rowan Wetherill

Hf. 01495 355911 | 9!a Uj.

Admission Number

Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025

School Capacity

Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025

Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025

Admission Number Nursery

Admission Number Reception

School Capacity

Tillery Street Campus

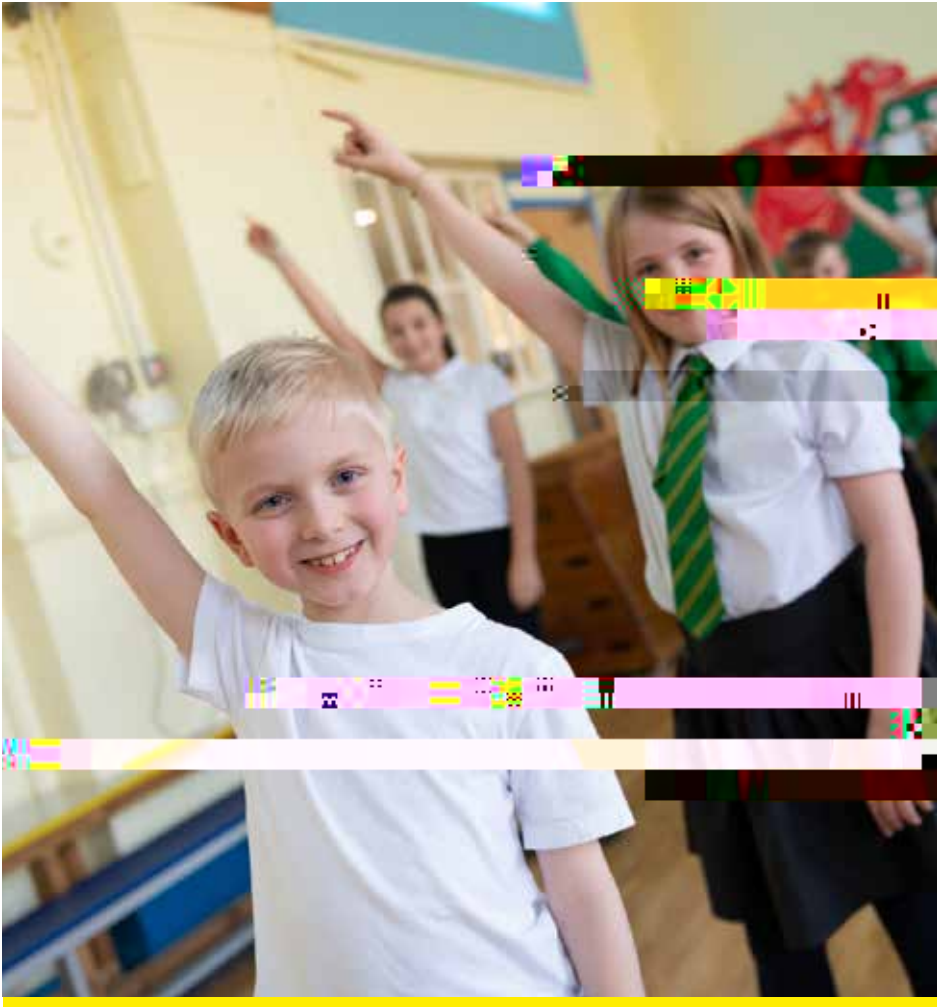
Tillery Street, Abertillery, NP13 1EH
<YUXcZ7Ua di g Marie Lewis
HF. 01495 355911
9!a Uj. info@abertillery3-16.co.uk

Roseheyworth Road Campus

Roseheyworth Rd, Abertillery, NP13 1SR
<YUXcZ7Ua di g Louisa Tudge
HF. 01495 355911
9!a Uj. info@roseheyworthrdcampus.co.uk

Six Bells Campus

Six Bells Rd, Six Bells, Abertillery, NP13 2NJ
<YUXcZ7Ua di g Alison Lyndon-Jones
HF. 01495 355911
9!a Uj. info@sixbellscampus.co.uk



Welsh-Medium Provision

Blaenau Gwent has one 3-11 Welsh-medium primary school, with two campuses, the existing Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg in Blaina and a new seedling provision Ysgol Gymraeg Tredegar in Chartist Way, Sirhowy, Tredegar (which will currently be for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 Pupils).

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg is situated on the Rising Sun Industrial Estate, Blaina, Blaenau

*Under 8 years of age – if living more than 1.5 miles from school
8 years and over – if living more than 2 miles from the school.

Ysgol Gymraeg Tredegar

Hŷa dcfUfmcWjcb. Bedwellty House, Morgan Street, Tredegar

New building on Chartist Way, Sirhowy, Tredegar.

Transitioning from Bedwellty house to new building for the academic year 2025

Admission Number Nursery	60	Number of on time applications received for 2024/2025 (Reception)	
Admission Number Reception	30	Number of on time applications refused for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0
School Capacity	210	Number of on time successful appeals for 2024/2025 (Reception)	0

The designated catchment area school for Welsh medium secondary provision for Blaenau Gwent pupils is:

Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw

Heol y Ffoledd, Trefddyn, Pont-y-pwl, Torfaen, NP4 8JD

Hf. 01495 750405 | K YV. www.gwynllyw.org

This is a secondary school where the governing body employs the staff and sets the admissions criteria for the school.

