

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU
Tel: Direct Line (01389) 737301 Fax: (01389) 737348
Our Ref: TL/KH
Your Ref:
Date: 29 March 2010
If phoning or calling please ask for Terry Lanagan

TO HEADS OF CENTRES

Dear Colleague

Change to Starting School Arrangements for Pr.1 Pupils

As you will be aware, over the years we have reviewed the arrangements for new pupils starting Primary 1 and made changes to the phasing in dates. Following further discussion and representations from various quarters, I am proposing that we consider a further change to the arrangements which may more appropriately suit the current context.

In West Dunbartonshire almost all pupils entering Primary 1 have had the benefit of one or two years nursery experience and many children of working parents, or from vulnerable families, will have attended a nursery on a full-time basis as part of their family's childcare arrangements.

Developments in early years/primary transition planning and changes to the teaching and learning environment in the Primary 1 classroom have lessened the difference between the nursery and school experience for children.

As a consequence, I believe we now no longer need to offer children a phased entry to Primary 1 with part-time attendance until the end of September. From the first day of the school session 2010, Primary 1 children could attend school on a full-time basis.

I am therefore seeking the views of Early Years Heads, Head Teachers and parents and will use this consultation to present a recommendation to the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee in May.

I would appreciate if you would complete the attached consultation proforma and return it to my secretary, Kathleen Henderson by 21 April 2010.

The parent letter and questionnaire should be distributed to all parents of children in their pre-school and ante-pre-school year, for return by 21 April 2010

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Terry Lanagan
Executive Director of Educational Services