



Teachers Panel

Response to the
Review of Pre 5
Admissions in the
City of Leicester

Whilst favouring steps to establish equality of opportunity for summer born children in the city, TCC Teachers Panel believes that such steps should not simultaneously disadvantage other pupils. Unfortunately, the most obviously acceptable model of the three presented does precisely that, by reducing nursery provision. The LEA proposals significantly fail to address this issue of reduced provision, not least the loss of full time nursery places in city schools.

TCC believes that in areas of high social deprivation pupils should have the earliest possible access to school based nursery provision and a quality learning environment staffed by teachers and nursery nurses. Through this, these pupils can develop the language and social skills necessary in order to engage effectively with the national curriculum.

TCC Teachers Panel also believes that pro rata reduction in part time nursery places, as proposed in options 2 and 3, is unsound educationally. The LEA should be maximising the educational opportunities available to pupils, not robbing Peter to pay Paul. We would not accept that a part time place in a play-group, private or voluntary setting for 32 weeks per year is equivalent to the provision made in nursery classes in schools.

If the LEA genuinely believes in the impact of early years learning then it should be endeavouring to increase its nursery provision, supported where necessary by a growth bid. Already, a substantial increase in provision could be achieved by reducing the number of unfilled nursery places that are funded.

TCC would urge the LEA to reconsider the three options it has presented and recognise that none of them begins from the needs of children. A pattern of provision that included full and part time nursery places, 4+ bases and reception classes, each with their own appropriate curriculum, would do much to restore faith in the LEA as committed to educational as opposed to financial goals.

Alternative model submitted by TCC Teachers Panel

- 3 + : Part time places in school nurseries for children in areas of high social deprivation
- 3½ + : full time places in school nurseries in areas of high social deprivation. Part time places on school nurseries in other areas of the city
- 4 + : provision in 4+ units for summer and spring born children. Provision in reception classes for autumn born children.