



Community Services

Policy and Procedure on Deferred Entry, Retaining at Stage and School Leaving Dates

1. Introduction

This policy states Argyll and Bute Council's position on deferred entry, retaining children and young people at stage and educating young people beyond the age of 16.

2. Setting the context

There is a strong tradition in Argyll and Bute Council of promoting inclusion. This is clear through the Corporate Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement. The council's values are: we involve and listen to our customers and communities; we take pride in delivery best value services; we are open, honest, fair and inclusive; we respect and value everyone.

The council's key principles are that

- no one is disadvantaged because of their race or ethnic origin, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, or religion or belief
- the differences between people are valued and good relations between groups are promoted
- people are treated fairly and with equal respect
- informed assessments are made on the impact of policies and services
- people are involved in the decisions that affect them and encouraged to participate in public life.

3. Background

A range of local and national guidance along with key legislation was considered before agreeing a policy on a school leaving age for all pupils.

3.1 The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 provides

- the definition of a 'young person'. In terms of Section 135 this means a person over school age (16 years of age) who is not yet 18 years of age
- the two leaving dates for young persons leaving school in terms of section 33. For the summer term it is 31st May, for pupils reaching the age of 16 before 1st October of the same year; for the winter term it is the first day of the Christmas holidays for pupils reaching 16 before 1st March of the following year

(Scotland) Act 2014, these decisions should be made on an assessment of the child's wellbeing.

3.6 Delayed entry to primary school / delay within school stage

- In exceptional circumstances, a child who does not fall in to the age ranges detailed above may be granted an additional year of funded ELC as a result of identified

- there is a duty to ensure all pupils identified as requiring