



Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal's Bhòid

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EARLY YEARS
Seirbheisean Choimhearsnachd: Tràth Bhliadhnaichean

TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS

**EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE
(ELC)**

2016-2017



Parent Information



ASSISTANCE WITH TRANSPORT

- Community Services: Early Years is not legally obliged to provide transport however, it recognises the unique rural nature of Argyll and Bute. Transport may be available in exceptional circumstances.
- Following registration, parents who think they might have exceptional transport difficulties should telephone the Early Years helpline. (details overleaf)
- Assistance with transport is considered for **one school year only**. A new application must be made for subsequent years.
- Applications for assistance with transport will be advised in writing as soon as possible. The helpline can keep you advised of progress.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO YOUR APPLICATION?

- Early Years in conjunction with the Integrated Transport Section will consider the information on the application to assess your circumstances.
- If Community Services: Early Years is supporting your assistance with transport request the application will be passed to the Integrated Transport Section for detail of assistance available.
- If Community Services: Early Years cannot support your assistance with transport application, consideration will be given to the availability of a privilege ride i.e. allocations would be on a first come first served basis. If two applications are received at the same time and only one seat is available then distance will be taken into account.

Note:

Privilege Rides may become available where there are vacant places on school transport vehicles with an escort onboard. The availability of Privilege Rides will be assessed after places for entitled pupils and those school children who qualify for free places on other grounds such as safety issues and medical circumstances have been allocated.

- A letter will be sent to you detailing outcome of application which may incur some cost and details of safety requirements.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why must I apply for assistance with transport when my older child goes on the school bus?

A. Transport legislation for school age children and ELC children is not the same. Therefore the administrative procedure to establish entitlement, availability and cost is processed and recorded differently.

Q. I received assistance with transport last year why do I have to re-apply?

A. Assistance with transport for ELC children is discretionary based upon family circumstances and available Council resources. As these change, for a variety of reasons, criteria for eligibility may not be met. An annual application enables the Council to monitor this discretionary assistance.

Q. I need to know what assistance with transport is in place before my child starts nursery. Why have you not advised me?

A. In order to assist as many parents as possible with transport the council utilises flexibly to all its existing, proposed and sometimes new contracts to support ELC children. This may mean that an application for assistance with transport is agreed in principle but the detail and timescale of the assistance cannot be determined until a school contract is in place. Every effort is made to keep parents advised of the progress of their application.

Q. Why do I only get assistance for one journey when I have to make two each day?

A. Access to early learning and childcare is available to eligible 3 and 4 year olds whose parents wish it. How parents fit this access into their everyday life is their decision. Assistance with one journey enables parents to continue to decide how ELC is accessed and maintains regular contact between the parent and nursery.

If a parent is still unable to access ELC with this level of assistance they should contact the Early Years helpline (details overleaf).

Q. I wish my child to access Gaelic ELC but I live a number of miles away. Am I eligible for assistance with transport?

A. Each application will be dealt with on an individual basis and will be dependent on a range of factors, including proximity to the provision and existing transport arrangements.

COMPLAINTS FRAMEWORK

If you have a complaint about your child's Early Learning and Childcare provision, talk it over with the Head Teacher.

If no agreement can be reached then contact the helpline who will advise you of what to do next or alternatively, contact Social Care and Social Work Improvement Scotland (SCSWIS) on 0845 600 9527 or enquiries@careinspectorate.com

HELPLINE SERVICE

A helpline has been provided by Community Services: Early Years to assist parents with information and advice on all aspects of ELC provision for their child. You can contact the Early Years helpline by writing, e-mailing or telephoning as indicated below between 9.00 am – 5.00 pm, Monday - Friday.

Rona McGillivray, Argyll House, 91 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, PA23 8AJ

Telephone: 01369 708503

e-mail: earlyyears@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Argyll and Bute Council

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91 Alexandra Parade
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If required this information leaflet can be supplied in other languages and formats. Please contact the helpline.

