



Ysgol Tŷ Coch

Learning Together - Dysgu Gyda'n Gilydd

Admissions Policy

This document was:

Reviewed/Revised at a meeting of the full governing body held on 26th October 2022; 22nd November 2023; 16th October 2024

Review date: To be advised - in line with Rhondda CynonTaff County Borough Council Policy

Signed: _____

Chairperson schools governing body, on behalf of the governing body

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Headteacher

Distribution: Staff, governors, pupils, parents/Carers and interested parties.

Introduction

Ysgol Ty Coch caters for pupils aged 3-19 with a range of special educational needs and is maintained by Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Council. These needs include severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders, profound and multiple learning disabilities, and social, emotional and behavioral difficulties.

All pupils have a statement of special educational needs. Many pupils have additional learning needs, which include physical, sensory and medical needs as well as speech, language and communication difficulties.

In order for our pupils to thrive, we aim to provide an enabling environment that has a clear focus on relationship building.

Ysgol Ty Coch is a Rights Respecting School. As a Rights Respecting School, we aim to embed children's human rights in our ethos and school culture. We use the principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation in all that we do. This enables us to not only empower our children and young people, but it also leads to enhanced learning, improved standards and better relationships which is at the heart of all that we do in Ysgol Ty Coch.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and is the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history. This policy relates to Article 23, 28, and 29 of the UNCRC.

Article 23: Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so they can lead full and independent lives.

Article 28: Children have the right to education no matter who they are: regardless of race, gender or disability.

Article 29: Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

General Principles

The legislation that impacts on Admission to Ysgol Ty Coch School;

- Race Relations Act
The Race Relations Act 1976 makes it unlawful for admission authorities to discriminate against applicants on the basis of race, colour, nationality or national or ethnic origin.
- Human Rights Act
The Human Rights Act 1998 confers a right not to be denied an education.
- Disability Discrimination Act
The Special Educational Needs and Disability Discrimination Act 2001 brings all aspects of education within the ambit of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Since September 2002 admission authorities have been under a new

duty not to discriminate against disabled pupils and prospective pupils in their access to education.

- Sex Discrimination Act 1975
Under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, admission authorities must not discriminate between boys and girls in the way they admit them to a school, except where the school in question is a single sex school.

Who is the school admission authority?

The LA (Local Authority) is the school's admission authority. The Governing body has a duty to implement the LA's decision on individual applications and to act in accordance with the LA admission arrangements. The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and the Code of Practice (Welsh Assembly Government 2000) outline the law relating to School Admissions.

Admission Arrangements

Admission to the school is by the Access and Inclusion Panel of the Local Authority. The panel includes: The Head of Service, System Leaders, Educational Psychologist and Head teacher representation where necessary.

Pupils who wish to gain admission to the school undergo a multidisciplinary assessment which is then presented before the LA panel. The assessment will involve parents and all agencies who are currently involved with the child. Based on this assessment and panel decision, then a recommendation may be to consider a placement in Ysgol Ty Coch School. The professionals make a decision of suitability of the placement based on individual needs.

At any stage parents are encouraged to visit the school as the assessment process can be an anxious time.

The Education Authority will confirm with the parents that a place has been offered:

- When a place is available for their child
- An admission date will be agreed with the Head teacher. Admission date will depend on the time required to
 - Assess pupil needs
 - Ensure appropriate provision is in place to meet needs
 - Produce/update Health Care Plan and make any necessary arrangements
 - Arrange transport

Pupils may be admitted:

- On a part time basis for pupils under statutory school age
- On a part time split placement with another school
- On a full time basis

Transition Visits

We take an individualised approach to all new pupils in Ysgol Ty Coch and understand that some pupils will require a slower and more supported transition. We support the whole family during this process and work closely with the pupil, family

and other professionals to ensure that the transition is as smooth and successful as possible for all involved.

Examples of how this has been done successfully in the past include:

- Staff from previous settings are encouraged to attend with the child in order to transfer information.
- Photographs of key people and activities
- individualised booklets about their new class may be given to the families so that they can be further prepared for any change.
- Staggered start which could be in the form of part time sessions, gradually increasing the time they spend in school.

Eligibility Dates

The Government has set eligibility dated by which children must attain the age of five to be of compulsory school age. These dates are 31st August, 31st December and 31st March.

In Rhondda-Cynon-Taf, pupils who have attained the age of 4 on or before these dates may be admitted to full time education the following term. Children may be admitted to Ysgol Ty Coch on a part time basis at the age of 3 years and the eligibility dates above also apply to these admissions.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

The Starting School Booklet which is published online at RCTCBC.

ALN policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

Curriculum Policy