

Updated: March 2024

Review: March 2027

Deferral Procedures

Self-Evaluation:

HGIOELC 1.1 Self Evaluation for Self Improvement

HGIOELC 2.4 Personalised Support

HGIOELC 2.5 Family Learning

HGIOELC 2.6 Transitions

HGIOELC 2.7 Partnerships

HGIOELC 3.1 Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion

HGIOELC 3.2 Securing Children's Progress

Health & Social Care Standards

1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

UNCRC Article 3

Article 12

Article 23

Article 28

Article 29

Aim ...

At Blackwood Primary School and ELC we aim to ensure that our children are safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included. We aim to support our children during the transition process from the ELC to Primary 1 identifying support they may require during this time. If the ELC Team/child's Key Worker has identified that a child is not ready for that transition based on an assessment of the child's learning and social and emotional development then the local authority deferral procedures will be adopted.

Our Vision ...

At Blackwood Primary School and ELC we strive to establish a caring, nurturing and stimulating environment which encourages creativity and curiosity and recognises each child as an individual, enabling them to attain and achieve.

Our Values ...

Friendship, Respect, Equality, Determination

Core Resources

- SLC Deferral Operating Procedures
- GIRFEC

Key Concepts

The following areas should be particularly focused on when assessing a child's readiness for school:

- Approach and attitude to learning
- Ability to communicate own needs, feelings and ideas
- Levels of independence and self help
- Emotional and personal development, including self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience
- Relationships and friendships with other children and adults.

Parent Options

Under current legislation in Scotland, Parents/Carers will be able to consider the following options for their child when considering their readiness for school:

- A child will still have the right to start school at $4\frac{1}{2}$ if they have a birthday in January or February.
- For a child who reaches the age of 4 in January/February and would start school at $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, if the parent/carer feels it is not in the best interests of the child to start school, there is an automatic right to an additional year of pre-school education.
- If the child's birthday is between August and December and would start school between $4\frac{1}{2}$ - 5 years they will have the right to start school.
- If the child's birthday is between August and December and would start school between $4\frac{1}{2}$ - 5 years and the parent/carer feels that their child is not ready to go to school, they will have the right to request a deferred entry for an additional year of free pre-school education, however, approval for this is not automatic and their request will be carefully considered by the central Early Years to ensure this would be in the best interests of the child.
- For children with ASN and who are supported by other agencies deferral may be discussed as part of an EYMAT meeting if this is felt to be appropriate.
- For children who have not had their 5th birthday before they should start Primary School in August can automatically access an additional year of funded Early Learning and Childcare.



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Guidance and Procedures

- If a member of staff feels that deferral may be appropriate for a child, then the member of staff should contact the SMT to arrange a meeting to discuss this.
- The SMT and Key Worker will discuss this to ascertain whether additional support in nursery or in Primary One would better to address the child's needs.
- The Key Worker will discuss with SMT those children that may benefit from deferred entry.
- If a deferred entry is to be considered, then SMT will arrange for a meeting with the parents of the child concerned.
- If parents/carers agree then a Deferred Entry application form will be completed. The KW will support the parents as required to complete their associated form and consult with staff to complete the Establishment form.
- In instances where a parent/carer requests a Deferred Entry but the ELC do not believe it is in the best interests of the child then the KW will complete the Establishment form detailing the child's progress and development to show why the establishment is not supporting the application.
- At the appropriate time the school office staff will send the applications for deferral to the Early Years Admission Panel for a final decision, or if appropriate take applications to the locality meeting.

Audience

- Children
- Early Years Workers
- Team Leader
- Support Staff
- SMT
- Parents/Carers
- SLC Personnel
- HMIE
- Care Inspectorate
- Educational Psychologist
- Specialist Support Team
- Early Years Team
- Students

Links

- Education Scotland
- Health and Social Care Standards
- HGIOELC
- CfE
- GIRFEC
- Education (Additional Support for Learning - Scotland) Act 2009
- Children and Young People Act 2014



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