Oversubscription Criteria

Those children, whose parents have expressed a preference, will be offered places first. When these children have been identified, the allocation of the places will be selected according to the following criteria, which are listed in the priority order, up to the admission number for that particular year group.

1. Children looked after and children previously looked after (children under local authority care).
2. Children with siblings living in the same household and attending Brynmawr Foundation School at the date the pupil is placed on role (siblings include half-brother/sister and fostered or adopted siblings).
3. Children on role at one of our Alliance Primary Schools
 - > Blaen Y Cwm Primary School
 - > Coed Y Garn Primary School
 - > St Mary's Church in Wales School
 - > St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School
 - > Ystruth Primary School
4. Children who have an exceptional medical or social need for a place. Applications will only be considered under this category if they are supported by a medical consultant's report. The information must specify the medical/social advantage of the child attending BFS.
5. After taking account of the above categories, priority will be based on the closeness

Voluntary Aided Schools and Admissions Criteria

Voluntary-aided (VA) schools operate under foundations (usually trusts, which often are the Church Diocesan Boards). Most are designated with a religious character. The governors of the school set and apply the admission arrangements. The admissions arrangements are set out under the entry for each school.

All Saints R.C. Primary

Heol-yr-Ysgol, Ebbw Vale, NP23 6QP

HF: 01495 303631 | allsaints.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

<YUXHYUWYf. Joseph Price

Admission Number Nursery

30

School Capacity

200

Admission Number Reception

Oversubscription Criteria

Where the number of applicants for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded to applicants in the categories in the following order of priority.

St. Joseph's R.C. Primary

Ashvale, Tredegar, NP22 3RU

Hyf. 01495 722899 | stjosephs.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

<YUXHYUWYf. John McMorrow

Admission Number Nursery

School Capacity

107

Admission Number Reception

15

The school will offer full time Nursery provision for 2025.

Oversubscription Criteria

Where the number of applicants for admission exceeds the number of places available, places will be awarded to applicants in the categories in the following order of priority.

- > Roman Catholic children previously or currently looked after by the Local Authority.
- > Children looked after from other or no faiths, previously or currently looked after by the Local Authority.
- > Baptised Catholic children whose families are resident in the parish/es of Immaculate Conception, Tredegar & St. John's, Rhymney.
- > The Baptised Roman Catholic children residing outside the catchment area.
- > The non-baptised children of Roman Catholic parents residing in the catchment area of the school.
- > The non-baptised children of Roman Catholic parents residing outside the catchment area of the school.
- > Siblings (e.g. full, half or step brother/sister, adopted or fostered) of Non-Catholic children who are already pupils in the school.
- > The Governors will consider applications for:
 - a. Non Catholic children whose parents are seeking a Christian education for their children.
 - b. Children of other Christian denominations.
 - c. Children of other Christian denominations.

St Mary's Church in Wales Primary

Intermediate Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4SE

Hyf. 01495 310525 | stmarysciw.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

<YUXHYUWYf. 7UWYfjby? bck`gcb

Admission Number Nursery

30

School Capacity

210

Admission Number Reception

30

Oversubscription Criteria

The Governors have agreed that in the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, then the following criteria will be applied in the order set out below, to decide which pupils to admit.

1. Children looked after or children previously looked after.
2. A pupil with a sibling who will continue to be at the school in the next academic year i.e. not in Year 6.
3. A pupil whose home address is within the ecclesiastical parish boundaries of St Mary's the Virgin Church and they attend a Church that is part of the Church in Wales.
4. A pupil whose home address is within the ecclesiastical parish boundaries of St Mary's the Virgin Church.
5. A pupil who attends a Church in Wales Church and for whom this is their nearest voluntary aided school.
6. A pupil who has been christened in a Church in Wales Church (send copy of certificate with application).
7. A pupil whose parents have expressed a desire for a Church in Wales School education

Please note, any child for whom the school is named in a statement of special educational needs will be admitted before the application of oversubscription criteria.

St Mary's R.C. Primary

Catholic Road, Brynmawr, NP23 4EF

☎: 01495 310596 | ✉: stmarysrc.primary@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

👤: YUXHYUWYf. Martin Buckley

Admission Number Nursery

53

School Capacity

210

Admission Number Reception

30

Oversubscription Criteria

The Governors will give priority of admission as follows;

1. Roman Catholic children previously or currently looked after by the Local Authority.
2. Children looked after from other or no faiths, previously or currently looked after by the Local Authority.

3. Baptised Catholic children whose families are resident in the parish.
4. The Baptised Roman Catholic children residing outside the catchment area.
5. The non-baptised children of Roman Catholic parents residing in the catchment area of the school.
6. Sibling (e.g. full, half or step brother/sister, adopted or fostered) of Non-Catholic children who are already pupils in the school.
7. The Governors will consider applications for:
 - a. Non Catholic children whose parents are seeking a Christian education for their child
 - b. Children of other Christian denominations
 - c. Children of other world faiths
 - d. Non Catholic children for social reasons
 - e. Children who have an exceptional medical or social need
 - f. Children of ethnic or minority origin

Special School

Pen-y-Cwm school is a special day school. Admissions to this school are co-ordinated by Blaenau Gwent's Inclusion team on the basis of need. For more information on place allocation for this school please contact Penycwm@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Pen y Cwm Special School

Strand Annealing Lane, Ebbw Vale, Blaenau Gwent, NP23 6AN
Tel: 01495 357755 | Email: Penycwm@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
<YUXHYUWYf. Deborah Herald



The River Centre 3-16 Learning Community



Do you want your child to become bilingual?

