



A · D · E · S
Association of Directors of Education in Scotland

Royal Caledonian
Education Trust
Established 1815
*Scotland's Armed Forces
Children's Charity*

Guidance for Armed Forces Families

Transitions into Scottish Schools: Early Stages



Transitions into Scottish Schools: Early Stages

Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) is a general term used to cover the full range of early education and childcare available in Scotland. ELC settings are all those which offer education and childcare to children up to school age (more than 'nursery').

Many young children attend parent and toddler groups, or ELC settings, before their funding entitlement starts.

Note: Funding for most children begins in the term following their third birthday.

600

In Scotland every three and four-year-old child is entitled to **600 hours of funded early learning and childcare**. This will be provided in a local authority or funded provider Early Learning and Childcare setting.

1140

The entitlement for funded hours will be **increasing to 1140 hours** by 2020.

Parents

For information and help, contact your local Early Learning and Childcare setting.

P1: The first year in primary school

Children are required to start school at the beginning of the school year following their fifth birthday. However, in Scotland most children start school between four-and-a-half and five-and-a-half years old.

A child must be at least four years on 1 March in order to begin school in August.

"My child is four years old and ready to start 'proper' school."

"When we move back, our child will be behind all the others."

"My other children started 'real school' when they were younger."

"My child was in Reception class before we moved to Scotland. What now?"

"We are only in Scotland for a short time. If we were not here, our child would already be in school."

Parents and carers are advised to see detailed information available in the links provided in this document and should also contact the headteacher of the local school, or the council office, to discuss topics of interest and concern.

Questions that some parents & carers ask

Why is education so different in Scotland?

Scotland has its own education system and there are some differences from the rest of the UK.

Why is my child starting school later in Scotland?

Children (ages three-six) generally cover the 'Early Level' of the Scottish curriculum in funded Early Learning and Childcare settings and Primary 1. Your child will be in a setting with other children the same age, which will allow them to socialise, play and develop with their peers.

Children all learn at different paces. They will

be encouraged to question, understand and learn at their own level and speed. Educators will monitor, support and challenge children to develop and progress in their learning. However, if you are concerned, please discuss with the setting staff.

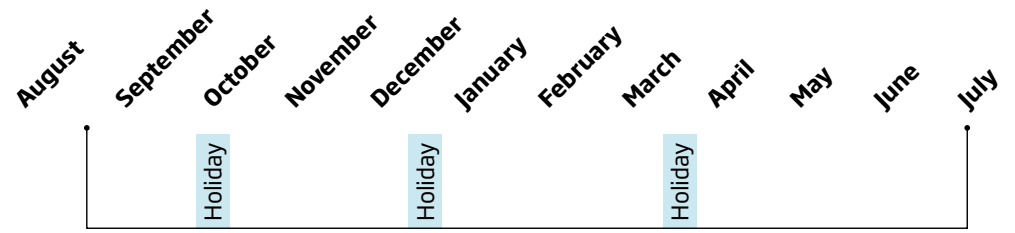


Isn't Reception class in England the same as Primary 1 (P1)?

Primary 1 in Scotland is similar to Year 1 in England. The curriculum in P1 reaches well beyond what is generally covered in Reception class.

Scotland	Age at start of school year	Age at end of school year	England & Wales	Northern Ireland
Early Learning & Childcare setting	2-3*	3-4	Nursery	Play School
Primary 1	4-5	5-6	Reception	Nursery
Primary 2	5-6	6-7	Year 1	P1
			Year 2	P2

*Note: Funding for most children begins in the term following their third birthday



When does the school year start and end?

The new school year begins in mid-August. This is known as the school commencement date (SCD). The school year finishes around the end of June to early July.

Can my child start school even if they are not four-and-a-half on 1 March?

Each local authority has an application process for 'early entry' into school. A decision will be based on whether your child is sufficiently mature - socially, emotionally,

physically and academically - to cope with the full-time programme of education in a P1 class. As part of the process, your child will be assessed and you will be asked for information, along with previous educators and possibly other professionals, to help form a good understanding of what is right for your child. Once an application is submitted, the decision process can be a lengthy one. The local authority's power to grant an early entry is 'limited by its obligation to provide education suitable to the requirements of the child having regard to his or her age, ability and aptitude'. There will be times when they turn down an application.



Can my child wait to start school until they are older? They are not ready yet.

Parents can choose to defer (delay) entry to school for their child. The impact of this decision is that the funding of early learning and childcare placement for additional time is at the discretion of the local authority. If your child was **born between mid-August and December**, the request for additional early learning and childcare **funding is not automatic** and must be approved by the local authority. If your child was born in January or February, request for additional funding is automatically approved.

More details: bit.ly/2MbwqZe

My child has some difficulty in learning, what help is available?

Scottish legislation outlines a framework for all children to be supported, where necessary, to make sure they benefit from education and reach their full potential. *Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice 2017* states that any child who needs more or different support to what is normally provided in schools or ELC settings (from age three) is entitled to **additional support** to overcome barriers to learning. The statutory guidance also provides support for some children younger than three years. The law includes specific references to Armed Forces children and when they may need additional support for learning, for example when they are moving school or a parent is on active service. This does not mean additional support will be necessary for all children at these times. Some children may need a lot of support all

the way through school, others may need only a little, for a short time.

More details: bit.ly/PZSASL

Children who have long-term learning difficulties or disabilities may have coordinated support for learning from a number of professionals. Contact your local authority as early as possible to discuss your child's needs.

Further information is available from **Enquire**. Visit <https://enquire.org.uk>

All qualified ELC staff are trained to meet the personal, social, emotional and intellectual needs of individual children. The staff understand they have a duty to identify, provide for and review additional support needs, and what this means in terms of supporting your child. ELC settings in Scotland are led by degree-qualified staff, the majority also have regular access to a registered teacher.

Does the Armed Forces Covenant make a difference?

Yes. All local authorities recognise and have signed up to the Covenant. There is a nominated Education Officer, in each council, who is the contact for supporting the education of an Armed Forces child and their family. ELC settings and schools have access to a range of information to help raise awareness around the education needs of Armed Forces children and young people. There are resources and information available to support your child.

Let your ELC or school know that you are an Armed Forces family: **Regular, Reserve or Veteran**. Information and resources are available for parents and educators.

Further information is available online at: <https://forceschildrenseducation.org.uk>



FORCES CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

www.forceschildreducation.scot

This leaflet provides an overview. Parents and carers are advised to see detailed information available in the links provided in this document and should also contact the headteacher of the local school, or the council office, to discuss topics of interest and concern.