



Deferred Entry to School



Information for
Parents/Carers
2021-22



Deferring Your Child's Entry to School: Information for Parents and Carers

This leaflet is intended to help you make an informed choice about whether your child should start primary school this year by answering some of the most frequently asked questions we receive. Throughout this document, the word 'parent' should be interpreted as including the child's legal guardian. All information in this document relates to the school year commencing **August 2021**.

Some Frequently Asked Questions

Can my child defer entry to Primary One?

In some circumstances a parent may defer their child's entry to Primary One but the availability or non-availability of local authority nursery funding may affect a parent's decision.

Any child born between the school commencement date and the last date in December has the legal right to defer. However, parents should be aware that there is a distinction between the legal right to defer and the local authority's discretion to fund the additional year of ELC for children born between the school commencement date and December.

Children who are five on or between 1 March and the school commencement date in August	<i>Children who are five before the start of the school session in August must start school in August. Alternatively parents can decide to home educate their child or make other suitable arrangements for their education, eg sending them to an independent school.</i>
Children who are five on or between the day after commencement of school and 31 December	<i>Almost all children whose fifth birthday falls on or between the day after school commencement in August and 31 December of that year will be expected to start school in the August before their birthday. This includes children with additional support needs. Parents have the right to defer their child's entry to school until the following August, but there is no automatic entitlement to a continued Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) place (nursery/funded provider) or funding. These are only available at the discretion of Perth & Kinross Council (PKC) if you have requested to defer your child's entry to school and this has been approved by the Council.</i>
Children who are five on or between 1 January and the last day of February	<i>Most children in this age group will begin school in the August prior to their birthday. Parents have the right to defer their child's entry to school until the following August and these children are guaranteed an additional year of funded nursery provision. Should parents decide to defer entry to school it is important that the correct procedures are followed so that a place can be secured in a nursery for another year.</i>

How can I make my views known about when my child should start school?

Perth & Kinross Council is committed to working in partnership with parents to ensure that decisions about educational provision for children in this age group take full account of your views together with those of early learning and childcare staff to ensure your child's needs are met in the most appropriate setting.

You can therefore discuss this issue with the headteacher or funded provider manager of your child's ELC setting.

If I am considering applying to defer my child's entry to school, what should I do?

You should discuss your thoughts with staff in your child's ELC setting (nursery/partner provider). If deferral is being considered, staff will meet with you, to discuss your child's plan. In November/December, the Child's plan will be reviewed. Informed by all the information shared at these meetings, if you then make the decision to apply for a deferred year, you will then complete a deferred entry application form, available from staff at your child's ELC setting.

Will my child cope with Primary One?

Primary schools are very well equipped to meet a wide range of needs. Additional supports can be put in place at transition from nursery to Primary One to ensure your child's needs are met in a supportive learning context. The headteacher or partner provider manager at your child's ELC setting will be happy to discuss these supports with you. You can also approach the headteacher of your catchment school for information.

Could deferring disadvantage my child?

It is important to consider your child's school career from nursery to secondary school and beyond. For example, by deferring your child, it is important to note that your child will legally have the option to leave secondary school before sitting their National Examinations.

My child is born between school commencement date in August and 31 December. Can he/she have a deferred place starting in August?

Your child has no automatic entitlement to continued nursery provision and no central government funding is made available for these ELC places (nursery/funded provider). There are 4 options available to you:

- * to enrol your child in Primary One for August;*
- * to keep your child at home for a year prior to starting Primary School in August the following year;*
- * to pay for an additional year in nursery yourself;*
- * to apply for deferred additional year of funded ELC.*

Who will make the decision if I decide to apply for deferred entry to school for my child?

Applications for deferred entry for children with birth dates between the day after commencement of school and 31 December are considered by a panel of professionals. Requests will be decided on information provided by yourself as a parent and all professionals involved.

This Council's Priority Admissions Panel will make decisions on deferred entry applications on an individual basis. This is a multi-agency panel which includes representatives from Education, Early Year's Inclusion Service, Education Psychology Service, Allied Health Professionals, Heads and Managers of nurseries within PKC.

Once a decision has been reached you will be informed in writing. Decisions will normally be made during the months of March/April in order to link to the admissions process for entry to ELC (nursery/partner provider) in August.

Decisions of the panel can be as follows:

- * Agreement to defer and a further year of early learning and childcare will be funded (at the discretion of PKC).
- * Acknowledgement of the parental wish to defer however, as there was not agreement that the additional year would be beneficial; an additional year in early learning and childcare will not be funded by PKC.

My child will be five in January or February 2022. I'm unsure whether he/she should start school in August 2021.


Most children in this age group are ready to, and do, start school, although they do not legally have to. You may think it is in the best interests of your own child to defer their entry to school. In these cases you or the ELC setting (nursery/funded provider) don't need to provide a great deal of assessment information but you do have to make your requests known. Before you make your decision, you should discuss your concerns or questions with staff at your child's ELC setting (nursery/funded provider). If you are unsure, you should also register your child for primary school to make sure a space is held for them should you change your mind.

If my deferred entry request is granted, where should my child be placed for this deferred entry year?

It is important, as part of the deferred entry application process that careful consideration is given to the setting where the additional year ELC should be completed.

Please remember that the decision to grant an additional funded year of ELC is not taken into account during the decision making process for primary one placing requests. That is, at a later date, if you wish apply for a primary school place at a school that is not your child's primary catchment school there is no guarantee that they will be able to attend this school.

If you wish to discuss any information in this leaflet please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff at your child's ELC setting (nursery/funded provider). Staff will be aware of the Council's policy and can advise you further.



If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion, only a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting the Customer Service Centre on 01738 475000.

You can also send us a text message on 07824 498145.

All Council Services can offer a telephone translation facility.

www.pkc.gov.uk

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