



Bute

Argyll and Bute Council's Early Years team recently carried out a survey to seek views on the effectiveness of our provision and delivery of funded Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in the Bute area.

The survey was open to anyone with a requirement for ELC in the Bute area, and was open for six weeks, from 09 January – 20 February 2026.

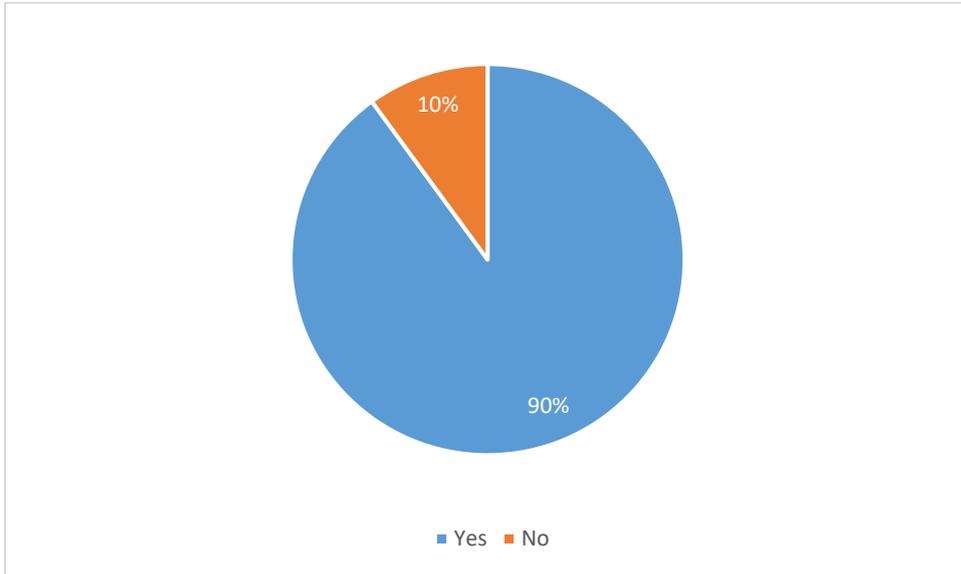
Bute has 2 funded ELC Providers (one local authority setting and one partner nursery setting).

20 responses were received.

Thank you to everyone who took time to complete the survey and provide comments.

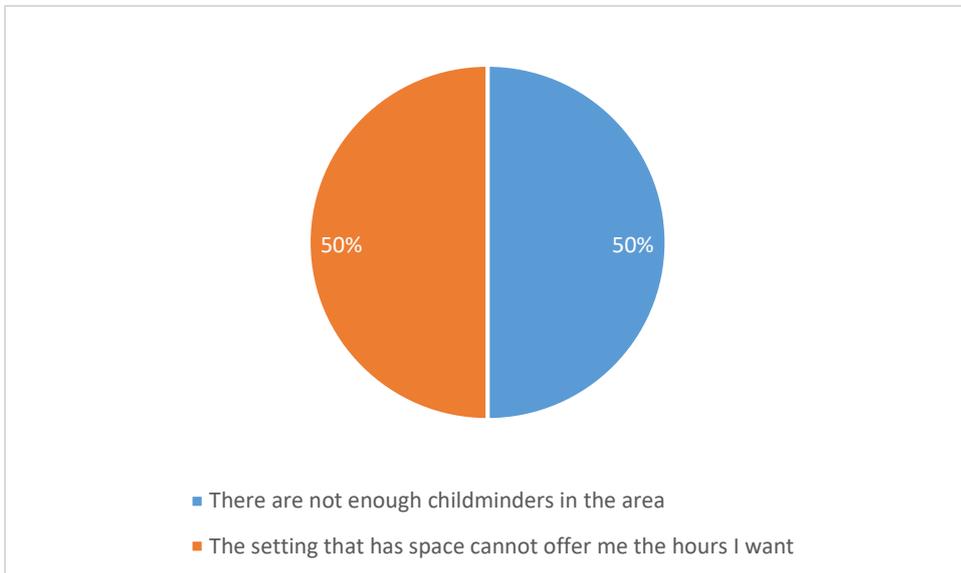
We asked: Are you happy with the choice of ELC settings available on Bute? (ie Local Authority settings, Partner Nursery and Partner Childminder settings)

You said: 90% are happy with choice of ELC settings available.