But we don't speak Welsh!

With parents who don't speak Welsh in the majority, schools provide everything in English and Welsh.

What about their English language skills?

When children leave Welsh medium primary school they are fluent in Welsh, and as fluent in English as children from English medium schools.

For more information or to speak to a member of the Admissions team, please refer to the contact details on the bottom of each page of this booklet.

Why Welsh medium education?

The quality of education is excellent, it's easy to learn a language from an early age, and children enjoy their lives in English and Welsh!

Play and learn in Welsh from birth ... 0-4 year olds

Cymraeg i Blant Cymraeg for Kids

Free activities for new parents using English and introducing Welsh
@Cymraegforkids | : UWVcc_ Cymraeg i Blant Blaenau Gwent

Ti a Fi

Parent and toddler sessions run by Mudiad Meithrin

Day Nursery / Childminder

Ask your local provider how they use Welsh in everyday activities.

Cylch Meithrin / Flying Start / Playgroup

2-2½ hour session. Suitable for children from 2 year old to school age. Some groups provide rising 3 places and wraparound services.

For Further information on childcare and education please visit:

Childcare | Blaenau Gwent CBC [fVUYbU ! \[k YbH \[cj 'i _t](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Schools & Learning | Blaenau Gwent CBC [fVUYbU ! \[k YbH \[cj 'i _t](http://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

So, what are the benefits of being bilingual?

You can live your life in two (or more) languages. Living in Wales your life is enriched when you can speak Welsh and if you want to travel or already speak other languages at home, learning another is easier!

There are fantastic work and career opportunities, speaking two languages offers more employment opportunities as well as an additional skill on your C.V.

Talking with people in their choice of language is an advantage. These career areas in particular are keen to employ Welsh speakers – media, information technology, health, the public sector, sports and leisure, retail, and the childcare sector etc.

Blaenau Gwent along with key partners have launched a new webpage for information to support parents in making decisions about the Welsh Language and the benefits of being bilingual [Becoming Bilingual | Blaenau Gwent CBC](#) (blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

Boost your brain ...

International research shows that bilingual children tend to achieve higher within the curriculum and perform better in exams. They also tend to do better working under pressure.

How is Welsh taught in a Welsh medium School?

- When children begin learning Welsh, they will be immersed in the language from the start but the staff are flexible and can use English if necessary to help the children.
-



Directory continued ...

Cymraeg for Kids - A national scheme that supports parents to use the Welsh language with their children by choosing Welsh medium childcare and education. The scheme is managed by Mudiad Meithrin. Local free support groups for parents: baby massage, baby yoga, Welsh Storytime sessions and monthly family events that are an additional opportunity to socialise through the medium of Welsh.

HF: 01970 639639 | : UWVcc_.

Applying for a school in 2025

Before you make your application

What you need to do	How
1 Visit the schools you are considering for your child.	Contact the schools directly for an appointment and/ or details of open events.
2 Read the school's Estyn reports.	These can be viewed via the following web address: kkkgymb[.cj]
3 Read the prospectus for each school.	These are available directly from the schools.
4 Read the oversubscription criteria for each school.	The oversubscription criteria for faith and foundation schools in Blaenau Gwent are listed on pages 14 -18. All other Blaenau Gwent schools have the same over subscription criteria which can be found on pages 35 - 36.
5 Consider how likely it is that your child will be offered a place at your preferred schools.	Look to see which oversubscription criteria your child will be considered under. It is also worth noting the appeals processes on page 34 within this booklet, to know and understand your options in the instance that your child was to be refused a place.
6 Look to see how many places each school has available. This is called the admission number. This number is set to take into account the number of pupils that each school site can accommodate.	The admission number for each school is listed on pages 6 - 10 of this booklet.
7 Consider how your child will travel to school.	Please refer to the Blaenau Gwent Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy for more information: https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/school-transport/

	Talk to your child about the decision.

Completing your application form

If you would like for your child to attend a community Local Authority maintained school in Blaenau Gwent, you must complete the Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council application form. These schools can be found on pages 6 - 13. For more information on how to apply or to apply online, please refer to the following website: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/school-admissions/>

Not maintained by Blaenau Gwent (see pages 14 - 18), you should **apply directly** to the school for your application to be considered against their admissions policy. If however, you wish to indicate a second preference school that is maintained by Blaenau Gwent, this should be done via a Blaenau Gwent application and submitted online at <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/school-admissions/>

You must complete an application form relevant to your child's age, by the date specified on page 4.

Applying

- > You can apply for a school place online at <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/school-admissions/>
- > Copies of the application can also be obtained from the Admissions team by contacting 01495 355493/355340 or schooladmissions@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

5dd]Mh]cb'dfcWgggUfhXUH/g
Nursery – 7th September 2024
Receipt on – 6th January 2025
Secondary – 23rd September 2024

If your child attends a primary or secondary school in another Local Authority and you wish for your child to **transfer** schools during the academic year, an in-year transfer form can be obtained online at <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/school-admissions/> or via the admissions team by contacting 01495 369502/369524 or schooladmissions@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk. Please refer to Section 4 for more information on in-year transfers.

