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**Arrangements
for
Delayed Entry to
Primary Schools for
Summer Born
Children**



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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Introduction

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday. The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

However, the School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. There is, however, flexibility for parents who do not feel their child is ready to start school before compulsory school date. (See Section A for available options).

Children born in the Summer Term (1st April to 31st August) however, are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could have been admitted ie. the September following their fifth birthday; the point at which other children in their age range are commencing Year 1.

Parents of summer born children may, therefore, submit a request for delayed admission to Reception Year group, rather than year 1, for any school within the Authority. A decision must be taken by the relevant admission authority based on the circumstances of the case and in the child's best interests.

Decisions for community and voluntary controlled schools will be taken by the Local Authority who is the admissions authority.

If a request is made for a voluntary aided school or academy, the request will be forwarded to the Headteacher of that school for a decision.

This policy complies with the School Admissions Code 2014 and relevant admissions legislation.

A Date of Admission to Primary and Infant Schools

Although the law does not require children to be admitted to school until the beginning of the term following their fifth birthday, (compulsory school age), the School Admissions Code makes provision for all children to be admitted to school in the September following their 4th birthday.

Parents will be able to access this entitlement through one of the following options.

Option 1

Full-time in the Reception Year from 1 September following the child's 4th birthday.

Option 2

Part-time in the Reception Year from 1 September following the child's fourth birthday.

Option 3

Part-time in an early years setting.

B Deferred Entry to Primary Schools

- 1 Where the Authority offers a place at a primary or infant school, a parent who accepts that school place can defer entry to that school until the term after the child's fifth birthday.
- 2 There may be Spring and Summer Term admissions as a result of parents who have deferred their child's entry.
- 3 The deferred place at that school will be held for that child and will not be available to be offered to another child.
- 4 The deferred place must be taken up during the same school year for which the offer of the place was made and accepted.
- 5 With the exception of summer born children, (see section B) entry to a school cannot be deferred to:
 - a) the next academic year; or
 - b) beyond the beginning of the term following the child's fifth birthday.

C Summer Born Children

- 1 Parents of summer born children, (those born from 1 April to 31 August) can request that their child delays entry to Reception year group for a year.
- 2 A decision will be taken by the Admission Authority for the school based on the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child.
- 3 If agreed, the child would then be admitted into Reception Year group in the following year when other children in they age range are beginning Year 1

D Applying for Delayed Entry to Reception Group

- 1 Parents wishing to to defer their child's entry to Reception group must apply to the Admissions Service also providing any supporting information and evidence for consideration.
- 2 Parents **must**, however, still apply for a school place during the normal admissions round by the published closing date, (normally 15th January in the year prior to commencing school) for their child's chronological year group.
- 3 The request for delayed admission must be made at the same time as the application for admission into the normal age group.
- 4 This is in order to ensure that their child is not disadvantaged in any way should the request not be determined prior to the application closing date or the request be refused.

F Consideration of Requests

- 1 The Admissions Service will liaise with a number of Services and Headteachers in order to come to a decision which is in the best interests of the child.
- 2 Consideration will usually be requested from representatives of:
 - a) Special Needs Service
 - b) Any other associated agencies involved with the child
 - c) Education Welfare Service
 - d) Any Early Years providers for which the child is attending.
 - e) The Headteacher of the school for which a preference has been expressed for
- 3 The Admission Authority must take account of the child's individual needs and abilities and consider whether these can best be met in reception or year one.
- 4 It will also involve taking account of the potential impact of the child being admitted to Year 1 without first having completed the reception year.
- 5 Circumstances for consideration may include information about the child's social and emotional development and any special needs requirements
- 6 For community and voluntary controlled schools a decision will be taken by the Local Authority, having considered all of the information and advice provided by parents and having liaised with the Headteacher(s) of the school(s).
- 7 For voluntary aided schools and academies a decision will be taken by the Headteacher, taking account all of the information provided.
- 8 Any decision taken will only apply to the school for which parents have named in their request. Should parents wish to consider an alternative school then further consultation would need to be undertaken with that school.
- 9 A decision taken on behalf of one school/academy is not binding on a different one.
- 10 All decisions taken will be made on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child.

G Notification of Decision to Parents

- 1 Parents will be notified as soon as possible of the decision and prior to primary offer day, (16th April) if the request was made by the closing date for receipt of applications and given an explanation for this.
- 2 If the request for delayed admission is agreed the parent can withdraw their application for the child's chronological year group.
- 3 The parent will then need to apply again in the following year as part of the main admissions round, and their application will be considered with all other applications being considered at that time.
- 4 There is no guarantee that the child will be admitted to the school of preference at that time.
- 5 If the request for delayed admission is refused, the parent must decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group or refuse it and make an in-year application for admission to Year 1 for the September following the child's fifth birthday.
- 6 Parents will still have the options listed in Section A available for their child if they choose to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group.
- 7 One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority for admission out of the normal age group. Parents should therefore consider whether to request admission out of the normal year group at all their preferred schools.

Moving Children to their Normal Age Group following Deferred Admission

- 1 Once a child has been admitted to the school it is for the Headteacher to decide how best to educate them.
- 2 In some cases it may be appropriate for a child who has been admitted out of their normal age group to be moved into their normal age group at some point but not in all cases.
- 3 Any decision to move a child to a different age group must be based on sound educational reasons and made by the Headteacher in consultation with parents.

Transfer to Junior and Secondary School

- 1 Where a child has been educated out of their normal age group, parents may again request admission out of the normal age group when they transfer to junior or secondary school.
- 2 Again, parents must make a request for this and the decision is made by the admission authority for the school.
- 3 The decision must be made on the circumstances of the case and in the child's best interests.
- 4 The process is the same as that for delayed entry for primary school and requests must be made at the time of application for transfer.

H Right of Appeal

- 1 Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the statutory right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel.
- 2 As the purpose of an appeal is to determine whether a child should be admitted to a particular school parents do NOT have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place but it is not in the year group they would like.