Those (2 respondents) who expressed unhappiness were asked to say why:

- There are not enough childminders in the area
- The setting that has space cannot offer me the hours I want



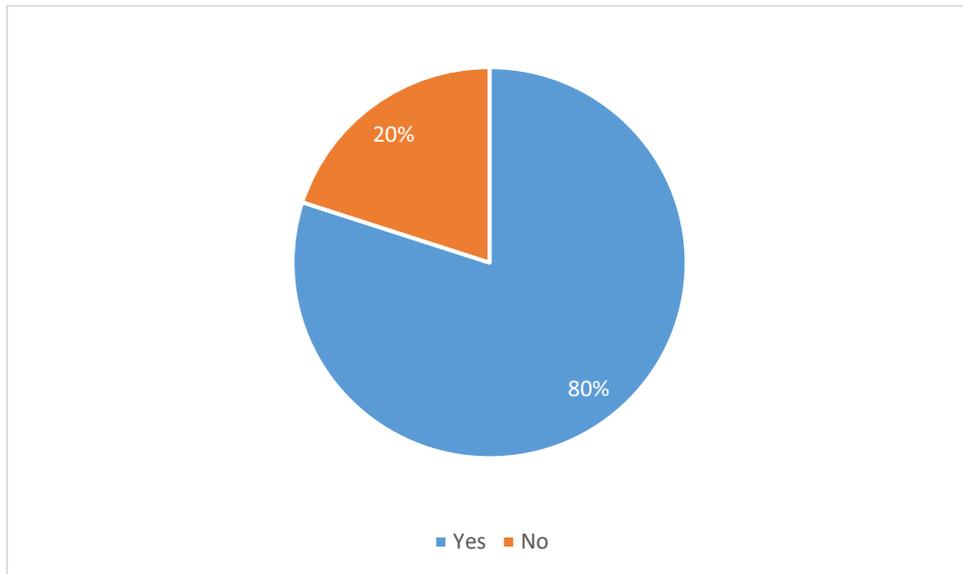
We asked: Please advise the **main** reason you chose to register your child at your chosen ELC setting:

You said: The top reason was “Where my child will attend school”



We asked: Does the pattern of attendance on offer meet your needs? Pattern of attendance is the number of weeks your child attends their ELC setting and the number of hours offered per day/week, e.g. 38 weeks, 6 hours per day.

You said: 80% of respondents said that the pattern of attendance on offer meets their needs.



Those who expressed that the pattern of attendance did not meet their needs, were asked to comment further:

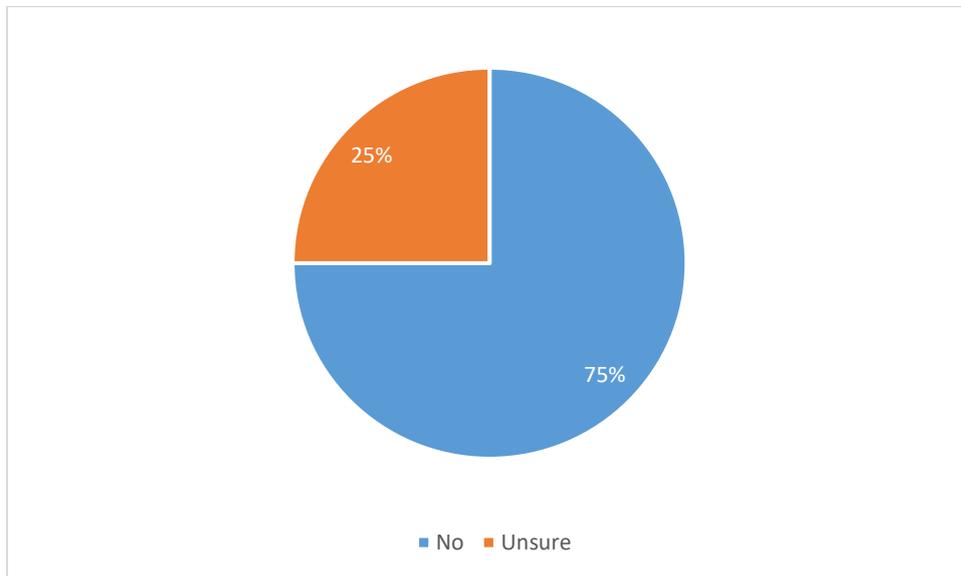
Of the 4 respondents who didn't feel the pattern of attendance met their needs, two stated that this was because the "setting does not offer hours during the school holiday weeks"

The other two respondents gave the following "Other" feedback:

- "The wraparound is not long enough"
- "Could open slightly earlier so I can make work on time"

