

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE – MARCH 19th 2001
REPORT ON: Admission Arrangements for Children starting Primary One
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
REPORT NO: 189 - 2001

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this Report is to seek Committee Approval to consult parents and staff about reducing the part time transition phase for children entering Primary One.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Education Committee is recommended to note the contents of this Report and:

2.1 approve in principle the reduction of the part time transition phase for children entering Primary One.

2.2 remit the Director of Education to consult with parents and staff in primary and nursery schools to canvas opinions and views in relation to the above proposal

2.3 remit the Director of Education to bring a further Report to the Education Committee in May 2001 to detail the outcomes of the above consultation and to make recommendations thereon

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Nil

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6.0 CURRENT SITUATION

6.1 Children starting Primary One in Dundee currently attend in the mornings only during the autumn term, beginning full time attendance following the October holiday.

6.2 This has in the past been recognised as an effective way to support young children through the transition to full time formal education.

6.3 As increasing numbers of children access pre school services for a greater part of the day, it is now felt that this transition period could be reduced. This would have

significant educational advantages in terms of promoting improved continuity and progression of children moving from pre school into primary school settings. In addition the proposed new arrangement would be more convenient for the many working parents who often require to make alternative childcare arrangements in the afternoons.

6.4 By the time they reach school age nowadays, many children have accessed a range of early years services and are used to being away from home for the larger part of the day.

6.5 In addition there have been significant changes to the Primary One setting in recent years to ensure that a wide range of needs are catered for and that all children can make an effective and confident start to their formal education. Considerable work has also been undertaken to improve links between the pre school and early primary curriculum in order to improve continuity of young children's experience.

6.6 The recent development of partnerships with the voluntary and private sector providers of pre school education means that there is now much greater consistency of quality across early years settings and a better agreed understanding of the needs of children as they start school.

7.0 PROPOSAL

7.1 It is now proposed to reduce the part time transition phase at the start of Primary One. As this decision will have implications for children, parents and school staff a consultation exercise will be carried out in March 2001 to canvas views and opinions. If this proposal proves generally acceptable to service users and providers, a further report will be prepared for Committee approval at an early date

8.0 CONSULTATION

8.1 This Report has been the subject of consultation with the Director of Support Services and Director of Finance.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.

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Director of Education

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Date