**P1 deferral for children who turn 5 between 17th August 2023 (the day after the school commencement date) and the end of February 2024**

During session 2022/23 Fife Council has been part of the Scottish Government's pilot scheme supporting parents/carers to choose to defer their child's start to P1 if they had their fifth birthday between the day after the start of the academic year and the end of February 2023, and to access a further year of funded ELC irrespective of the provider.

From August 2023 it becomes a legal right for parents/carers to defer the start of their child’s schooling if they have their fifth birthday between the second day of the school year and the end of February the following year.

Please note parents of children who have their fifth birthday on or before the first day of the academic session **cannot** apply for a deferred place.  Any concerns about a child’s ability to start school should be discussed with your child's Keyworker in the first instance.

Parents/carers of children born between August and February can have a discussion with either their child's Keyworker about the benefits/implications of making the decision to defer.

For those children with additional support needs the normal review process should continue.  However, please note that for any child who has their fifth birthday between 17 August 2023 and the end of February 2024 no application will need to be made to the link Education Manager for deferral as these applications will continue to be dealt with through the Admissions process.

Information for parents on the Fife Council admissions process can be found at

[Nursery Places for 3 and 4-year-olds Session 2023/24 | Fife Council](https://www.fife.gov.uk/kb/docs/articles/education2/early-learning%2C-childcare-and-nurseries/preschool-and-school-nursery/nursery-places-for-3-and-4-year-olds-session-202324)

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