

POLICY ON EARLY YEARS

The purpose of this document is to define the role of Early Years at Ardtornish Primary School.

1.1. EARLY YEARS POLICY

Ardtornish Primary School aims to provide quality learning programmes for students from Reception to Year 7.

We believe that students who spend a year or more in Reception classes are more likely to achieve at a high level as they move through their schooling.

Students are not compelled to start school until they are 6 years old. However, most students begin soon after their fifth birthday. At Ardtornish we expect that students starting in Reception will spend a minimum of 3 terms and a maximum of 6 terms in Reception. We know that children have a significantly better chance of success in schooling when they receive a comprehensive grounding in learning during these first 18 months.

The effect of this policy is that students who start in

- Term 1 will receive a full year in Reception.
- Term 2 will receive 3 terms in Reception.
- Term 3 will receive 6 terms in Reception. They will benefit because they will be working in Reception classes for the full year following their first two terms.
- Term 4 will work for 5 terms in Reception

Variation from this will only occur if there is a specific reason and with the permission of the Principal of the school.

Reception students will be involved in learning programmes which extend and develop their skills. These programmes will take into account the varying abilities and skills with which individual children enter our school.

Our aim is to ensure that our students leave Ardtornish having achieved competency in the eight areas of the curriculum. Our policy on Reception supports our students to do this.

Approved by the Governing Council 2003