Filling in your application form

We reserve the right to undertake reasonable checks to verify any information provided on your application form. If false, misleading and/or fraudulent information is provided we reserve the right to:

- > withdraw an offer of a school place; or,
- > if an offer has not been made, process the application with the correct information as a late application.

If you suspect fraud please write to the: Education Transformation and Business Change Service Manager, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Education Directorate, General Offices, Steelworks Road, Ebbw Vale. NP23 6DN. All cases will be investigated accordingly.



Application details

HYZc`ck]b[XYHJ]gUFYfYei]fYX]b Wta d`Yh]b[Ub Udd`]W]cb Zcf`nci f W]X.'

Name and date of birth – Please give your child's name and date of birth exactly as it appears on their birth certificate.

Address – The address you provide must be your child's permanent address. This must not be an address of another family member or another adult who looks after your child but does not have parental responsibility for your child.

You must provide proof of your address a

Other information about your child

If your child has a Statement of Educational Need which names a school or a Local Authority based individual educational needs (IDP), the child must be admitted to that school before application of the oversubscription criteria. In the case of looked after or previously looked after children, the oversubscription criteria will not be applied and no consultation is required about the suitability of the school, as this qualifies as an automatic admission under excepted pupil status. Please refer to Section 4 for more information on in-year transfers.

Excepted pupil

Children who are admitted to a school outside a normal admission round are:

- > Children who have an IDP.
- > Children whose statements of SEN specify that they should be educated at the school concerned, and who were admitted to the school outside a normal admission round.
- > Children who are looked after by local authorities (looked after children), or who have ceased to be looked after (previously looked after children) as a result of being adopted or being placed with a family or given a special guardian and are admitted to the school outside a normal admissions round.
- > Children initially refused admission to a school, but subsequently offered a place outside a normal admission round by direction of an admission appeal panel, or because the person responsible for making the original decision recognises that an error was made in implementing the school's admission arrangements.
- > Children admitted outside the normal admission round who:
 - the maintaining Local Authority confirmed cannot gain a place at any other suitable school within a reasonable distance of their home because they have moved into the area outside a normal admission round, or they desire a religious education, or a Welsh speaking education and the school in question is the only suitable school within a reasonable distance.
- > Children who were admitted to the school outside the normal admission round after which the school has arranged its classes, and after the first day of the school year, the effect of which would mean that the school would have to take a relevant measure if such children were not excepted pupils.
- > Children of armed forces personnel who are admitted outside the normal admission round.
- > Children whose twin or other sibling from a multiple birth are admitted as non-excepted pupils, as the final pupil(s) allocated a place before the admission number is reached.
- > Children who are registered pupils at special schools, but who receive part of their education at a mainstream school.
- > Children with ALN who are normally educated in a special unit in a mainstream school, who receive part of their lessons in a non-special class.

Parent, guardian and/or carer details

Where the child(ren) and/or young person(s) is currently under the care of the Local Authority, the relevant social worker must sign the application form and confirm the appropriateness of choice of school.

Please provide the details of one parent/guardian or carer and your contact details. Please ensure you include a daytime telephone number as we may need to contact you.

Listing schools on your form

We recommend that you list a first, second and third preference school on your form, this will increase the chance of your child(ren) being offered a school that you would like them to go to.

Exceptional medical reasons

In very rare cases, children can be given priority admission to a particular school where there is evidence to demonstrate exceptional medical reasons why only one particular school can meet their needs.

Applications in this category cannot be considered unless your application is supported by a consultant's report. In each case, the connection between your child's need and the specific

Declaration and signature

When you have completed your form, the parent/legal guardian having parental responsibility for the child must sign to confirm the information provided is correct.

Returning your completed form

Please ensure to complete your online application form via <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/school-admissions/>

It is the parent/guardian, carer's responsibility to ensure that the Local Authority receives your completed application safely and on time. If you are posting your application and supplying evidence it is advised that the form is **gybhVnrfYVwrfXYX XY'j Yfrñ**

Incomplete/late applications

Incomplete applications received after the closing date will be classed as late. These applications will be considered after all other completed applications that were received on time and will be processed in line with the timeframe shown on page 31.

Incomplete/late applications may be unlikely to be offered one of their preferred schools.

Changes of preference/circumstance

Should a parent/carer wish to change their preference or their circumstances change, this needs to be done in writing to the Local Authority.



How we will process your application

Each school you list on your application form is considered by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and processed in line with the Blaenau Gwent Admission Policy for Nursery and Statutory Education 2025/26:


<https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/resident/schools-learning/>

- > All first preferences will be met except where the number of applications exceeds the number of places available. Should there be more applications than places available, places will be allocated on the basis of the oversubscription criteria.
- > The oversubscription criteria are only applied when there are more applications to a school than there are places available. If the number of applications is equal to or less than the admission number, then all pupils must be admitted.
- > The Governors of voluntary aided and, foundation schools apply their criteria to all their applicants and this information is then shared with the Local Authority.

