

East Lothian Council

FOI Ref: 2018/500677

- I would also be grateful if you could let me know what the current capacity is for the Haddington based school Nurseries, , how many applicants are refused places when they apply due to space constraints I would like these figures covering the last 4 years please. What proportion of current places are filled by children in their pre-school year and vs the proportion that are currently attending as 3 yro with their equivalent 16 hours entitlement.***

	CAPACITY Haddington Early Learning and childcare Classes at St Mary's & Haddington Infant Schools	Pre school children allocated places	3 year old children allocated places	Unable to offer 1 st or 2 nd choice
2014/15	160	103	57	3
2015/16	160	98	62	23
2016/17	160	99	60	0
2017/18	160	91	69	30

East Lothian Council is also in Partnership with 2 early years and childcare settings in Haddington. Some parents who were not offered a place at Haddington Infant or St Mary's early learning and childcare class may choose to have their 600hrs at the partner settings. We do not hold statics on the number of parents who were refused a place and went on to partnership setting.

- If there are any projections for the space needed for future years and what plans the council has considered and/or implementing to increase capacity to meet the demand for places.***

Current projections indicate that the peak would be around 370 children aged between 3 – 5 year olds living in the Haddington area who may require places in early learning and childcare settings.

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A new early years and childcare class will be established at the proposed Letham Primary School with expected capacity for 100 places. Letham Primary School is scheduled to be complete in 2020.

One of our early learning and childcare partner centres is also increasing their capacity to accommodate 3 – 5 year olds.

In addition the Authority are continuing to explore options to access early learning and childcare to meet the demand of 1140hrs by 2020/21.

- ***Could you provide a copy of the policy or procedure used to allocate the available nursery spaces***

Allocation Category – the Council has a policy for allocating places in its own

Early Learning and Childcare facilities in a priority order. There are 7 priority categories and category 1 is the highest priority. All category 1 children will be allocated a place before any category 2 child is considered and so on through all 7 categories. The 7 priority categories are:

1. East Lothian children retained in early learning and childcare setting (children with Additional Support Needs who are age eligible for school).
2. East Lothian children who have been offered a deferred year in early learning and childcare.
3. East Lothian Children with additional support needs – pre-school year children and eligible 3 year olds.
4. East Lothian children in their pre-school year according to their date of birth.
5. East Lothian children in their ante pre-school year according to their date of birth.
6. Applications where the parent/carer wishes to access fewer than 5 early learning and childcare sessions per week for an East Lothian child.
7. Children eligible for early learning and childcare placement, not resident in East Lothian.

Morning places should be allocated strictly according to date of birth i.e. oldest children

should be given priority for a morning place. However, children with additional support needs may be prioritised for a morning place if deemed in the best interests of the child.

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- ***As there seems to be a glut of available capacity outside of Haddington has the council considered moving resources from the undersubscribed areas to the oversubscribed areas such as Haddington? Please could you provide any reports or meeting minutes where this has been considered. If this has not been considered can I ask why?***

We are unable to move resources as Haddington Infant and St Mary's early learning and childcare classes operate at maximum capacity.