



DEFERRED ENTRY TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/ CARERS

When is my child eligible to start primary school?

Children who will be 5 years of age between the first day of March and the end of February the following year will be eligible to start school at the start of the school term in August.

This means that some children, those with birthdays after the start of the school term in August, will not have reached 5 years of age when they start school.

Am I entitled to defer my child's entry to Primary 1 (P1) and will a further year of funded early learning and childcare provision be provided?

Following the change to legislation, from 1 August 2023, if a parent of a child that is still 4 years old on the date they are eligible to start school (i.e. children with birth dates on or between the day after school commencement date in August (12 August 2026) - last day in February) defers their entry to school for a year, they can automatically access an additional year of funded early learning and childcare.

- Parents/carers with children whose 5th birthday is between **March and Mid-August (including the first day of the school term)** are not automatically entitled to defer their child's entry to primary school as their child has already reached the age of 5 years on the school commencement date in August (12 August 2026). A further year of early learning and childcare provision would be at the discretion of the local authority.
- Parents/carers with children whose 5th birthday is between **Mid-August (day after school commences)** and the last day in February are entitled to defer

their child's entry to P1 and can automatically access an additional year of funded early learning and childcare.

- Parents/carers should advise of their intention to defer via the proforma below

What factors should I consider that will inform me and help me make my decision regarding deferred entry for my child?

- The national curriculum guidance, 'A Curriculum for Excellence' ensures continuity and progression in learning from nursery into P1, building on prior learning and meeting the needs of the individual child.
- A child's learning is traditionally assumed to be sequential with particular skills being required before later learning can occur. Current research indicates that child development and learning is complex and there is a wide variation in a child's development at the early stages.
- Staged Intervention planning and support, and Getting It Right For Every Child, are underpinned by an approach to assessment. This is carried out by those working directly with the child and involving parents/carers as active partners.

It is important to note that children who have deferred their entry to Primary 1 will reach the school leaving age of 16 years before completing their education, this could result in a young person reaching statutory school leaving age and choosing the option to leave school before being presented for any national qualifications.

How is my request for a deferred year and a further year of funded early learning and childcare provision assessed if my child's birthday is between March and Mid-August (12 August 2026)?

The Education and Families Service is child centred, and any decisions are based on the underlying principles of Getting It Right for All Children, the national approach to support children and families.

It is acknowledged that parents/carers know their child best and staff working in early learning and childcare settings are experienced in being able to offer professional advice and observations about a child's 'readiness for school'.

To support parents/carers in making the best decision for their child in relation to when they are ready to start Primary 1 the Education and Families Service will assess and consider all exceptional requests for deferred entry.

Whilst the decision to defer and fund a further year at nursery is taken by a exceptional deferred entry panel, the views of parents/carers, early learning practitioners and if possible, the child are central to the decision-making process.

The exceptional deferred entry panel will consider each child's assessment and planning information gathered over time by those who work directly with the child and always in close partnership with parents/carers. This 'evidence' gathered will include all, or some of the following:

- Views of parents/carers and early learning practitioners working with the child
- GIRFME/Co-ordinated Support Plans
- Health and Wellbeing Assessments
- Current nursery reports
- Reports from other agencies e.g. Speech and Language Therapy
- Minutes of review/multi-agency meetings

How is my application for a deferred year and a further year of funded early learning and childcare provision assessed if my child's birthday is between Mid-August and the end of February?

There is an automatic entitlement to deferred entry, for those children whose birthday is between Mid-August - end of February, and for the local authority to fund a further year of early learning and childcare provision no assessment is required.

Who is on the exceptional deferred entry panel that will take the decision on my application?

The exceptional deferred entry panel consists of experienced officers with acknowledged expertise in early learning and childcare education, additional support needs and educational psychology. I am concerned about my child being ready to start P1 as they have additional support needs. What reassurances can you give me that their needs will be met?

For children with significant additional support needs, deferred entry may be considered if it is agreed by the child's parents/carers, and early learning practitioners and assessed by the professionals involved, that this would be in their best interests.

It should be noted however that in many circumstances a further year in nursery may not be considered beneficial to meet the child's additional support needs.

Continued planning and assessment throughout the child's time at nursery, together with enhanced transition, should ensure that the correct support is in place and that the child is fully engaged, included and involved in all aspects of school life.

How do I apply to defer my child's entry to P1 and request a further year of funded early year and childcare provision?

Regardless of when your child's birthday is you should enrol them at their catchment school during the assigned week in January.

The form DE1, attached to this information leaflet, should be completed. Parents/carers are required to confirm that they have followed the correct process and enrolled their child for primary school. The head teacher at the catchment school will also be required to confirm that your child has been enrolled for school.

Mid-August - end of February birthdays a DE1 form will be submitted by the head teacher to the ELC Team by the end of January.

