

Guidance for early years settings – supporting parents/carers who are thinking about delaying their child’s school start date

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The document has been created to support settings when parents / carers are thinking about delaying their child's school start date. A revised Schools Admissions code came into place in 2014, enabling parents to request for summer born children to not start school in the September following their fourth birthday.

Introduction

(From [DfE document Advice on the admission of summer born children September 2020](#))

Most children start the school Reception class in the September after their 4th birthday. However some parents / carers may feel their child is not ready to start school at this point. In these circumstances we recommend that parents / carers discuss the matter with their preferred school at the earliest opportunity.

If the parent / carer decides they do not want to take up a reception place in September, they may be able to delay their child's school date.

- a) Parents can delay the date at which their child is admitted to school until later in the school year, following their 4th birthday (they cannot delay beyond the point they reach statutory school age). Children who are born in the summer term can delay their start school date until a full year later (i.e. the following September). If they remain in their school age group, the child would enter year 1 in these circumstances.
- b) Parents / carers of summer born children can request that their child is admitted outside their age group (i.e. the child would start school in the following year's reception class).

Where a parent requests that their child is admitted outside their age group, the admission authority must decide whether to approve the request based on the circumstances of the case and the best interests of the child involved. They should also consider the views of the headteacher involved.

Parents who want to delay their child's school start date should apply for a school place as usual (i.e. within their age group). As part of their application they should request to delay their child's school start date. This type of application must be done on paper rather than online.

If it is agreed that a parent is to delay their child's start date, they can remain in their early years placement until compulsory school age, please contact EYcommissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk to discuss funding arrangements.

If you have any queries, please go to the relevant section of the [North Tyneside Council website](#) or contact the school admissions team at school.admissions@northtyneside.gov.uk

This [document](#) contains all information that parents need when applying for a school place.

[Information from Advice on the admission of summer born children
\(September 2020\)](#)

Parental decision to delay their summer born child's admission to school until compulsory school age

While most parents are happy for their child to start school in the September following their fourth birthday, some parents will have concerns about whether their child will be ready for school at this point and will consider delaying their entry until compulsory school age. Whilst there are circumstances in which some summer born children will benefit from a delay, the majority will thrive in reception aged four. We do not believe it should become the norm for summer born children to begin reception at the point at which they reach compulsory school age. We have published some advice for parents to help them make an informed decision about their child. When receiving an enquiry about delayed entry to reception, you should ensure parents have read this advice in the first instance.

Parents should be encouraged to visit the schools to which they intend to apply. Teachers will be able to explain the provision on offer to the children in the reception class, how it is tailored to meet the needs of the youngest children, and any other support that is available. They may also be able to allay any concerns the parent may have about their child's readiness for school or help a parent consider whether a child needs more time to develop before starting school.

It is then the parent's decision whether to delay their child starting school until the September after they turn five. The parent may also request that the child is then admitted outside their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Parents choosing to delay their child starting school until the September after they turn five have a choice about whether or not they request that their child is admitted outside of their normal age group – and so request a reception start. Alternatively, a parent could make an in-year application the following year for their child to start school in year 1. You may wish to provide guidance to assist parents in what time of year is best to make an in-year application.

Admissions authority decision about whether a delayed summer born child should be admitted outside their normal age group

The government agrees that, in general, children should be educated in their normal age group, with the curriculum differentiated as appropriate, and that they should only be educated outside their normal age group in very limited circumstances.

Parental requests for summer born children to be admitted to reception rather than year one at the age of five are different from any other parental request for admission out of the normal age group. This is because parents have the right to decide whether their child will start school before compulsory school age and these parents must be able to make this decision confident that, if they decide not to send them to school until age five, the decision about the year group they should be admitted to at that point will be made in the child's best interests.

If a parent of a summer born child makes this request, the admissions authority is responsible for making the decision about whether the child should be admitted out of their normal age group.

This will require the admission authority to take account of the child's individual needs and abilities and to consider whether these can best be met in reception or year one. In effect, this means that the authority is making a decision about whether it would be in the child's best interest to miss the reception year. It will also involve taking account of the potential impact on the child of being admitted to year one without first having completed the reception year. The views of the head teacher will be an important part of this consideration

General guidance

- Ensure that all parents know that they need to apply for a school place. Refer them to the online admissions process (see link at the top of this document)
- Ensure that parents understand how to do this and are able to complete an application. Do they need a translator? Are they visually impaired? Do they have the relevant literacy skills?
- If it is agreed that a child is going to enter school in Year 1, (missing the Reception Year,) the setting will have statutory responsibility for submitting Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data in the following summer. Please contact maddy.kennedy@northtyneside.gov.uk on 0191 6438540, as soon as possible so that information about EYFSP can be shared, including training.
- This [document](#) is a useful read.
- The Early Years and School Improvement Service (including the Ready for School Improvement Officers) will be able to advise and support with a relevant curriculum for children who stay in your setting.
- If a child is intending to delay their school start date please contact EYcommissioning@northtyneside.gov.uk to discuss early years funding.
- If a child has delayed their school start date and is attending an early years place in a school nursery, the school must add the child to each termly funding task using the North Tyneside Early Years Portal, in order to receive funding.