

**Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead:  
Consultation on first admission to school policy**

*The current policy within the Royal Borough is to admit children to school at the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday. The policy is unusual for two reasons. Firstly, the policy does not admit "rising fives" and secondly there are three admission points. Within the Royal Borough, therefore, some children get as many as 18 terms in school on a full time basis before starting Key Stage 2, and others may only get as few as 12. We are seeking the views of headteachers of maintained and independent primary schools and pre school providers in the maintained, voluntary, independent and private sector about future Borough policy regarding first admission to school. A major consultation with parents has taken place regarding pre school provision (with the emphasis on the sufficiency of childcare). It is recognised that some parents will wish to exercise their right to postpone school entry until the statutory school age. Similarly, it is recognised that some parents will exercise their choice to send their children to school outside the maintained sector, but the Borough's policy has an impact on all sectors.*

*To help the Council develop policy that is better aligned to practice, please provide your views about the issues below. (Please note that only one return from each school or setting will be considered).*

1. From an educational perspective, do you consider that children belonging to the same academic year group should be admitted to school at one, two or three points in the school year? (Please underline one option).

1 point of entry

2 points of entry

3 points of entry

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. From an educational perspective, what is the minimum number of terms in full time maintained education that should be offered to the youngest children before they start Year 1? (Please underline one option).

None

2 Terms

4 Terms

6 Terms

More

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*If you are responding on behalf of a maintained school, please consider the following two questions. Please be realistic and creative about accommodation solutions because we have to make best use of capital resources.*

3. From a pragmatic perspective, would you be able to provide suitable accommodation without additional building work, if children were admitted into full time education once a year at the beginning of the Autumn term following their 4<sup>th</sup> birthday? (i.e. all children spend a minimum of six terms of their Foundation Stage in school before moving into Year 1). Please underline one option.

Yes

No

If you have indicated “No” please state simply what would be required, e.g. “new classroom”, “suitable outdoor environment”, “additional toilets”.

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

4. If you, as a maintained provider, were to use an existing nursery class to provide full time education for the second year of the Early Years Foundation Stage (sometimes called “reception”), do you consider this would have an adverse effect on younger children admitted to the nursery class? Please underline one option.

Yes

No

Not applicable

If you have answered “yes” please state briefly the problem as you see it:

\_\_\_\_\_

5. If you are responding on behalf of a maintained, independent, private or voluntary sector pre school provider, please identify any anticipated impacts a shift in Borough policy would have on the provision that you make.

No major impact

Don’t know

Significant problem

If you think there will be a significant problem (e.g. in providing for younger children) please briefly explain the issue you anticipate:

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Any other comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Role (e.g. headteacher, principal, chair of governors) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school or setting \_\_\_\_\_

Type of provision: (maintained, private, voluntary, or independent) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return to Anne Oldfield by April 4<sup>th</sup> 2008.**

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