The head teacher/head of the Family Learning Centre/manager of Funded Provider will submit the necessary supporting documentation for children with March – Mid-August birthdays to the ELC Team by the end of January each year

What happens next?

The exceptional deferred entry panel will meet normally in March of each year. Each request will be considered on an individual basis and parents/carers, head teachers and heads/managers of nurseries, or other partner providers, will be advised of the outcome no later than the end of April.

Parents/carers and the child's ELC provider will be informed in writing that this request has been processed. Any questions regarding this should be made to the ELC provider in the first instance.

Can I appeal the decision if the exceptional deferred entry panel do not agree to grant my deferred entry request and fund a further year at nursery for my child?

Whilst there is no formal right to appeal, the exceptional deferred entry panel will consider any further information that parents/carers feel is relevant to their circumstance after the panel has met and the initial decision has been shared with parents/carers, head teachers and heads/managers of nurseries, or other partner providers.

Why do I have to enrol my child at primary school if I want to defer their entry?

- You should enrol your child at your catchment primary school. This safeguards your child's place in Primary 1 in the event:
- your application for consideration of exceptional deferred entry is unsuccessful and you decide to send your child to school
- you change your mind prior to your child starting school in August if your child is a mid-August to February birthday

What measures are in place to ensure a successful transition to school should I ultimately decide to send my child to school?

- A number of factors now support the successful transition of the vast majority of children to primary one at the expected stage including:
- Improved transition arrangements with a pathway of shared information about the child from the early year's provider to the receiving school
- A more integrated approach between early learning and childcare and early primary to

deliver a high quality Curriculum for Excellence

- Primary schools build upon Experiences and Outcomes provided through the Early Level of Curriculum for Excellence to deliver a flexible approach to learning

These factors may provide reassurance to parents/carers who are anxious about their child's move from an ELC setting to primary.



North Lanarkshire Council, Education and Families

GDPR Privacy Statement for Education

What is this statement?

This statement explains when and why we collect personal information about you, your child or young person and how this information is used, the conditions under which it may be disclosed to others and how it is kept secure.

Who are we?

North Lanarkshire Council is a Local Authority established under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994. Education Headquarters is located in Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB.

Why do we need your personal information and that of your child or young person?

The Council has a legal obligation to deliver an effective education service to all children and young people in North Lanarkshire. In order to do this we need to collect personal information about children, young people and their families so that we can help them to learn and keep them safe.

Legal basis for using your information

We provide this service as part of our statutory function as your Local Authority. Processing your personal information is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest by the Council. If the information we have asked for is not provided, then we will not be able to provide this service to your child or young person.

Your personal information

Education uses the national IT system (SEEMiS) to store personal information electronically. We ask parents/carers during registration and enrolment to provide us with their child's name, date of birth, gender, address, family contact details (phone/email). We will also ask you to update this information annually.

We may also ask you for information about medical conditions, additional support needs, religion and ethnicity. We may also record information you might wish to provide about your family circumstances.

We require this information to ensure children and young people are educated appropriately, are supported and that we take account of their health and wellbeing.

During a child's journey through education a pupil's record is kept. This core record is mainly paper-based and is stored securely in the child or young person's establishment. If the establishment has requested assistance from educational staff outwith the nursery or school, key staff from these services may also store information securely about your child or young person.

How will we use this information?

Your personal information will be used:

- to enrol your child or young person in nursery or school
- to provide your child or young person with an appropriate education
- for teaching, assessment and planning purposes and to monitor educational progress of children and young people

- to support pupil learning, improve outcomes and identify where additional support is needed to help children and young people
- to provide appropriate pastoral care to support health and wellbeing of children and young people
- to keep children and young people safe
- to maintain records e.g. of attendance, absence, attainment and behaviour of children and young people (including exclusions)
- to support children and young people during transitions when moving on each year from nursery to primary, primary to secondary and when they move or leave school
- to enable schools and establishments to process personal data in support of Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) and to support young people's access to Further Education
- to allow us to process Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) applications
- to make appropriate transport arrangements for children and young people
- to process placing requests
- to monitor and report on pupil attainment and achievement in relation to the national improvement framework issued by the Scottish Government
- to assure the quality of our education services in line with national expectations from Education Scotland
- to contact you by post, email, telephone or text, when required.

Who do we share information with?

To support your child or young person's access to appropriate education and meet our legal obligations, personal information may be shared internally between services within Education. From time to time, education staff may also need to share information about you, your child or young person with another person from another agency or service, e.g. Social Work, Health.

We also share information with Scottish Government and bodies such as Education Scotland, Scottish Qualifications Authority, Skills Development Scotland and other organisations that support children and young peoples' learning.

When a child or young person moves or transfers to another school the Council has an obligation to pass on information with regards to pupil records to the new school.

Only identified staff and those who require to have the information to enable them to carry out their job, will have access to you, your child or young person's information. We care about the information we hold in respect of the education of children and young people. We will keep this information safe and secure.