Application process

Each school has a set number of places that can be offered, this is known as the Admission Number and places are offered until the point at which the school is full. The process for





Notifying parents/guardians and/or carers of the outcome of the application

Deferred entry to a school

The Law does not require a child to start school until the start of the term following the child's fifth birthday; therefore, the Admissions Authority must provide a school place by this time. The parent would not, however, be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday. Parents do have the right to:

- A** request that the date their child is admitted to school is deferred until the term after the child's fifth birthday, or,
- B** request that their child takes up the place part-time until the term after the child's fifth birthday.

School admission appeals

If your child is refused a place at one of the schools listed on your form you can appeal against this decision to an independent appeal panel. You will be given details of how to make an appeal in our refusal letter.



How to ensure you have the best possible chance of being offered one of your preferred schools

The most important information at the start of the following academic year i.e. if the child is placed on the waiting list in November 2024, they will remain on the list until 30th September 2025. admission are detailed below:

- > Knowing what to do and what to look into before you make your application (See page 24)
- > Understanding how late applications can affect your child's placement (See page 25)
- > Knowing and understanding how the admissions criteria is applied (See pages 35 -36)
- > Submitting your form on time with all required evidence (See page 26)
- > Understanding the appeals process in the event of a refusal (See page 34)



Admissions appeals





Schools Oversubscription Criteria

The Admissions Authority will consider each individual application received by the published closing date. If the number of applications for an individual school is greater than the admission number, the allocation of places will be allocated using the following criteria, which are listed in priority order:-

ID'Yug' Bch. Children with a Local Authority IDP or that have statement of Special Educational Needs which names the school will be admitted in accordance with Section 324 of the Education Act 1996.

1. Children in Care

Priority to be given to children looked after/children previously looked after (children under the Local Authority's care); following consultation on the appropriateness of the named school.

Children in care means children who are in care of the Local Authority before the published closing date.

2. Catchment School



Tie Breaker



Monmouthshire

Directorate for Children and Young People, Innovation House, Monmouthshire County Council, PO Box 106, Caldicot, NP26 9AN. **K YVgjlhY**. www.Monmouthshire.gov.uk
HŶ. 01633 644508 | **9!a UJ**. schoolandstudentaccessunit@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Caerphilly

D'YUgYBchY. Where parents wish to apply for their child to attend a school in the Caerphilly area i.e. Newbridge Comprehensive School, you are required to apply via the relevant Caerphilly Council application form or by making an on-line application via the Caerphilly Council website. Any such applications must be received by Caerphilly's School Admissions Team by the relevant published closing date as outlined in Caerphilly Council's admissions policy.
K YVgjlhY. www.caerphilly.gov.uk
HŶ. 01443 864870 | **9!a UJ**. schooladmissions@caerphilly.gov.uk

Powys

Admissions and Transport Team, Powys County Hall, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5LG. **K YVgjlhY**. www.powys.gov.uk
HŶ. 01597 826455 | **9!a UJ**. admissionsandtransport@powys.gov.uk

A Yfh\rf HhX`

Pupil Services, Unit 5, Triangle Business Park, Pentrebach, Merthyr Tydf I CF48 4TQ
K YVgjlhY. www.merthyr.gov.uk
HŶ. 01685 724620 | **9!a UJ**. school.admissions@merthyr.gov.uk

