

**REPLY BY THE MINISTER OF
THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 6 OF THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE BY ALDERNEY REPRESENTATIVE PAUL ARDITTI**

Question 1

What pre-school facilities does your Department provide in Guernsey?

Answer 1

Pre-school and nursery provision within the Bailiwick (Guernsey and Alderney) is predominantly provided by the private sector, with limited States provision. Direct States provision is only provided for the most vulnerable learners, for example, Le Rondin Special School offers nursery provision for children who have a particular special educational need.

Guernsey Law requires children who reach the age of five before 1 September in a particular year to attend school from the start of the next academic year. However, the Education Department has agreed that children who reach the age of four years on or before 31 August may also start school from the beginning of the academic year, if accommodation and staffing levels allow.

Prior to this age many children access private pre-school and nursery provision.

There are currently three 'supported' pre-schools in Guernsey who cater for children who would not normally access pre-school provision. These pre-schools provide subsidised provision and operate as charities. These pre-schools work in close partnership with each other and the Health and Social Services Department with places being allocated through Health Visitor recommendation. Typically, these children are offered 2 years of part-time provision from the age of two.

Question 2

What pre-school facilities are planned for Guernsey and when?

Answer 2

The Education Department has set out in its Vision document its intention to prepare a proposal for a universal entitlement of 15 hours a week of high quality pre-school education for all three to four year olds in partnership with private providers.

The Department will be bringing a States Report to the Assembly early in 2014 seeking support for this entitlement when funding allows.

The Department believes there is sufficient capacity within the private sector to offer this universal entitlement to all three to four year olds without the need for significant States run pre-school facilities.

Question 3

What pre-school facilities does your Department provide in Alderney and, if none, why?

Answer 3

The Education Department does not currently provide any pre-school facilities in Alderney. As in Guernsey, pre-school opportunities are provided by the private sector. As education is a 'transferred service' the same arrangements governing children starting school at the age of four apply in Alderney.

Question 4

What pre-school facilities are planned for Alderney and when?

Answer 4

The Education Department has no plans to open any pre-school facilities in Alderney at this time. If States approval is achieved for the Department's proposals for a universal entitlement to 15 hours a week of high quality pre-school provision for all three to four year olds, we will discuss how this can be delivered with potential providers.

Date of Receipt of the Questions: 18th September 2013

Date of Reply: 30th September 2013