

Early entry to
School



Early entry to South Lanarkshire schools

Children start Primary one in August if their fifth birthday falls before 1st March of the following year.

Some parents whose children have birthdays after this date ask if their child can be admitted early.

Before making a request for Early Entry, we would ask parents to consider the following points:



- **Your child's physical development**

Will your child be able to cope with the physical demands of spending five hours a day in a classroom? If your child is not physically mature enough for this, they may find it hard to concentrate and master the basic skills. There will be other pupils in the same class who are more than a year older and possibly much bigger - so you should also consider if your child will find it easy to fit in with them.

- **Your child's emotional and social development**

Is your child emotionally and socially mature enough to cope with being separated from you for most of the day and to make friends with the rest of the class group who are older?

- **Your child's readiness for learning at school**

During their pre school years, children learn a great deal informally with the family and playing with friends. Sending your child to school too early may deprive them of these vital experiences which prepare them for taking part in formal schooling.

● Long term implications

Research shows that even when children start school early and cope initially, there can be problems much later in adolescence and as they approach the school leaving age. Your child may be less physically and emotionally mature than their classmates. They may also find it difficult to gain entry to higher education courses if they are too young.

If having considered the points raised, you feel you still wish to make a request for your child to start school early

You should fill out the attached form, return it to South Lanarkshire Education Resources before the end of **January**.

Early entry assessments will be carried out prior to spring break.

**Education Resources
Council Offices
Almada Street
Hamilton
ML3 0AE**

Phone: 01698 454372

What happens next?

Your request will be acknowledged within five working days. After that we will invite you and your child to an assessment at the school. You will be asked to complete a simple form about your child's pre school experience.

The aim of this assessment with the Headteacher and a specialist in early education is to find out if your child is suited to the ability and aptitude of a primary one class.

If your child is considered mature enough to start school, the council will check if there is a place for them.

If there are more requests than there are available places for Primary One at the school, South Lanarkshire Council will consider the application using the criteria set out in the leaflet on Sending your Child to School.

Like all other placing requests, the council may not grant early entry placing requests if doing so would, for example, involve hiring extra staff or extending existing accommodation.

If your application for early entry is refused, we will write to advise you and enclose a copy of the assessment report on your child.

Which school is your catchment school?

If you are not sure which school covers your address, you can check with your nearest school or phone: 01698 454102.

Placing requests

If you do not wish to send your child to your catchment school, you may make a placing request by filling in a placing request application form. For further information phone: 01698 454102.

Transport to School

Free school transport is provided to children of school age who live more than one mile from their catchment primary school by the shortest safe walking route. Therefore children who gain early entry to school are not entitled to free school transport. For further information contact 01698 454102.

Appeals

If your application is turned down, you have the right of appeal. Please contact Education Resources if you wish to appeal.

More information

If you have any queries about Early Entry to school, contact Education Resources on 01698 454372.

If you want this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs. Phone: 01698 454372
Email: EarlyYears@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Early entry request form

You can complete this Early entry to school form in Adobe Acrobat and print it out, or print it out and complete it by hand, using block capital letters. Return the form to: Education Resources, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton ML3 0AE

Parents/Guardian

Name of parent* (Surname)

(Forename)

Address (Road/Street including number)

Town

Post code

Phone

Child

Surname

Forename(s)

Date of birth

Sex *Male* *Female*

Early Years/Nursery Education

Does your child attend Nursery Yes No

If Yes, name of nursery

School requested

Name of catchment school

Address (*Road/Street including number*)

Town

Post Code

If you do not wish your child to attend the catchment school a placing request application form should also be submitted.

If an early entry has been made previously please state

Name of school

Result

Reason(s), if any, for seeking an early entry request:

Declaration by parent or guardian

* "parent" includes guardian and any person who is liable to maintain or has parental responsibilities (within the meaning of section 1(3) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) in relation to, or has the care of a child.

I have read and understood the statement made on transport costs.

Signature of parent/guardian

Date