

Information for Parents/Carers on delaying your child's entry to Primary School Session 2021-2022



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. Primary Schools within the City of Edinburgh Council embrace approaches to play and learning that build upon the skills and experiences of the children from Early Learning and Childcare Settings, supporting 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.

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 year at nursery for children born between August start date and end of December.

The principal role of the City of Edinburgh Council will be to support parents and carers in coming to an informed decision. It is vital that you discuss this decision with your child's current setting and the team who support your child. This is best done at a Child's Planning meeting where the decision for application, and reasons to support this, can be recorded and shared with the assessment panel when submitting the application.

How to make an application

For children whose birthdays are between 1st January - 28th February 2017

Please complete and submit the form below using this link:

[Automatic Form B](#)

Please discuss this with your child's setting. If you are unable to submit a form using the above link, please request a paper copy from your child's setting and return by post to the address below.

For children whose birthdays are between 18th August 2016 -31st December 2016

Please contact your child's setting to request a Discretionary Application Form 1A

As this application is at the discretion of the Local Authority, 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 have the right to appeal. All appeals will be reviewed by a separate panel in May.

Due to Covid restrictions we are requesting, as far as possible, that the forms and supporting documents are submitted by email to:

Deferrals@edinburgh.gov.uk

If you are unable to return electronically, please post to the address below:

**Early Years Team,
City of Edinburgh Council
Business Centre 1.2
Waverley Court
4 East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG**

All applications must be submitted to the Council **no later than 26th March 2021.**

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 2022. Should your application be approved, any Primary 1 application previously made will be withdrawn, along with any placing request that may have been made.