



Parents and Carers Guidance Leaflet

Requests for Children to be Educated Out
Of Chronological Year Group

What is this leaflet about?

If you are thinking about making a request for your child to be educated out of their year group, you have probably done lots of thinking about it already. There are several different factors to consider so we have gathered some information together and had a look at the evidence from research for you to help you feel able to make an informed decision.

When do most children start school?

In Pembrokeshire, children are eligible to attend school on a part-time basis from the first term after their third birthday, and full-time basis from the first term after their fourth birthday. Compulsory education commences from the term following their fifth birthday. So, the date of your child's birthday determines when he or she can start school, regardless of the date when the term starts. Parents can opt to defer their child's start date anytime up until the child is of compulsory school age.

The majority of Pembrokeshire schools cater for pupils from 3+. Sometimes arrangements exist between schools and private early years providers (child care/ nursery), which allows children to commence at the school setting at the beginning of the second or third term following a child's third birthday. You should contact the Admissions Officer to check on the specific arrangements for individual schools. [School Admissions](#)

What does 'Education out of Chronological Year Group' mean?

Very occasionally, a small number of children are in a class with children in a different year group to where they would usually be. This document outlines the processes that have to be followed when consideration needs to be given to making that important decision.

What about children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)?

Pembrokeshire schools are Inclusive schools. Inclusion means that all schools and settings must adapt to meet the needs of all children, including children with additional learning needs (ALN). Being 'educated out of chronological year group' is not an appropriate way to adapt for children with ALN as it is not the best way to meet their needs. If your child has, or may have, ALN, you can speak to the school Additional Learning Needs Coordinator (ALNCO) about how school may appropriately support their needs, including accessing support from specialist teams at the TAPPAS 1 meetings (Team around the Pupil, Parent and Setting) held throughout all Pembrokeshire Schools. Families can also seek impartial advice and information from the Parent Partnership service on **01437 776354**

pps@pembrokeshire.gov.uk



What can I do if I feel my pre-school child is not ready to start school?

If you feel that your pre-school aged child is not ready to start school, you may choose for your child to continue at a 3 Year funded setting. Pembrokeshire County Council agrees to provide the funding received from Welsh Government to offer all eligible children a minimum of 10 hours funded part-time education in an approved setting during the school term. Parents can choose to take up the child's entitlement either in a maintained or a non-maintained setting.

Although it is not statutory for your child to attend Foundation Phase Nursery prior to gaining full time place in school, this is a very important phase in your child's life as it lays the building blocks for their future learning and is part of the current and future curriculum. Foundation Phase Nursery (also referred to as FPN) is a general term used to describe the time your child spends in the Foundation Phase during the ages of three and four. You can find more information about this here: [The Childcare Offer Wales](#)

What does the research say about outcomes for children educating out of year group?

Overall, the evidence from research about being educated out of year group is that it doesn't tend to have a positive impact. It occurs more frequently in some other countries than in the UK, however the research carried out internationally suggests that being educated out of chronological year group often has more disadvantages than advantages.

What will happen when my child transitions to another school or school stage?

As children who are educated out of their chronological year group progress, or move schools, they will reach transition points. Parents will need to **apply once again** for an outside normal year group place alongside an application for a school place, and should do so when their child's 'correct' cohort are making applications for a school place; or, when parents make an application to a different school. This means parents would need to apply for a secondary school place and for an out of year group place when the child is in year 5 rather than year 6. These requests will be considered in the same way as the original request but must also take into account the fact the child has been educated in a different year group up until this point. All decisions should be made taking the circumstances of the case into account and considering all of the child's needs, including their social and emotional needs.





What factors will be taken into account when the LA is making a decision?

