Introduction

Please make sure that you:

• Visit schools before you apply so that you have all the information you need when you make your application.

• Submit your application by the closing date.

• Apply for up to:
  5 preferences (Transfer to Secondary Education)
  3 preferences (Transfer to Primary Education)
  You are strongly advised to use all preferences available to you.

• Check the mythbusters on pages 18-19 before submitting your application.
Most of the questions you will have about school admissions will be answered in this guide. It provides advice on how to make an application and other information you may need to know about:

- Making an application
- Starting Primary School
- Starting Secondary School
- Starting Nursery
- In Year applications
- Admission Appeals
- Admission Policies for Faith and Foundation Schools
- Other useful information
- Schools in Cardiff

CONTACT US

Website: www.cardiff.gov.uk
Email:
nurseryallocations@cardiff.gov.uk
receptionallocations@cardiff.gov.uk
secondaryallocations@cardiff.gov.uk
inyearadmissions@cardiff.gov.uk

When you send us an email please include your child’s full name, date of birth and current school or nursery.
Children born between 1st September 2015 - 31st August 2016

**Monday 14 January 2019**
The online application service will open. Any Hub will be able to provide support with the online application service.

**Monday 18 February 2019**
Closing date for first round applications.

Anything received after this date will be considered late and will not be allocated in the first round. Schools may already be full by the later rounds.

**Monday 22 April 2019**
We will tell parents the results of their applications. Online applicants will receive an email on this date.

Parents who choose to receive their results by letter may have to wait longer for the post delivery.

Parents can phone 029 2087 2087 for results after 12pm.

Children born between 1st September 2016 - 31st March 2017

**Monday 3 June 2019**
The online application service will open. Any Hub will be able to provide support with the online application service.

**Monday 1 July 2019**
Closing date for first round applications.

Anything received after this date will be considered late and will not be allocated in the first round. Schools may already be full by the later rounds.

**Monday 7 October 2019**
We will tell parents the results of their applications. Online applicants will receive an email on this date.

Parents who choose to receive their results by letter may have to wait longer for the post delivery.

Parents can phone 029 2087 2087 for results after 12pm.
ADMISSION TO PRIMARY EDUCATION: SEPTEMBER 2019

Monday 12 November 2018
The online application service will open. Any Hub will be able to provide support with the online application service.

Monday 7 January 2019
Anything received after this date will be considered late and will not be allocated in the first round. Schools may already be full by the later rounds.

Tuesday 16 April 2019
We will tell parents the results of their applications. Online applicants will receive an email on this date.

Parents who choose to receive their results by letter may have to wait longer for the post delivery.

Parents can phone 029 2087 2087 for results after 12pm.

We expect that appeal hearings for those applications received on time will be heard by the end of the summer term 2019.

TRANSFER TO SECONDARY EDUCATION: SEPTEMBER 2019

Monday 24 September 2018
The online application service will open. Any Hub will be able to provide support with the online application service.

Monday 19 November 2018
Anything received after this date will be considered late and will not be allocated in the first round. Schools may already be full by the later rounds.

Friday 1 March 2019
We will tell parents the results of their applications. Online applicants will receive an email on this date.

Parents who choose to receive their results by letter may have to wait longer for the post delivery.

Parents can phone 029 2087 2087 for results after 12pm.

We expect that appeal hearings for those applications received on time will be heard by the end of the summer term 2019.

MAKE SURE THAT YOUR APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED BY THE CLOSING DATE ABOVE
**SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

This section provides general information that you may find helpful if you are applying for the first time.

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Cardiff has 125 schools; this includes Nursery, Primary, Secondary and Special Schools.

Schools are classified as Community, Foundation, Voluntary Controlled or Voluntary Aided.

The majority of schools in Cardiff are community schools.
- 18 are Welsh-medium community schools (15 primary schools and 3 secondary schools)
- 67 are English-medium community schools (58 primary schools and 9 secondary schools)
- 2 are dual-stream (English and Welsh community schools, both of which are primary)
- 8 are Special Schools and there are a further 21 Specialist Resource Bases attached to mainstream schools.

Denominational education is provided at 28 schools.
- 12 are Church in Wales schools (10 primary schools and 2 secondary schools)
- 16 are Catholic schools (13 primary schools and 3 secondary schools)

Information on schools in Cardiff can be found on Pages 110-124

*Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools* usually have their admissions controlled by the Local Authority (LA). In the case of St Mellons Church in Wales Primary School the Council has agreed to delegate responsibility for admissions to the Governing Body of the school. Applications should be made directly to the school.

