

## ELC Deferrals, by local authority.

### **Aberdeen City**

I can confirm that Aberdeen City have been part of the deferred entry pilot during session 22/23 and have been offering this since August 22. For information, there were 288 children who took up the offer this year. Of the 288, 138 were Aug-Dec birthday and 150 were Jan-Feb birthdays.

If families would like to take up the offer, they would just apply for a continuers place for the following year.

The ELC Admissions Policy can be found on our website [Education and Childcare | Aberdeen City Council](#)

### **Aberdeenshire**

In relation to the request from 'Give Them Time', Aberdeenshire Council sent out letters to all settings (LA/PVI) to be forwarded to all parents whose children will now be eligible for funded ELC places (deferred). This request was sent out on the 2nd November.

The [Aberdeenshire website](#) was also updated as shown below:

Delayed entry to primary one

In Scotland, children usually start primary school in the year during which they have their fifth birthday. This means that in primary one classes, children are usually aged between 4 and a half and 5 and a half years old.

When a child doesn't start school at the expected August start date for their year group, it is called deferred entry.

From August 2023, children who defer and turn 5 between 23rd August 2023 and the end of February 2024, will be automatically entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC).

We will not automatically enrol your child to nursery for another year of ELC you will have to complete the online ELC application.

### **Argyll and Bute**

I am pleased to respond that the information is published on our website here [Register your child for school \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#) with the information on how to register your child for school and also here [Early Learning and Childcare \(argyll-bute.gov.uk\)](#) in our section about which children are eligible for funded early learning and child care.

This will be the third year that we have had provision in place to ensure that all parents who wish to access this provision can do so.

### **Clackmannanshire**

- **where is this information published on your website** - Our deferred information can be found <https://www.clacks.gov.uk/learning/deferredentry/>
- **whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so.** Having been one of the pilot authorities to offer this for session 22/23 processes are in place for any child who is not yet 5 to defer if that is what the parents wish. All primary schools have been given the information to share at enrolment to P1 and a question on deferral was added to the sample enrolment form for P1. All ELC settings, including partners have received information about deferral and been reminded that any child not yet 5 when school term starts is free to defer and will receive another year of funded childcare.

### **Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar**

The deferral leaflet and information are in [Annexe A](#). This has been distributed to all parents, shared on our social media pages and will currently be published on our website which is undergoing a review and update.

### **Dumfries and Galloway**

- where is this information published on your website;  
<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15237/Deferred-entry-to-Primary-1>
- whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so. **Yes**

### **Dundee City**

Please see below the response from Children and Families Service, Dundee City Council

- where is this information published on your website;

It is contained within the section [Schools and Learning, sub section Early Learning and Childcare](#).

- whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so.

Guidance for parents/carers who wish to defer their child's Primary School entry is available and provides information about deferral to school. This is issued to all

parents wishing to defer their child's school entry. The guidance outlines the timeline and process for parents to confirm their decision to defer entry to primary one.

## **East Ayrshire**

I can confirm that East Ayrshire Council has noted on the webpage (see link below) that from August 2023, children with a birthday between the school commencement date in August and the end of December whose parents choose to delay their start to primary one the following year, will be automatically entitled to a further year.

[Additional year of early learning and childcare - East Ayrshire Council \(east-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-learning-and-childcare)

This information is also noted on page 11 of our Guide to Early Learning and Childcare (see link below)

[A guide to early learning and childcare - East Ayrshire Council \(east-ayrshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-learning-and-childcare)

The Policy for the allocation of early learning and childcare places for academic year 2023-24 onwards has been updated and approved by East Ayrshire Cabinet on 26 October. Priority 2 criteria will include children whose birthdate is on or between the school commencement date in August to the end of December and whose parents choose to delay their start date to primary one to the following year.

All our Head Teachers, Heads of Centre, Depute Managers and Seniors are aware of the change to the entitlement and in turn they have been asked to disseminate this information to their whole staff teams so parents and guardians should be given accurate information if they make enquiries about this additional funded year. The website and Parent Guide will also be updated to reflect these amendments in the New Year.

## **East Lothian**

Please find below East Lothian Council's response to your email regarding funded childcare and deferrals:

- Nursery deferral information is available on our website - [Deferring entry to Primary School | Early Learning and Childcare | East Lothian Council](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/early-learning-and-childcare).
- Information on how to apply for a deferred year will shortly be placed on the council's social media pages and distributed to parents/carers by ELC settings. The application period will run from Monday 16 January to Friday 10 February 2023.