Some of the things the local authority will take into account when considering a request include:

- Views wishes and feelings of the child or young person
- Parents' views
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- where relevant, the child's medical history and views of a medical professional
- if the child is moving, or going to move schools, or has just moved into the County, the year group they have been educated in up to that point
- if the child was born prematurely, what age group the child would have fallen into, if the child had been born on time
- the view of the head teacher must be taken into consideration

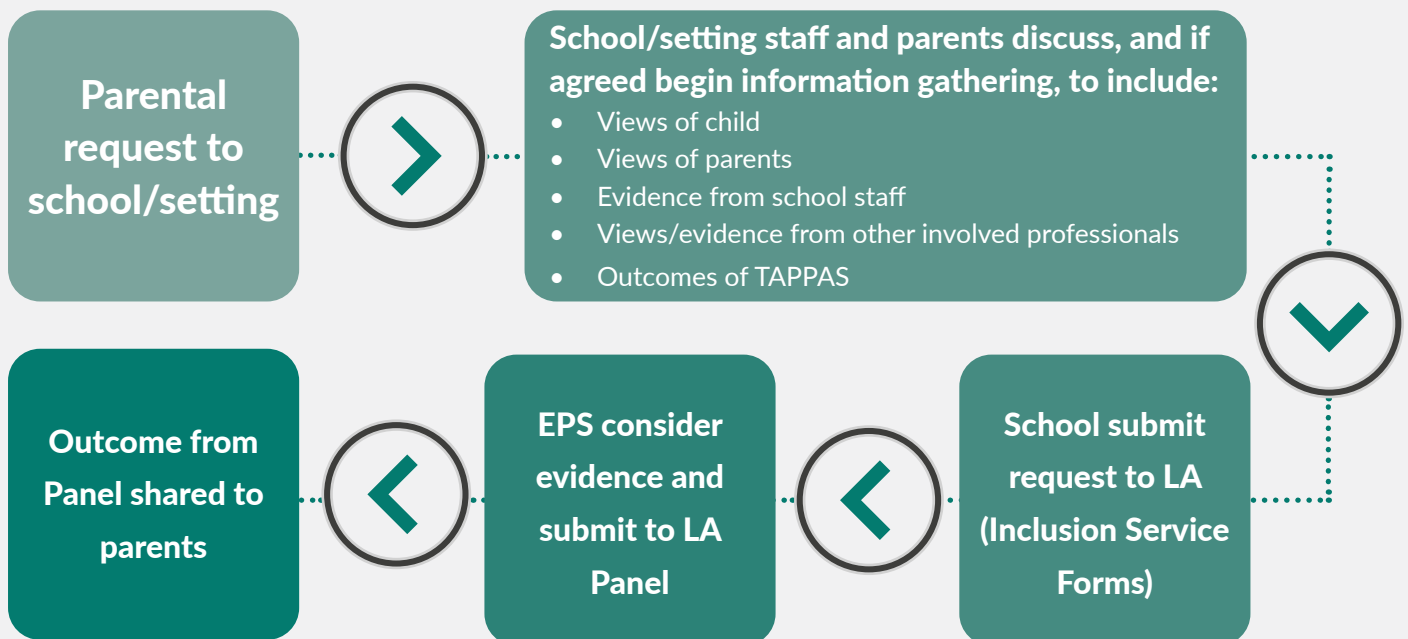
This could include looking at evidence or issues such as:

- any evidence from health or other agencies who are involved in the care or treatment of the child, for example speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, paediatrician, social worker, keyworker
- any evidence and views of school or setting the child attends and any records of the child's development
- views from advisory or specialist teachers and/or Educational Psychologist about the request and the child's development
- if the child is pre-school, the progress the child has made in early years setting, including the rate of progress
- how would a place in a year group out of chronological age provide the child that a their chronological year group would not

I have considered all of the above, and want to request my child is educated out of their chronological year group. What do I do?

Only parents can make a request for their child to be educated out of chronological age. Schools and other professionals should not try to persuade parents to make this decision for their child. Parents can make this request to their child's school or setting. If the child is not in school, these requests can be made directly to the Local Authority

This process is explained below;



The LA panel decision is final. You have the right to appeal only if there is new evidence, and/or information about significant changes that you have gathered to submit for consideration.

The Parent Partnership Service can also offer impartial advice and information, you can contact this service on **01437 776354** or email **pps@pembrokeshire.gov.uk**

The Public Services Ombudsman for Wales has legal powers to look into complaints about public services and independent care providers in Wales. The Ombudsman also investigates complaints that members of local government bodies have breached their authority's code of conduct. He is independent of all government bodies and provides a free and independent service.

[Ombudsman Wales](#)

