

**Policy and Procedure:**

Author:

Service:

Early Admission to Primary School)

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POLICY STATEMENT

The Council does not have to educate children who are not of school age, but parents/carers may apply for early admission to a primary school.

The Council is committed to the pursuit of educational excellence and aims to make the best possible educational provision for all, taking full account of the needs of each individual child or young person.

This policy applies to all children and young people seeking Early Admission to Primary School and follows the principles of Curriculum for Excellence.

Almost all children and young people will move through the primary and secondary stages, along with their same age peer group.

Evidence from research supports the view that it is beneficial for almost all children and young people that they will move through the primary and secondary stages along with their same age peer group, both with regard to social and emotional development and educational progress.

This policy recognises that within each year group there will be a wide range of abilities and needs, and that these can be met within the year group with appropriate differentiation and support.

Refusal to grant a place early is not likely to harm a child's education in the long term. Pre-school education will be tailored to the needs of the individual child. In fact, early admission may itself harm a child's educational development and/or social and emotional development in the short, medium or long term. The child may be too young to cope socially and become frustrated or lose confidence.

In general, a place will only be granted if there is evidence that refusal of the application could harm a child's education in the long-term.

The procedure set out below will be followed where early admission to primary school is requested.

PROCEDURE

Applying for early admission

When applying for early admission, reasons and supporting evidence that refusal of the application could harm a child's education in the long-term must be given. It is not enough simply to show that a child might cope with early admission, is 'ready' for primary school, or just misses the entry date. Parents may provide expert written evidence to support their case. The Council does not provide assessments of children for this purpose.

Who takes the decision to grant or refuse an application for admission?

The School Placement Panel considers all requests for early admission. It takes into account all information supplied to support the application. Before a place is granted, all other ways of providing suitable education will be considered.

The School Placement Panel will consider:-

- Whether a pre-school establishment would meet the needs of the child.
- Whether the child has exceptional qualities, for example the child is significantly more advanced than other children of the same age in social interaction and/or intellectual ability, which makes him or her different from other children of the same age.
- Whether not being placed in primary school would harm the child's educational development in the long term

Reasons for refusing applications for admission

If the council refuses an application to a primary school, it must give a reason why that complies with education law. This is the legal 'ground of refusal'. The reason normally given is that the education is not suited to the age, ability or aptitude of the child. There is no right of appeal against refusal of early admission.