



Community Services: Education

Argyll House
Alexandra Parade
Dunoon PA23 8AJ

To: Heads of all Educational Establishments

Dear Colleague

School leaving dates

- 1 The school leaving dates for Argyll and Bute Council are as follows:
 - i 31 May;
 - ii the first day of the Christmas holiday period.
- 2 Children and young people who attain the age of 16 years on or between 1 March and 30 September cease to be of school age on 31 May and children and young people who attain the age of 16 years on or between 1 October and the last day of February cease to be of school age on the first day of the Christmas holiday period.

A child or young person is then free from the obligation to attend school and may take up employment.
- 3 A child or young person nearing school leaving age may transfer to an appropriate full-time further education course in advance of his/her normal leaving date. This will require the prior approval of the Head of Service: Secondary Education and Pupil Support, having considered all aspects of the case (eg transport, free meals, etc.) and provided that:
 - i the child or young person has completed four years of secondary education;
 - ii the course is a full-time one providing subjects approved by the Executive Director of Community Services;

iii in the view of the authority, the child or young person, because of his/her circumstances, could benefit from such a placement.

Yours sincerely

Executive Director of Community Services

May 2018