

GATEHOUSE SCHOOL NURSERY CLASS

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR CHILDREN RECEIVING PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION

1. **Children will be enrolled according to these priorities:**

- (a) Children with severe and complex needs.
- (b) Children with January or February dates of birth who choose to defer entry to P1 until the enrolment date following their fifth birthday.
- (c) Children with September to December dates of birth whose decision to defer entry to P1 until the enrolment date following their fifth birthday has been agreed and who are already in attendance in the nursery class.
- (d) The above children who are not in attendance at the centre.
- (e) Eligible children who already have brothers and sisters in the school.
- (f) Eligible children from within the schools' areas which the nursery class serves.
- (g) Eligible children from within Dumfries and Galloway.
- (h) Eligible children from outwith Dumfries and Galloway.

2. Where the nursery is oversubscribed, places will be allocated by ballot of children in categories d, e and f.

3. **Special Educational Needs (Procedures from Psychological and Learning Support Services)**

Recommended placements will be made by the **Area Principal Psychologist**. Information on any likely children should be provided to the Department of Education (Early Years Section) by the end of February each year. Identification of named nursery should be provided. This is important where consideration is likely to be given for a child moving on to a Learning Centre.

Please note where agreement has been reached between parents, Psychological Service and any relevant agency, children will automatically receive additional pre-school education provision.

4. **Deferred Entry to P1**

From the beginning of this process all must bear in mind the *seriousness* of a decision which delays the entry of a child to P1.

Decisions about whether or not a child would benefit from an additional year of pre-school education will in all cases seek to promote the best interests of the child. The views of parents/carers will be of central importance.

There are 3 categories of children for whom entry into Primary 1 may be delayed:

- i. **Children with Special Educational Needs** - a report detailing reasons for delaying entry to P1 should be prepared by school in conjunction with parents, educational psychologists and support for learning staff and forwarded to Head of Children's Services (Education), **for information**;
- ii. **Children with January or February dates of birth** who decide to defer entry to Primary 1 and who request this additional funded pre-school year in a pre-school centre other than the one already attending should complete DEF/1 form and returned to Education Officer (Early Years), Education Offices, 30 Edinburgh Road, Dumfries by 31st March.
- iii. **Children with September to December dates of birth** whose request for an additional funded year of pre-school education has been successful.