*Voluntary Aided (Faith) Schools* control their own admissions applications and allocations. Details of these schools and their oversubscription criteria for can be found on Pages 68-103.

Applications for *Whitchurch, Corprus Christi and St Teilo’s High School* will come directly to Cardiff Council Admissions. You can apply online, just like any other community school.

**FINDING INFORMATION ABOUT SCHOOLS**

**Open Days**

Have you visited the school you would like your child to attend? Most schools arrange an Open Day for parents who might be interested. We strongly recommend that parents visit schools. If a school does not have an Open Day you can phone the school to arrange an appointment to visit the school. It is best to visit a number of schools including your catchment area school, because a place cannot be guaranteed at any school.
School research
Have you researched the schools that you want to apply for? There are several sites that provide information about local schools. Most schools have their own web pages that will give you a good idea about how they operate and their ethos. Estyn provides reports on all schools. This and other information can be accessed at mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk. This website provides information on school performance, demographics, budgets and attendance. Alternatively, you can also look at the schools’ Estyn reports (www.estyn.gov.uk)

School Transport
Have you thought how your child will get to and from school each day? Many children in Cardiff walk, cycle or take public transport to school. It is the responsibility of the parents to arrange school transport.

What transport is available?
Some children qualify for free home to school transport. To find out whether this applies to you please check the current school transport policy which is available cardiff.gov.uk/schooltransport If you wish to apply or check if you are entitled to free transport please contact the Passenger Transport Team on schooltransport@cardiff.gov.uk or by phoning 02920872808.

WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION

Welsh Immersion Units
Pupils attending Welsh-medium Primary School normally transfer to a Welsh-medium Secondary School in accordance with the arrangements on pages 34-36.

However, did you know that if your child did not attend a Welsh-medium Nursery/Primary school at the start of their education it isn’t too late for you to consider a Welsh-medium Education for your child?

Cardiff Council has established both a primary and secondary Welsh Immersion Unit which provides intense Welsh language learning enabling children to gain a level of fluency to transfer to education in a Welsh-medium School. If you would like to consider this option for your child, please contact Ysgol Glan Ceubal by telephone on 029 2062 6650.

Use of the Welsh Language in Primary Schools
In Welsh-medium Primary schools all subjects of the National Curriculum with the exception of English are taught through the medium of Welsh. In English-medium Schools Welsh second language is statutory in the Foundation Phase and at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

Use of the Welsh Language in Secondary Schools
In Welsh-medium Secondary Schools, all subjects of the National Curriculum with the exception of English are taught through the medium of Welsh. In English-medium Schools Welsh second language is a statutory requirement for all pupils in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum. In accordance with the Education Reform Act 1988, Welsh is a core subject in all Welsh-medium schools.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF WELSH-MEDIUM EDUCATION?

Whatever language you speak at home, Welsh-medium education can give your child additional opportunities, experiences and skills. Here are some frequently asked questions that may help you decide whether you’d like to take advantage of what Welsh-medium education has to offer.

‘So what does Welsh-Medium education do?’
Welsh-medium education has a very simple aim - to enable children to become fully fluent in both English and Welsh while teaching all the other subjects across the curriculum.
Young children learn languages remarkably easily - it’s by making the most of this potential that Welsh-medium education has become so popular.

‘Why do people choose Welsh-medium education?’
Research shows that it’s by far the best way we have to get children to be bilingual in both English and Welsh. Being bilingual has many advantages. It’s very useful as a skill in the workplace: the ability to speak Welsh is either an essential or a desirable skill for a growing number of jobs. The Welsh Government has also committed to developing a bilingual Wales through its Welsh-language strategy ‘Cymraeg 2050’ with a vision for reaching a million speakers by 2050. There is more demand today than ever before for bilingual skills in a variety of fields such as health, education, leisure, childcare, retail, and public services.

‘Any other reasons?’
Speaking Welsh can help children build a fuller understanding of their wider community and their place within it. Welsh provides children with access to a culture – including literature, music, digital media, and a host of other things - that might otherwise be unavailable to them. For some people, the choice of Welsh-medium education is based on personal experiences: they know people who are bilingual or have bilingual children, and so want their own children to be able to be a part of the Welsh-speaking community, while also being completely at home in English.

‘Do families like mine chose Welsh-medium education?’
Every family - and every child - is unique, of course. But all kinds of families take advantage of Welsh-medium education: families who don’t speak Welsh and those who do; families from all kinds of ethnic and religious backgrounds; families from Wales and those who’ve moved here from elsewhere.