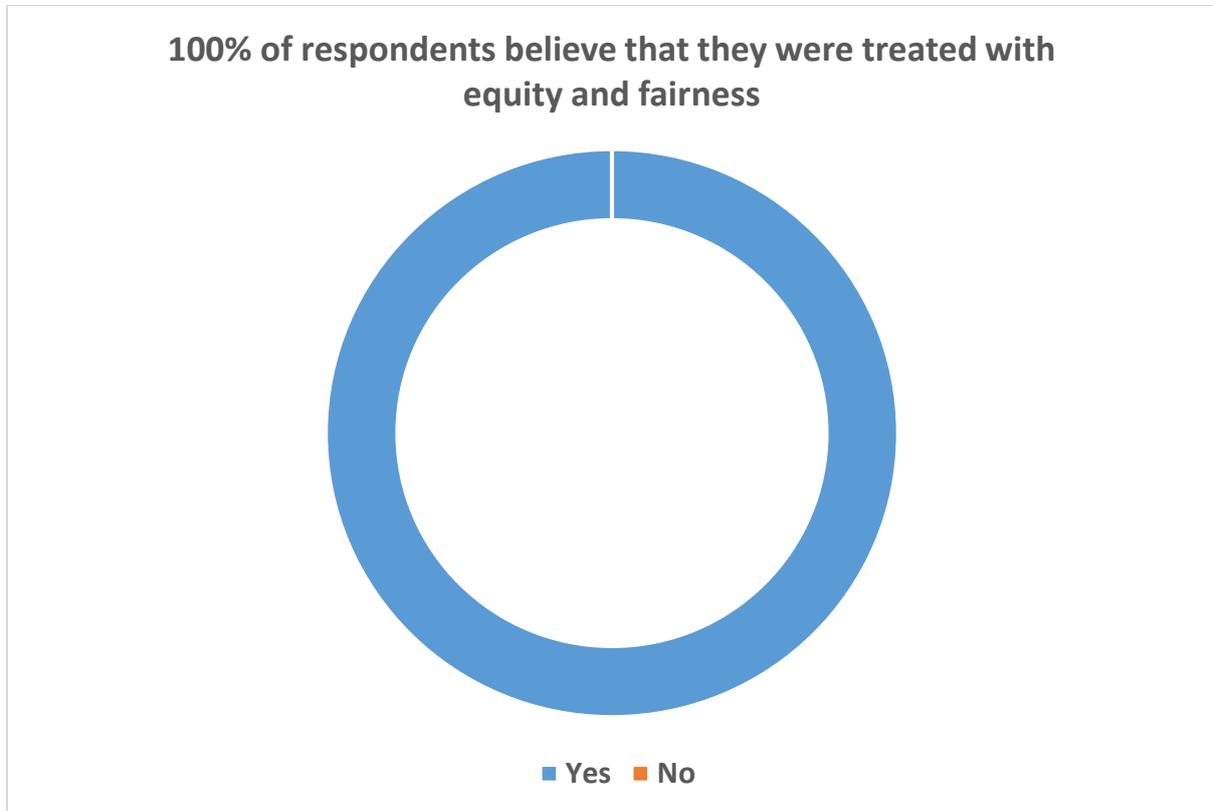
We asked: Is Gaelic Medium ELC provision desired within your locality, currently?

You said: 75% of respondents felt that Gaelic Medium ELC provision is not desired within the locality, currently. The remaining 25% were unsure.



We asked: Do you believe you have been treated with equity and fairness in relation to the provision of ELC?

You said: 100% of respondents said that they have been treated with equity and fairness in relation to the provision of ELC.



We asked: Are there any comments you wish to add in relation to ELC in the Bute area?

You said:

- “While I am satisfied that the ELC I have chosen will meet the educational needs of my young person, I am continually disappointed at the lack of after-school care on the island. Maybe if we had more childminders, this would change. 9-3 makes it so difficult for working parents”
- “The wraparound must be longer to help working families. 8.45-3.45 is not long enough”
- “There is a lack of child-minding services on the island. But we are super happy with Rothesay pre-5 unit . They aren’t just a nursery, they are extended family now”

Here is a summary of the key things you said and we will endeavour to do:

You said: Hours not available during school holidays

You said: The wraparound hours are not long enough to assist working parents

You said: Not enough childminders in the area

We will: At the time of the survey, settings were offering holiday hours, however it may be the case that all spaces are currently taken. Interest can be registered for holiday hours and you can be notified when spaces become available.

We will: Continue our campaign to attract Funded Childminders in the area by offering financial incentives and support to register with the Care Inspectorate. We will emphasise in our campaign local to Bute that childminding hours can be flexible and made available alongside another part time job – this may increase the number of wraparound hours available, alongside taking a space in a nursery setting. Advising that hours can be flexible may help to increase availability of the number of Childminders in the area. *Please note that there is one childminder currently in the process of registering in the area.*

You said: Positive comments about the delivery of educational needs at Rothesay Pre-Five Unit: “Rothesay Pre Five Unit aren’t just a nursery, they are like extended family”

We will: Ensure that all positive feedback is communicated to the setting and staff