



Information for Parents/Carers on delaying your child's entry to Primary School Session 2020-2021

Curriculum for Excellence – Early Level

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) builds on the solid foundations developed in the critical years pre-birth to three. Within CfE, children are entitled to a broad general education from age three until the end of S3. The early level of CfE for most children spans the period of time from age three until the end of Primary 1. Our Primary Schools within the City of Edinburgh Council are embracing approaches to learning that build upon the skills and experiences of the children from Early Learning and Childcare Settings which support a smooth transition into Primary One.

What to do if I am considering delaying my child's entry to Primary School

In Scotland, children are of school age if they reach the age of 5 by the end of February, during their first school session. This means that in all Primary 1 classes, children will be aged between 4½ and 5½ years.

Children with January and February birthdays **are entitled to receive a continued, funded nursery place** at either a City of Edinburgh Council nursery or a partner nursery should their parents request this following discussion with their child's nursery.

Parents have a legal right to defer their child's entry into Primary 1 if their 5th birthday falls between mid-August and December. As the Scottish Government does not fund a further year of Early Learning and Childcare for children born before January, the local authority has the right to exercise discretion when considering applications for an additional funded year at nursery for children born between September and December.

The principal role of the City of Edinburgh Council will be to support parents and carers in coming to an informed decision. **It would be helpful to visit your local primary school and find out more about the experiences that would be offered to your child in primary one.** This will also give you an opportunity to discuss with school staff how you can work together to support your child in making this important transition.

How to make an application

Application paperwork is available from your child's nursery and should be completed by yourself and the nursery staff.

Parents complete:

- **Form 1A: For children whose birthdays are between 15 August 2015 and 31st December 2015- Discretionary**
- **Form 1B: For children whose birthdays are between 1st January - 28th February 2016- Automatic**

Forms 1A and 1B must be signed by the Head of the Early Learning and Childcare setting before the form is submitted.

Application must be submitted to the Council **no later than 31st March 2020.**

Please discuss fully with nursery staff before making your decision.

Please be aware that when you submit an application to request a continued year of early learning and childcare, you are also agreeing that a place in Primary 1 will not be required until August 2021. When the application is approved, any Primary 1 application previously made will be withdrawn, along with any placing request that may have been made.

An Assessment Panel will meet in April to consider all requests, comprising of Early Years Managers, an Educational Psychologist and a Head Teacher and you will be informed in writing of their decision. If you disagree with their decision, you do have the right to appeal. All appeals will be reviewed by an independent panel.