Torfaen

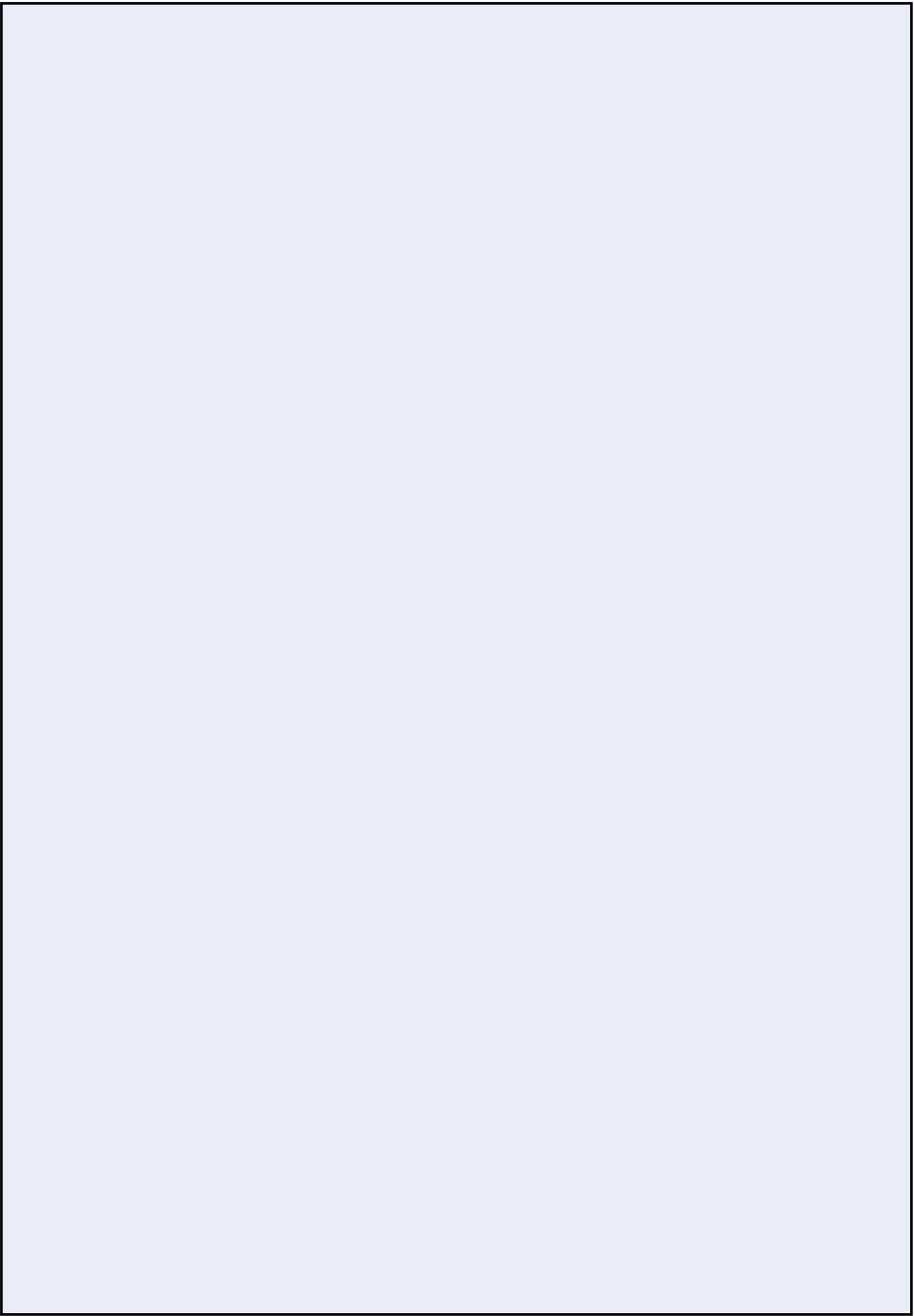
The Admission Team, Pearle House, Pontypool, NP4 6YB
K YVgjlhY. www.torfaen.gov.uk
HŶ. 01495 766915 | **9!a UJ**. kath.worwood@torfaen.gov.uk

Bishop Hedley Catholic High School

Gwaunfar m * ebÜ el: 01443 864870

Managed move





Attendance - every day counts

Parents are advised not to take their child(ren) on holidays during term time. Term dates for 2025/2026 can be found at www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/learning/term-dates/

The law advises that parents do not have the right to take their child(ren) out of school for holidays during term time without agreement of the headteacher who has discretion to agree up to 10 days leave.

Parents should make any applications for leave in writing prior to the holiday being taken.

There are 190 statutory school days in one year. There are 175 days (weekend and school holidays) available to be used for holidays, which would not have a negative effect on a child's education.

Integrated Children's Centre

Blaenau Gwent's Integrated Children's Centre offers information, advice and assistance about early years services. These include Family Information Service, Health Visiting, Flying Start and Families First.

For more information, contact 01495 369610 or visit www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Clothing Grants

Information with regards to clothing grants can be obtained from the Benefits Division of the Resources Department.

For more information, contact 01495 353398 or visit www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Complaints

Recent regulations introduced under Education Act 2002 requires the governing body



Education Welfare Service

The Education Welfare Service carries out the statutory duty of the Local Authority by supporting schools to ensure that all pupils of compulsory school age attend school regularly and punctually in order for them to achieve their appropriate educational and social potential in accordance with the 1996 Education Act and 1989 Children's Act. The Education Welfare Service also investigates and records all incidents of child employment and child performances, Children and Young Persons Act (1933) and Child Performance Regulations Wales (2015).

As well as the statutory duties mentioned above the Education Welfare Service will also:- Provide links between schools, parents, young people and other agencies as and when required; Advise schools and parents on how to tackle welfare issues such as youth crime, bullying, substance abuse, etc. Advise Child Protection Case Conferences of relevant information regarding children and families.

In Blaenau Gwent, every school has a designated Education Welfare Officer to advise and support them. Operating the Education Welfare Service in this way enables schools, pupils and parents to build up a professional relationship with the Education Welfare Officer. Schools are able to request an Education Welfare Officer to make a home visit to discuss attendance issues. Young people can also discuss problems in confidence with their Education Welfare Officer, if necessary.

Elective Home Education

The law requires parents to ensure that their child(ren) receive an education. This is usually through ensuring they attend a local school. However, parents sometimes choose to electively home educate their child(ren). If/when a parent decides to do this they become responsible for providing and ensuring their child(ren) receive a suitable education. The Local Authority is required to monitor the suitability of the education provided and will



Free School Meals

A main meal is provided in all schools. The primary meal is free for pupils within the Reception, year 1 and year 2 groups. Primary - £2.50 | Secondary - £2.70

Which pupils are able to receive free school meals?

Free school meals are available to eligible pupils who attend school full-time. This includes:

>

School Uniform Grant

The School Essentials Grant (formerly Pupil Development Grant Access) is available to children and young people eligible for free school meals (eFSM), looked after children and those who are classed as No recourse to Public Funds in year groups Reception to Year 11.

