

REPORT TO: DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 22 APRIL 2002

REPORT ON: ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHILDREN STARTING PRIMARY ONE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REPORT NO: 309-2002

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides information about an evaluation exercise carried out with primary and nursery school staff, parents and children about the change in the part time transition phase introduced in August 2001.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee notes and approves the content of this Report and agrees to the continuation of the three week transition phase at the beginning of primary one.
- 2.2 The Director of Education will be required to undertake a periodic review of the proposed continuation.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This proposal would be implemented across all local authority primary schools.

6.0 BACKGROUND

- 6.1 Members are referred to Committee Report No 189-2001, approved by the Education Committee on 19 March 2001. The Director of Education was remitted to conduct a consultation with Head Teachers and parents to gather views on a proposal to reduce the part-time transition arrangements for children starting primary one.
- 6.2 Members are referred to Committee Report 312-2001 approved by the Education Committee on 21 May 2001. The Director of Education had consulted Head Teachers and parents to gather views on a proposal to reduce the part time transition arrangements for children starting primary one. The consultation exercise resulted in a proposal to reduce the part time transition period from six weeks to three weeks.

7.0 EVALUATION EXERCISE

- 7.1 The following is a summary of the key findings of the evaluation exercise carried out in March 2002.

- 7.2 An evaluation exercise was carried out with a representative sample of nursery and primary staff, parents and pupils. This took the form of:
- face to face consultation with Head Teachers
 - the feedback from parents to school staff
- 7.3 This representative sample were consulted as to:
- success of last year's change
 - views of parents
 - views of staff
 - parental views on future arrangements
 - staff views on future arrangements
- 7.4 The majority of respondents held the view that the three weeks part time transition period should remain for the foreseeable future
- 7.5 Reasons given in support of the status quo were:
- successful change last year
 - parents supported shorter period of transition
 - staff appreciated more contact time with children therefore providing greater potential for raised attainment
 - parents stated children have time to get used to school and they have some time for letting go before they are in full time education.
 - parents and staff consider three weeks full time before October break is ideal length
 - three weeks part time still allows for parental meetings in the afternoons
 - now that most schools operate buddying systems the three-week period gives children time to establish their relationships before they are exposed to lunchtime play.

8.0 PROPOSAL

- 8.1 It was clear from the evaluation exercise that the view of all concerned ie Nursery and Primary staff, parents and pupils saw benefits from the shorter period of transition. However there was a strong opinion that the period of the three part time transition week should remain.
- 8.2 It is therefore proposed that the part time transition period be continued at three weeks.
- 8.3 Parents and school staff will be informed of these arrangements by letter from the Director of Education.
- 8.4 The Director of Education will undertake a periodic review of the proposed continuation of this arrangement with conjunction with Head Teachers, staff and parents.

9.0 CONSULTATION

- 9.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Director of Support Services.

10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 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.

ANNE WILSON Date
Director of Education

