



## **Deferred Entry to Primary School**

### Information for parents considering deferring their child's entry to Primary School

It is important to note that parents are not obliged to enrol their child in school until the first entry date after their fifth birthday.

Parents should inform the school and nursery that they are considering deferring their child's entry to school as early as possible. This will allow the situation to be considered by all concerned and a decision to be reached that best meets the needs of the child.

Parents should try to organise a visit to the Primary School their child will be attending and discuss the Primary 1 curriculum. This may help you decide on what is best for your child.

Parents will be asked to complete a Deferred Entry Request Form. This will be done at about the same time as your child would normally be required to enrol for school.

If your child has a January or February birthday they can be deferred at your request and will automatically be entitled to a further year of free nursery education.

A child who is five after the start of the school term in August and before the end of December do not need to be enrolled in school but they will require to be assessed in order to receive a funded place in nursery for an extra year. A meeting will be arranged to discuss the case. This will normally take place at the nursery your child attends. You will be invited along with the Health Visitor and any other relevant professional.

The Educational Psychologist will be consulted but need not be present at the meeting. The local Education Manager will have the final decision as to whether a child will be granted a further year of funded nursery education.

It should be noted that once this decision has been made it is irreversible. Children cannot be "moved back up" at a later date. This will mean that it is possible for a child to leave school at the age of 16 without having had the opportunity to be presented for any formal qualifications.