Funding of £125 is available for each eligible learner except for those in Year 7 who will be entitled to £200 (to reflect the increased cost of starting secondary school).

Learners who receive Free School Meals (eFSM) due to transitional protection arrangements **do not qualify for this funding**. Learners who receive Universal Primary Free School Meals (UPFSM) only and not eFSM based on income/benefit related criteria **do not qualify for this funding**.

Families are only entitled to claim once per child, per school year.

The scheme for the 2023/24 academic year will begin on 1st July 2023 and end on 31st May 2024.

How to apply

Apply online if:

- > Your child is eligible for free school meals and
- > Your child has not already had a school uniform grant for the current school year 2024/2025

D'YUgYi gY UVfck gYf'g W Uj7\ fca Yz9X[Ycf GUZf]hc UWWggA mGYfj JWgUbXhY' form below. It will not work in Internet Explorer.

9a Uj'.benef ts@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk cf HY'.

Local Government Ombudsman (LGO)

The Local Government Ombudsman looks at complaints about councils and some other authorities, including education admissions appeals panels. Their role is to investigate complaints in a fair and independent way – they do not take sides. You can contact them on:

H. 0300 790 0203 **K** **YVgjh**. www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk

Milk

Free milk is provided for pupils attending: nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 in schools that have chosen to participate in the scheme for the provision of free milk. The provision of milk is, however, subject to parental agreement. Milk is also provided to pupils in residential special schools and to pupils in other schools who require milk on medical grounds.

National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS)

The National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS) is a UK charity providing children's rights and socio-legal services. They offer information, advice, advocacy and legal representation to children and young people up to the age of 25. NYAS seeks to provide and develop its services through the active participation of young people, who are involved at all levels of the organisation.

If you are a child, young person or ringing on behalf of a child or young person and need help, information or advice, you can contact the service on help line number **FREEPHONE 0808 8081001** or send an e-mail to help@nyas.net.

School Governors

Each school has a Governing Body which plays an important part in the life of the school. It has a general responsibility for the conduct of the school and a range of specific responsibilities, including managing the school's finances and the appointment of staff.

Governing bodies are made up of local people and will include parents; persons appointed by the Local Authority, teachers, support staff, headteachers and also representative of the local business community and the Church.

The number of members will depend upon the size of the school.

For information on the work of school governing bodies and details of how to become a school governor, please contact **Educat on Achievement Service, Tredomen House, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed, CF82 7WF.**

H. 01443 863242

School Leaving Date

The Government has introduced a single school leaving date, which is the last Friday in June in the school year in which a pupil reaches the age of 16. Pupils are unable to take up full time employment until after this date.

School Transport (Other than for Special Education)

The criteria for the provision of free transport:-

1. Free transport is generally restricted to pupils of statutory school age who attend their catchment area schools and live the necessary distance from the school.

The distances quoted are subject to review up to the statutory limit:

Under 8 years of age – if living more than 1.5 miles from school (statutory limit 2 miles)
, **nŷUfjgcZU[YUbX'cj Yf** – if living more than 2 miles from school (statutory limit 3 miles)

Distances are measured by the shortest walking route between home and school using the GGP Digital Mapping System as recommended by the Welsh Government. In some cases it is not possible to arrange the routes of vehicles to pass close to the home of a pupil. Therefore, it may be necessary to make arrangements for them to reach the nearest 'pick-up' points of the vehicle. Every effort is made to keep this distance as short as possible and it should not exceed 1 mile.

Pupils attending the nearest Voluntary Aided School currently receive free transport in accordance with the above.

2. Transport will be provided to the nearest suitable school, subject to distance limits. The nearest suitable school is deemed by the Authority as the school which:
 - > Provides education for the relevant age of a pupil, and is nearer to the pupils home address than the catchment area school;
 - > Is the nearest school to meet the language preference in accordance with the Authority's policy on Welsh medium education;
 - > Is the nearest school to meet the denominational preference.
3. Free transport may be provided where the Authority is satisfied that the route between home and school is sufficiently dangerous to warrant such provision, even though the distance is under those quoted above. This will be considered in line with the criteria set out in the Learner Travel Statutory Provision and Operational Guidance June 2014.

SNAP

Snap Cymru is a voluntary organisation which offers accurate information, impartial advice and support to families of children and young people.

HF: 0808 8010608

K YVgjh: www.snapcymru.org



Support for Pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Every child is an individual, developing and learning at different rates. Some children find learning easy and some find it hard. With the right help all children develop at their own pace. This means that within a school, and within each classroom, different teaching styles are needed, taking into account the abilities, strengths, weaknesses and interests of the children. These different approaches to learning help most children make progress. Some however, may need more support.

Admission Arrangements for Pupils to attend a Resource Base or Special School

Admission arrangements for pupils with ALN that require a Resource Base or Special School is determined by the Local Authority ALN Panel.

