

Deferring Entry to Primary School

Can a child with a 1 March to school start date in August birthday have a deferred pre-school place at a partner provider or nursery class?

If an additional **funded** year of Early Learning and Childcare is granted, our aim is to try to provide this at the centre of your choice. However, you should be aware that this may not always be possible. A **Non-funded** place is **not** available within a local authority nursery class.

Will I be able to appeal against the refusal?

There is no legal right of appeal against decisions made by the Admissions Panel. However, the Admissions Panel will consider any additional information not previously made available to them at the time they made their decision.

If I have not reached a decision about deferring my child's entry by the school enrolment date, what should I do?

In this situation, parents/carers are strongly advised to make an application for a primary school place as well as applying for deferred entry. However, parents must decide before 15 March to accept a P1 place as thereafter they would lose any priority for their catchment school.

My child has had no experience of early Learning and Childcare, and I would like her to attend our local primary school's nursery or similar this year. Is this possible?

You should make contact with the local Early Learning and Childcare provider. Staff there will be able to advise you about your child's placement there.



For more information about Deferred Entry to Primary School in Dumfries and Galloway please contact:

Pam Abraham
Education and Learning Directorate
Militia House
English Street
Dumfries
DG1 2HR

Tel 030 33 33 3000

OR any Early Learning and Childcare
Provider in Dumfries and Galloway



Traditionally in Scotland most children aged between 4 years 6 months and 5 years commence school at the start of the Autumn term.

However, as a parent/carer of a child whose birthday falls on or between the school start date in August and last day of February, you have a choice about enrolling your child for primary school.

August and February Birthdays

From 1 August 2023, if a parent of a child that is still 4 years old on the date they are eligible to start school (i.e. children with birth dates on or between the day after the school commencement date in August – last day in February) defers their entry to school for a year, they can automatically access an additional year of funded early learning and childcare.

Below are some frequently asked questions.

I have concerns over whether or not to start my child in primary one. Who can I discuss this with?

Firstly, you should discuss this with the head teacher/manager or designated staff of your child's current Early Learning and Childcare provider. They will be able to give information on your child's development and progress throughout their year. This information may help you to decide whether to defer entry to school or not.

How do I request an additional year of Early Learning and Childcare?

You should in the first instance discuss your concerns with the head teacher/manager or designated staff of your child's current Early Learning and Childcare provider. They can suggest ways to improve skills over the next eight months and how to confirm your decision to defer by 15 March.

My child has a February birthday and is confident and mature. Should I defer his/her entry to school because he/she is so young?

Your child has a right to start school from the Autumn term following their 4th birthday. Primary One classes have a spread of age ranges and are organised to support all children. You should discuss this with the head teacher/manager or other designated staff of the provider currently attended by your child. You may also wish to discuss this with the head teacher of the school you would like your child to attend.

After careful consideration, if you have decided to defer entry to primary school you must inform the nursery by 15th March to ensure you secure a place. There is no need to complete an application form.

If your child's birthday falls on or between 1 March and the school start date in August.

Children with birthdays from the school start date in August until end of February also have the right to start school or defer entry in the Autumn term following their 4th birthday. However, there is no corresponding right to funding for an additional year if your child's birthday falls between 1 March and the school

start date in August. A decision on whether to fund an additional year of Early Learning and Childcare is made based on information received through an application form submitted by the nursery and parent/carer, along with any supporting evidence. Decisions are made by an Admissions Panel.



Below are some frequently asked questions.

What factors would be considered in deciding whether or not my child needs another year of Early Learning and Childcare?

The Admissions Panel will base their decision on the evidence submitted related to the following criteria:

- The level of dependency would prevent the child from gaining the full benefit of learning opportunities in Primary 1.
- Progression to Primary 1 would be detrimental to the child's educational progress.
- There are special circumstances which support the parents'/carers' wish for an additional year of Early Learning and Childcare.

When will I know if my request has been granted?

Parents will be informed of the decision taken by Admissions Panel by the end of January.