‘We don’t speak Welsh at home - would that make my child stand out?’
Not at all. In fact, the vast majority - over 70% - of children in Welsh-medium education in Cardiff do not speak Welsh at home. And for some of those, a language other than English is the main language of the home. So coming from a non-Welsh speaking background is absolutely normal and the curriculum is designed with that in mind. Welsh-medium schools do not expect that children speak Welsh when they start, but will help those children to become fluent in Welsh before the end of their first year.

‘We’re not Welsh - would it be strange for us to choose Welsh-medium education?’
Not at all. You don’t have to be Welsh to speak Welsh. Parents of children in Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff have come from all over the world: Wales, the rest of the UK, Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America … While some might consider themselves to be Welsh, others might not - the key point is that learning Welsh is open to all.

‘Does Welsh-medium education have lower standards for English?’
Absolutely not. Children leaving Welsh-medium primary schools are expected to reach exactly the same standard of English as those in English-medium primary schools. And in secondary schools children in Welsh-medium education sit exactly the same GCSEs and A-levels as those in English-medium schools. (The reverse is not true: children in English-medium education do not reach the same standards or sit the same level of exams in Welsh as those in Welsh-medium education.)

‘How can I help my child with homework if I don’t speak Welsh?’
As most children don’t speak Welsh at home, Welsh-medium schools are very experienced in supporting both pupils and parents. For younger pupils, homework instructions will be given in writing in both English and Welsh. At a later age, children will be able to explain their work to their parents themselves. In fact, research suggests that dealing with their work in two languages can actually help children understand the subject that they are studying. The education website Hwb (http://hwb.wales.gov.uk) also gives access to a range of nationally provided digital learning tools and resources.

‘Will learning Welsh make it harder to learn another language?’
Not at all. There’s almost no limit to a child’s ability to learn languages. In most European countries, young children can commonly speak two or three languages. Speaking one language can help reinforce the other, making it easier for the child to learn more languages later on.
‘Will it be difficult to get my child into Welsh-medium education?’
All Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff are community schools. So the application procedure is exactly as it is for English-medium community schools - the child’s home language or religion or national identity are not considered in the application process.

‘If my child were in a Welsh-medium school, would he or she have classmates from our area?’
The number of Welsh-medium schools in Cardiff has increased significantly. There are now seventeen primary schools and three secondary schools across the city. This means that your community will have a Welsh-medium school whose pupils will come from your local area and who can easily meet up outside school if they want to.

‘What about their education after they leave school?’
As pupils from Welsh-medium schools are fully bilingual, they can choose to follow college and university courses in either language (or both). Recently, the work of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (the national Welsh-medium college) has ensured that more and more university degrees are available (partially or completely) through the medium of Welsh. A growing number of Welsh-medium courses are available in Further Education as well. Even so, students from Welsh-medium schools commonly follow English-medium courses at college or university, in Wales and beyond.

‘Can I learn Welsh alongside my child?’
Some parents, after choosing a Welsh-medium school for their child, decide to learn Welsh as well. It’s a great opportunity to learn together, to practice your language skills on each other and spend quality time together. Welsh for Adults courses are available throughout Cardiff, and are suitable for learners at all levels. For further information, please visit https://learnwelsh.cymru/

Full details of all the Welsh-medium Schools are available on pages 120-122 (primary) and pages 123-124 (secondary). For further information on Welsh-medium education, please visit cymraeg.llyw.cymru/learning/cymraegiblant

Further Support

This should be your first stop for information and advice about Welsh-medium education, as well as how you can Live, Learn and Enjoy in Welsh. gov.wales/cymraeg

Cymraeg for Kids offers a wide range of fun activities for children and their families, including baby massage sessions, baby yoga, story and song sessions, story and rhyme time sessions, sessions to build confidence in using Welsh with your child and much more. Cymraeg i Blant

Mudiad Meithrin organises ‘Ti a Fi’ parent and toddlers group and offers nursery groups for children from two years old until primary schools across Wales. meithrin.cymru

Education Begins at Home offers a range of excellent resources and lots of simple tips and advice for parents and carers. beginsathome

Plenty of games and programmes in Welsh for pre-school children by S4C - available as a mobile site, app or on BBC iPlayer. s4c.cymru/cyw

If you have older children the Urdd’s app offers plenty of ideas for activities in Welsh in your area. urdd.cymru

Menter Caerdydd run a varied programme of sport and arts clubs, holiday activities and workshops for babies and children of all ages throughout Cardiff offering valuable opportunities for children to learn new skills while using and practicing their Welsh in a fun environment. mentercaerdydd.cymru