ALN Reform

In September 2021, all Local Authorities across Wales will begin a three-year transition from the current SEN process to a new ALN way of working which will involve Individual Development Plans replacing the use of Statements. H.Y.bYk 'gnhVa k J'. ensure that all learners with ALN are supported to overcome barriers to learning and can achieve their full potential, improve the planning and delivery of support for learners from 0 to 25 with ALN, placing learners' needs, views, wishes and feelings at the heart of the process focus and on the importance of identifying needs early and putting in place timely and effective interventions which are monitored and adapted to ensure they deliver the desired outcomes. Further information on these changes is available from schools or from the ALN Team - ALNenquiries@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Admission Arrangements for Vulnerable Pupils

Children Looked After: Children's Services have two education mentors who work across

Flying Start

Flying Start is a Welsh Government funded programme, which provides intensive support services to families with children aged between 0-3, who live in disadvantaged areas across Wales.

The Blaenau Gwent Flying Start team is child focused and offers encouragement, information and guidance to support parents/carers at each stage of their child's development; providing free opportunities, activities and programmes to allow all children to develop their language and social skills and their emotional and physical development in order to be ready to begin school.

H.Y. 01495 354786 9!a UJ. Sherelle.jago@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Families First

The Families First programme is funded by the Welsh Government to help families who are facing difficulties. The Families First team offers different types of support depending on need. Complicated problems will need lots of support; however, some families may need help to overcome smaller problems to stop them getting worse.

Welsh Government

The Department of Education and Skills, Welsh Government.

Phone: 0300 060 4400 or Email: customerhelp@gov.wales

Website: <https://gov.wales/education-skills>

Admission Arrangements

This is a technical term for the rules that govern the admission procedures and decisions for a particular school or group of schools in specific year.

Admission Code

This document sets out the legal requirements for school admissions, admission appeals and exclusions from school. The revised School Admission Code and School Admissions The Depar

Children Looked After (CLA)

A child looked after is a child for whom the Council has a corporate parenting responsibility. A child looked after may live away from home either under a voluntary arrangement or through a legal order which means that the Council has parental responsibility for the child. A child may also live at home with this type of legal order in place.

Distance Measurements

Blaenau Gwent measures distance using the Authority's GGP digital mapping system as recommended in the Welsh Government Learner Travel Measure (2013). Places will be allocated on the basis of distance between the shortest walking route between home and school. Children living closest being given the highest priority.

Equal Preference System

This means that each of your school preferences is treated as a separate application. Your child is considered under the over-subscription criteria for each school at the same time without reference to your ranked preference. Where a pupil is eligible for more than one school she/he is offered a place at whichever of these schools was indicated as the high preference on your application form.

Foundation School

This is a school where the Governing Body employs the staff and sets the oversubscription criteria for the school.

Home Address

The address provided should be the child's current permanent address at the time of application. The application can only be processed using one address. If the child lives at a different address from the parent/carer from Monday to Friday, the Parental Responsibility Order or Residence Order must be provided for assessment. If there are reasons why the child is not living at the same address as the parent, both parent/carers must declare this in a letter sent with the application.

If the child regularly lives at more than one address parents should declare where the child spends the majority of their time. Both parent/carers must declare this individually in a letter sent with the application.

If an address is disputed, the address where child benefit/child tax credit is paid will be used.

Key Stages

A child's educational career goes through four main curriculum stages according to their age:

- > The Foundation Stage curriculum is for 3-7 year olds starting with Nursery and then going into Reception/year 1 and year 2 classes.
- > The Key Stage two curriculum is for 7-11 years old. They move through year 3, 4, 5 and year 6 classes.
- > Key Stage three curriculum is for 11-14 year olds at secondary school. They move through year 7, year 8 and year 9 classes.
- > The Key Stage four curriculum is for students aged 14-16 who pass through Year 10 and year 11 classes.

Late Admission

This refers to any application for a school place that is received in the normal admission round but later than the deadline given.

Parental Responsibility

Since 2003 the parents named on a child's birth certificate both have automatic parental responsibility and rights. Other adults are also able to acquire parental rights through legal process. For school admission applications, parents must provide proof that they have legal responsibility for the child, such as a child benefit letter or a copy of legal documents which demonstrate that this is the case.

When parents are separated they should discuss the application for a school place before the application is submitted. The parent with whom the child mostly resides should do the application. Where appropriate, details of the other parent with parental responsibility and their address should also be given so that the Education Transformation team can communicate with both parents. If there are legal reasons why the Education Transformation team cannot do this, a copy of the relevant court order must be provided with the application form.

Children Previously Looked After

Children previously looked after are children who were looked after that ceased to be so, because they were adopted or became subject to a residence order or special guardianship order.

Pupil Information Sharing

Each school will collect detailed personal information about your child and your family. This is for the purpose of keeping in contact with you and knowing important things about your child's health and safety so that correct responses can be made by school staff. You may be asked to share information about any child protection issues, adults living in your house as well as other professionals who may work with your family. It is important to co-operate with these requests because it is about protecting legislation and will not be used for any purpose that we do not tell you about beforehand. If you are concerned about this you can discuss it with a member of the Education Welfare Service.

Siblings

This category includes brothers and sisters, foster brothers and sisters, half-brothers and sisters or step brothers and sisters. However, parents should note that in all these cases, the brother or sister must be living at the same address as the child for whom the application is being made. To verify this we may ask you for evidence of where child benefit is being paid.



Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

Additional Learning Needs (ALN) is a specific term with an associated set of definitions that indicate where specific pupils should receive additional help and resources. These are defined in an authorised document called a 'Statement'. The 1981 Education Act opened

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