

60765 School P1 Deferral Requests (2026/27)

I understand parents received their confirmation letters yesterday.

School P1 Deferral Requests

Please could you share data on school deferral requests for children beginning P1 in 2026/27.

I would like to know what number and percentage of children with DOB as per below deferred:

10th - 31st August 2021, September 2021, October 2021, November 2021, December 2021, January 2022 and February 2022.

10th - 31st August 2021: 19 – 2.3%

September 2021: 56 – 6.8%

October 2021: 81 – 9.9%

November 2021: 102 – 12.4%

December 2021: 164 – 20.1%

January 2022: 188 – 23%

February 2022: 207 – 25.3%

Please supply me with the number of August born children who were eligible to defer in: 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26.

2023/24: 199

2024/25: 198

2025/26: 155

How many children who will be 5yo on the first day of term in August 2026 requested to defer?

How many were denied?

Zero.

How many children (number and percentage of eligible children) started P1 in:

2026/27 (Due to start), 2025/26, 2024/25 and 2023/24?

2026/27 (Due to start): 4,060 as of 26 March 2026

2025/26: 3,892

2024/25: 3,933

2023/24: 3,892

We do not hold a record of all eligible children in the city; only those children joining City of Edinburgh Council schools, therefore the requested percentage cannot be calculated.

How many eligible children were granted permission to defer after the deadline of 28th February 2025 for academic year 2025/26?

What is this number as a percentage of late applicants?

31 – 3.7% of total deferrals.

Is there a live proposal to abolish the need to apply to defer?

Is there a live proposal to abolish P1 start at age 4yo?

No such proposals have been identified.