



Summer-born children: delayed entry to school

A brief guide for parents and carers

What is delayed entry?

Summer-born children (born between 1 April and 31 August) are not required to start school until a full year after the point at which they could first have been admitted, after their fourth birthday. This would mean that they would be due to enter year one not long after their fifth birthday.

If parents/carers wish their child to be admitted to reception, rather than year one, they may request that they are admitted outside their normal age group i.e. start in reception a year later than normal – or ‘delayed entry’. There are a number of reasons why parents might request for their child to be admitted to school a year late including premature birth and concerns about delayed development.

What things should we consider?

- You are still advised to **submit an application** for a school place for the September following your child’s fourth birthday. You can always withdraw your application or decline the offer of a reception place if delayed entry is agreed but applying for the chronological year group will give you time to make an informed decision.
- Deferred or part-time entry offers **flexibility** for children who aren’t quite ready to start school or need a phased entry to give them time to settle in – have you considered all of the options which might be good alternatives to delayed entry?
- Delaying entry into reception will usually involve an extra year with an early years provider which may not be full-time but a child may benefit from more focussed learning as well as the opportunity to play. The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum in a reception class is able to provide this.
- School **admission authorities** (either Cornwall Council, the governing board or the academy trust) are responsible for making the decision on whether or not a child will be admitted outside their normal age group. Admission authorities are required to make a decision based on the circumstances of each case. However, if a child has an **Education, Health and Care plan** (EHC plan) the decision rests with Cornwall Council.
- Even if your preferred school agrees to a placement outside the normal age group, it does not guarantee that you will get a place there – the admission authority has two decisions to make, firstly, which year group the child should be admitted to and then whether it is able to offer a place in that year group when applying its oversubscription criteria, as part of the



standard admissions process. Therefore, it is a good idea to **speak to more than one school** to see if they would accept your child outside their normal age group, in case you are not eligible for a place at your preferred school.

- When your child is due to transfer to secondary school or if they move to another school there is no guarantee that the receiving school will accept the out of year group placement. One admission authority cannot be required to honour a decision made by another admission authority on admission outside the normal age group.
- Pupils who have been educated a year behind their normal age group may become eligible to leave school before completing examination courses.
- Once a child has been admitted to a school it is for the headteacher to decide how best to educate them. In some cases it may be appropriate for a child who has been admitted out of their normal age group to be moved to their normal age group, but in others it will not. Any decision to move a child to a different age group should be based on sound educational reasons and made by the headteacher in consultation with the parents.

How do we request delayed entry?

- If your child has an EHC plan you should contact the Statutory SEN Service (01872 324242).
- You should first contact the **School Admissions Team** for advice and to let them know you are considering delayed entry.
- You should then speak to your preferred schools about the possibility of accepting your child as a delayed entry.
- If your preferred schools have agreed to delayed entry you should apply by 15 January in the year that he/she would be due to start in the September and indicate on your application that the schools have agreed to placement outside the normal age group and provide written evidence of this.

Where can I can get more information?

- **Starting School: Guidance** for parents and carers, early years settings, schools, professionals and admission authorities - Cornwall Council guidance available at www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions
- **Advice on the admission of summer born children** available at www.gov.uk/dfes
- **Foundation Years website:** <https://foundationyears.org.uk/>
- **What to expect, when?** A simple guide which takes parents through the expectations of each age band in the EYFS and how they can support their children's learning and development. Available at <https://foundationyears.org.uk/what-to-expect-when/>

Contact us

Email: schooladmissions@cornwall.gov.uk

Call: **0300 1234 101**

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY

Email: equality@cornwall.gov.uk Telephone: **0300 1234 100**