How long do we keep your information for?

We only keep personal information for the minimum period of time necessary. Sometimes this is set out in law, but in most cases it is based on what we need to fulfil our function. We maintain a 'records retention and disposal schedule' which sets out how long we hold different types of information for. You can view this on our website at <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=15003> or you can request a hardcopy of this from Education Headquarters, Civic Centre, Windmillhill Street, Motherwell ML1 1AB.

Your rights under data protection laws

You can:

- **Request access to your information** – you have the right to request a copy of the personal information that we hold about you, your child or young person. You can ask us to confirm what personal information is being used and with whom it has been shared.
- **Request a correction to your information** – we want to make sure that all personal information is accurate, complete and up to date. Therefore you may ask us to correct any personal information that you believe does not meet these standards.
- **Request the restriction of processing** – this enables you to ask us to suspend the processing of personal information about you, your child or young person, for example if you want us to establish its accuracy or clarify the reason for processing it.
- **Request transfer** – you can request that your information is transferred to another party.
- **Deletion of your information** – you have the right to ask us to delete personal information about you, your child or young person where:
 - you think that we no longer need to hold the information for the purposes for which it was originally obtained
 - you have a genuine objection to our use of personal information
 - use of personal information is contrary to law or our legal obligations.

If you wish to update any personal information, retrieve it or have it removed from records please contact your child or young person's head teacher or head of establishment in the first instance.

Data Protection Officer

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is the Head of Business for Legal and Democratic Solutions. The DPO oversees compliance with this privacy statement. If you have any questions or are unhappy about the way that we use the personal information of your child, young person or yourself you can contact the DPO at:

Data Protection Officer (DPO)
Civic Centre,
Windmillhill Street,
Motherwell ML1 1AB or by email to
AITeam@northlan.gov.uk

Information Commissioner's Office

You also have the right to make a complaint at any time to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), the UK supervisory authority for data protection issues. You can raise the matter with the Information Commissioner's Office, who can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
45 Melville Street,
Edinburgh, EH3 7HL or by e-mail to
casework@ico.org.uk

DE1 (to be completed by parent/carer of child)

**Deferred School Entry and Eligibility for Children
who have Reached School Age/Intention to Defer Entry**

Section 1

Deferred entry for Mid-August* - February Birthday (*birth dates after the school commencement date in August - after 12 August 2026) **Intention to Defer**

Deferred entry for March - Mid-August* birthday (*birth dates before the school commencement date in August - 12 August 2026) Deferred school entry and eligibility for Children who have reached school age

Parents of children with a birth date on or between 1 March and the school commencement date (12 August 2026) are not entitled to defer their child's start at primary school for a year, as the child has reached school age. However, there may be circumstances where the education authority considers that a further year in early learning and childcare would be more appropriate than providing the child with education in primary school.

Section 2

Child's Name

Date of Birth

Address

Postcode

Tel No:

Name of Parent/
Carer

Address:

Postcode

Name of current ELC provision:

Address:

Postcode:

Name of Parent/Carer:

Signed Parent/Carer:

Date:

This form should be returned to the ELC provider that your child currently attends. This will allow them to retain a place for your child in the next session.

I have received this request for automatic deferred entry (to be signed by ELC provider).

Name:

Designation:

Date:

You should still enrol your child at your catchment primary school. Please detail the name of your catchment school where you intend to enrol your child:

School Name:

If you intend to submit a placing request, please detail the name of the placing request school:

Please inform your ELC provider that you intend to defer your child to allow them to retain a place for your child in the next session.



This document can be made available in a range of languages and formats, including large print, braille, audio, electronic and accessible formats.

To make a request, please contact Corporate Communications at:
corporatecommunications@northlan.gov.uk

'S urrainn dhuinn an sgrìobhaidh seo a chur ann an diofar chànanan agus chruthan, a' gabhail a-steach clò mòr, braille, cruth claisneachd agus cruthan dealanach agus ruigsinneach.

Gus iarrtas a dhèanamh, cuir fios gu Conaltradh Corporra aig:
corporatecommunications@northlan.gov.uk

Niniejszy dokument można otrzymać w wielu różnych językach i formatach, w tym również dużym drukiem, alfabetem Braille'a, w wersji dźwiękowej, elektronicznej i w innych dostępnych formatach.

Prośby należy składać na ręce zespołu ds. komunikacji drogą elektroniczną na adres:
corporatecommunications@northlan.gov.uk

此文件可以多种不同语言和格式提供, 包括大字体、点字、音频、电子和易读格式。

如想提出请求, 请联系企业传讯部: corporatecommunications@northlan.gov.uk

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براہ کرم درخواست کے لیے کارپوریٹ کمیونیکیشنز سے اس پر رابطہ فرمائیے: corporatecommunications@northlan.gov.uk

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