## **East Renfrewshire**

I can advise that East Renfrewshire Council has, this week, launched our application process for entry to primary school in August 2023. As part of this process, families

are asked to indicate whether it is their intention to defer their child's entry to primary 1 and continue to receive funding for a subsequent year of early learning and childcare. This question is asked in all applications, ensuring all applicants are aware of the process. Where a family confirms they will be deferring their child's entry to P1, the child will automatically continue with their current nursery allocation. However, families have the option to apply for a change to this pattern if required, through the Council's nursery application process.

Ahead of the launch of this process, the Council has publicised funded deferrals on our website. This has been available at [www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/apply-for-p1](http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/apply-for-p1). In addition, nurseries have been able to discuss this option with families, should this be something that they wish to consider.

## **Falkirk**

In response, to the query below, attached the response from Falkirk Council: Given the reported inconsistency, the Committee agreed to write to all local authorities to ask—

- Where is this information published on your website
  - o Information regarding deferred entry is posted here: [Early learning & childcare - Delayed entry to primary school | Falkirk Council](#)
- Whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so
  - o Arrangements have been in place in Falkirk since 2018 for parents whose child has not turned 5 by the beginning of the school session to notify their decision to defer and be funded. Parents do not need to apply as funding is applied in all cases.

## **Fife**

Please find below the link to the information available to all re the Council admissions process for ELC alongside information about deferrals. [Deferring Primary 1 | Fife Council](#)

This information is in the process of being updated prior to the start of our admissions process for 2023/24 in January.

As part of the deferral pilot, we linked with the 'Give Them Time' group for feedback on the information provided for parents prior to sharing this. This resulted in some minor adaptations to the text.

Leaflets detailing the deferral choices for parents alongside admissions processes are available in all ELC LA settings. In January Practitioners and SLT are advised to have discussions with the parents of all children who could apply for a deferred

space. This is no different to the process which was previously in place for children with Jan/Feb birthdays. All PV services and childminders have been reminded of the importance of having early conversations with parents re the deferral process and the requirement to share with parents whether a deferred place could be facilitated at their service or not to allow the parent to access an alternative space in line with the Council's admissions policy if appropriate.

## **Glasgow City**

Glasgow is part of the Scottish Government's national pilot on the extended entitlement to deferred entry so has been granting automatic funded deferral on request for children who will turn 5 between 2nd day of the school year in August and the end of February for the school year 2022/23 – a year in advance of the legislative change.

Our information for parents can be found online on both the Council's main website and on the Glasgow Family Information Service website. We have also published information in our Parents Guide to ELC.

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=25412>

## **Inverclyde**

### **Update on funded childcare and deferrals**

Please find below information for Inverclyde Council regarding the questions raised by Education and Young People committee.

#### **1. Where is the information published on your website?**

- Inverclyde Council's information on recent change of legislation on deferred entry to primary School is published on the Council website under the following link: [Defer Entry to School - Inverclyde Council](#)

#### **2. Whether you have put in place any measures to ensure parents who wish to access this provision can do so.**

- A number of drop-in information sessions are scheduled across Inverclyde Localities to allow parents and guardians to speak directly to the Early Years' Service regarding early years admissions and deferred entry to school.
- A group call message has been issued to every parent/carer in Inverclyde whose child is eligible to make a deferred entry application due to the change in legislation. This ensures all parents understand their entitlement to defer their child's entry to school and how to access this.
- All Early Years Heads in Inverclyde have been advised of the change of legislation to ensure they are providing support and advice to parents who wish to defer.

## **Midlothian**

I can confirm that we have updated our website, guidance and forms for the change in legislation and notified all funded ELC providers.

[Deferred entry to primary school | Midlothian Council](#)

## **Moray**

Further to the request sent to our Head of Education. I can confirm that information about deferred entry is shared here:

[http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray\\_standard/page\\_52991.html](http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_52991.html).

Any families that wish to access the provision would be supported through dialogue and discussion with their ELC setting prior to registration for school/ELC in January. In Moray we have always funded deferred entry that sits within the relevant age brackets.

## **Perth and Kinross**

### **Deferred entry communication**

- An information statement referring to the forthcoming changes was included on the Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) website in 2019.
- Headteachers were informed of the changes to legislation at the ELC development meeting on 13 September 2022.
- Information was communicated wider through ELC consultation forums in October and November.
- Written communication to advise of the changes to legislation was sent on 6 October 2022 to all schools and funded ELC providers.
- Updated guidance for staff and parents was sent to all schools and funded ELC providers on 9 November 2022 to support discussions at parent contact meetings which are normally held in November/December.
- A briefing note regarding the required changes to the PKC Policy and Guidelines for Admissions to Nursery Classes and Early Childhood Centres was shared with elected members at the Conveners Meeting on Friday 2 December 2022.
- Following the elected members briefing the updated Admissions Policy and Guidelines and Parent Guidance will be available on the [PKC website](#). Information will also be communicated via social media channels and included in primary 1 registration adverts.

