
Report To:	Education & Communities Committee	Date:	22 January 2019
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/02/19/RB
Contact Officer:	Ruth Binks	Contact No:	01475 712748
Subject:	P1 School Day		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of arrangements in place for Primary 1 pupils on their entry to school.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Currently pupils entering Primary 1 in Inverclyde Schools only attend school for half a day until the September holiday weekend. Historically this has been in place to ensure a smooth and successful transition from Early Years provision into primary school.
- 2.2 With the phased introduction of 1140 Early Learning and Childcare, there is no longer a strong rationale to continue the half days for pupils from August 2019. This is because increasing numbers of children will have been in a full day provision prior to entry to school. In addition, the current arrangements for the half day can be difficult for childcare and pupils do not receive their entitlement to a free school meal.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members of the Education and Communities Committee are asked to note that pupils starting Inverclyde Council primary schools in Primary 1 will attend for the full day on entry to school from the first day of term in August 2019.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director
Education, Communities & Organisational Development

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In Inverclyde, Primary 1 pupils starting primary school have only attended until lunchtime from the first day of term until the September holiday weekend. The rationale behind this was that completing a full day, along with a transition to a new setting, could overwhelm children at such a young age and allowed pupils a staged and successful transition to starting school life.
- 4.2 The part-time day was in the context of many children having been allocated to morning or afternoon places for early years. With the introduction of the phasing into 1140 hours for Early Learning and Childcare, pupils will be increasingly more used to attending centres for a full day and this diminishes the risks of children becoming overwhelmed by both the setting and the length of the day.
- 4.3 Increasingly, children will have experienced a meal in the early years setting and therefore the challenges of the school lunch hall and lunchtimes should be easier for pupils. In addition to this, all pupils are entitled to free school meal from P1 – P3 and P1 pupils currently miss out on this entitlement during their first weeks of school.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Whilst parents appreciate that the transition to school for young children can be aided by a phased entry, they also report that the arrangements currently in place can cause difficulty and expense for childcare. Head Teachers report that they work hard with early years centres to ensure as smooth a transition as possible and that children entering Primary 1 are increasingly confident and able to cope with the transition to school.
- 5.2 Some pupils entering P1 in August 2019 will have had a full day at an early years establishment and this will increase as 1140 hours is implemented. Therefore there is no longer a sound rationale for pupils to attend for half days only.
- 5.3 The picture across the country is mixed but many authorities have moved away from a phased transition in Primary 1.

Having engaged with Head Teachers and Chairs of Parent Councils, there is support for Inverclyde to move to a full day for Primary 1 children from the beginning of the school term. This also fits in with Inverclyde's work on reducing inequalities, Child Poverty and the cost of the school day.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

6.2 There are no legal issues resulting from this report

Human Resources

6.3 There are no HR issues resulting from this report

Equalities

6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

6.5 There are no repopulation issues resulting from this report.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Head Teachers and Chairs of Parent Councils have been consulted on this issue.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 P1 pupils attending for a full day from the first day of term in August 2019 will have a positive effect on Inverclyde's work on inequalities and the cost of the school day.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 N/A.