

Early Years Pre-School Education: Policy for Admission

Context

Aberdeenshire Council has a statutory duty to secure funded part time pre-school education places for all children from the school term following their third birthdays until they are ready to start school. To ensure we fulfil this duty we work in accordance with the requirements and guidance identified in local and national documentation and legislation.

Aberdeenshire Council's Early Years Pre-School Education provision reflects the need for best value, quality of education and meeting the needs of families. Within this context, Aberdeenshire Council recognises that families have a variety of needs and preferences with regard to early education. We offer free places at Aberdeenshire Council school nursery classes and funded places in playgroups and private nurseries that are in partnership with the Council.

Aim

Curriculum for Excellence and Aberdeenshire Council's 3–18 Curriculum Framework offer a personalised, flexible and active learning experience which meets the needs of every child. This early education experience starts in pre-school and continues to the end of Primary 1, and beyond for some children.

Admissions Criteria for Local Authority Nurseries Only

- Priority 1** Agreed delayed entry children from the local children's services network. (Including those that have the statutory right to defer)
- Priority 2** Pre-school and ante pre-school children who are resident in Aberdeenshire and supported by agreement from the pre-school admissions panel.
- Priority 3** Pre-school children ('four year olds') from the local children's services network.
- Priority 4** Ante pre-school children (three year olds) from the local children's services network who have a sibling already within the nursery and/or school.
- Priority 5** Ante pre-school children (three year olds) from the local children's services network.
- Priority 6** Children whose childcare is within the local children's services network.
- Priority 7** All other eligible children residing in Aberdeenshire.
- Priority 8** Children residing outwith Aberdeenshire.

It should be noted that Partner Providers are not bound by the above admissions criteria but must ensure their admissions policy complies with all current equal opportunities legislation.

Local Documents

A Curriculum Framework 3–18 for Aberdeenshire (2008). Aberdeenshire Council, Aberdeen
www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/about/departments/er_schools_curriculum.asp

Getting it Right for Aberdeenshire's Children: Aberdeenshire's Integrated Children's Services Plan – 2008 to 2010 (2008).
www.hi-netgrampian.net/hinet/1637.392.172.html

National Documents

The Scottish Government and COSLA. *The Early Years Framework: Part 1 and 2* (2008). The Scottish Government, Edinburgh.
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/01/13095148/0

The Scottish Government. *A Guide to Getting it Right for Every Child* (2008). The Scottish Government, Edinburgh
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/238985/0065813.pdf>

The Scottish Government. *Curriculum for Excellence - Building the Curriculum 3: a framework for learning and teaching* (2008) The Scottish Government, Edinburgh
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/06104407/0

HMIe. *The Child at the Centre: Self Evaluation in the Early Years* (2007) HMIe, Edinburgh
www.hmie.gov.uk/Generic/TheChildattheCentre

Scottish Executive. *Health for all Children (HALL 4): Guidance on Implementation in Scotland* (2005). Scottish Executive, Edinburgh
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/04/15161325/13269

National Care Standards for Early Education and Childcare (2005)
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37432/0010250.pdf>

For Scotland's Children – An Action Plan (2001). The Scottish Executive, Edinburgh

Acts of Parliament

Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Acts (2004 and 2009)
www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2004/4/pdfs/asp_20040004_en.pdf
www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/7/pdfs/asp_20090007_en.pdf

Standards in Scotland's Schools etc. Act 2000 – Section 34: Guidance on Pre-School Education (2002). The Scottish Government, Edinburgh
www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/08/gpse/1