### **Arrangements for children who access an additional year of funded ELC**

- Children who will be 5 between the school commencement date in August and 28 February 2023 in Perth and Kinross and access an additional year of funded ELC will be considered to be in their pre-school year. They will therefore be entitled to retain their current ELC place for academic session 2022-2023.

## **Renfrewshire**

As requested, please find the answers to the questions asked:

### **Where is this information published on your website?**

The information is published on the Council's website under the Service area headed as '[Nurseries, Childcare and Early Learning](#)'.

### **Whether you have put in place any measures to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so.**

Children within this age group, whose parent choose to defer their entry to primary school, are given priority allocation in line with the Council's Early Learning and Childcare Admission Policy.

## **Scottish Borders**

In Scottish Borders, information on deferring entry to school is available on the Council [website](#), is shared with health visitors, with providers in all sectors and is part of the enrolment pack for parents.

In addition to this, Scottish Borders Council Early Years Team has this year emailed every parent with a child currently accessing funded ELC who will be eligible to defer next year, at the start of enrolment week in November, to remind them of their options and to confirm the situation regarding funding for an additional year in ELC should they choose this option for their child. Currently there are 155 children whose parents have applied for them to defer but parents know they can change their mind should they wish to do so. Parents are encouraged to discuss their plans with their ELC provider and also to contact the central team if they have any queries.

## **Shetland Islands**

Information about deferred entry into Primary 1 is published on Shetland Islands Council website and can be accessed using the following link:

[School Enrolment – Shetland Islands Council](#)

Shetland Islands Council have offered parents and guardians the option of a funded deferred entry place for children who will turn 5 between 2nd day of the school year in August and the end of February since August 2021 as part of a pilot project. Measures have been put in place to ensure that parents and guardians who wish to access this provision can do so.

## **South Ayrshire**

The local authority advised that it was currently in the process of updating information available and processes regarding changes to deferred entry and will have these available by 16th Dec, prior to its P1 registration.

The information has now been added to the website at this page: [Deferred and early school entry](#).

## **South Lanarkshire**

South Lanarkshire Council have been in the process of reviewing our information relating to deferred entry to primary school to ensure that it meets the new legislation and is clear for parents and carers. In addition to this, the paperwork that is currently used for deferred entry to primary school was also being reviewed and updated.

While the review was being carried out, establishments were kept informed of the new legislation to allow discussions with parents. Information has been sent out to all establishments with the new request form and parent/carer information leaflet, and [South Lanarkshire Council's website](#) is currently being updated to reflect the change.

## **Stirling**

Stirling Council is part of the second-year pilot regarding deferred entry which means children whose fifth birthday falls on or after the first day of the school term in August and up until the last day of February, can have deferred entry to primary school.

Information, and how to access this, is available in our [Nursery Admissions and Charging Policy](#) which is available in the [Schools and Learning](#) section of our public website. This option has also been widely shared with partners and by all nurseries.

## **West Dunbartonshire**

West Dunbartonshire Council has published information and updated our website regarding deferred entry changes for August 2023. We have also provided FAQs and confirmation that this decision is with the parent and or carer from August 2023. This can be found on our website at:

[A decision-making guide for parents/carers - Deferred Entry | West Dunbartonshire Council \(west-dunbarton.gov.uk\)](#) and [Starting P1 | West Dunbartonshire Council \(west-dunbarton.gov.uk\)](#)

A leaflet has also been provided for all parents and carers explaining the arrangements in more detail which I have attached for information. Our admissions' policy is being revised to take account of this change.



# Annexe A - Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar deferral leaflet and information

## **DEFERRED ENTRY TO PRIMARY 1**

If your child was born between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019, they are eligible to start primary school in August 2023. If your child is still four at the start of the school term in August 2023, then you can request to defer your child's entry into Primary 1 to August 2024. Your child will receive a further year of early learning and childcare. Previously, only children with a fifth birthday in January & February were automatically entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare if entry to primary 1 was deferred. However, from August 2023 all children who are not five years old by the first day of the school term in August will automatically be entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare if parents choose.

If you are considering deferring your child's entry into primary 1, you must complete a deferred entry application form by February 2023. This will ensure that their place in their Early Learning & Childcare setting is kept for them. If you require any support to complete this form, you should speak to the nursery play leader.