



Admission of children outside the normal age group (including summer born children)

Admission authority - For community and voluntary controlled schools within Nottinghamshire, the admission authority is Nottinghamshire County Council. For academies and voluntary aided schools, the admission authority is the academy trust or the governing body of the school.

Compulsory school age - 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. Therefore, your child must be attending school the term following their fifth birthday.

Summer born children – Children who are born between 1 April and 31 August.

Starting school in reception

All children can start school full time in reception in the September following their fourth birthday.

If you do not wish your child to start school in September, you can request to defer taking up the place until later in the school year.

Child's 5 th birthday	Latest starting date in reception
1 September – 31 December	spring term
1 January – 31 March	summer term
1 April – 31 August	start of summer term

You will see that admission to reception cannot be deferred beyond the point at which your child reaches compulsory school age or beyond the start of the final term of that school year.

You may wish to consider your child attending school part-time until they reach compulsory school age. All requests to defer admission within the reception year must be discussed directly with the allocated school.

Whatever the school starting age, there will always be children who are the youngest in their age group, and most children thrive when admitted to school at age 4. Evidence shows that the youngest children make the fastest progress and that the majority meet the required standard.

Summer born children

If your child was born between 1 April and 31 August, you may choose not to send them to school until the September following their fifth birthday (the point at which other children in their age range are beginning year 1). You should think very carefully before deciding what would be best for your child and be open-minded to the views of the school and head teacher.

Remember, a decision to delay a child's admission to school will affect them for the remainder of their education.

The Department for Education has produced advice for parents of [summer-born children starting school](#) which you should read if you are considering delaying your child's entry to school.

Delaying your child starting school until the September that they reach compulsory school age means that you will need to consider carefully whether you want your child to miss reception completely and start in year 1 or, start in reception the following year.

Requesting to delay admission

Nottinghamshire County Council coordinates all applications for the normal admissions round for all schools in its area. If you are considering delaying your child's admission you should speak to your preferred schools. Admission authorities are responsible for making the decision about which year group a child should be admitted to.

If you want your child to be admitted to the reception year group, outside their normal age group, you must make your application for a school place in the normal admission round. You should submit your request to delay admission alongside the formal application for a school place. Applications for school places must be made to your home local authority before the closing date, 15 January.

Your request to delay admission will be considered by the admission authority for your preferred schools. You should be aware that different admission authorities may make different decisions on the request to delay admission.

Admission authorities will consider the circumstances of each case, the best interests of the child concerned and take account of the views of the headteacher. You will be notified of the admission authority's decision on whether your request to delay has been agreed before National Offer Day, 16 April (or next working day).

Decision on request to delay admission

If your request to delay admission is agreed, the admissions application for a place in the normal year group will be withdrawn and you will need to apply the following year. Your application will then be considered by the admission authority in line with the determined admission arrangements for the school. If your child lives in Nottinghamshire information will be sent for how to apply the following year. Remember it is your responsibility to apply for a school place for your child.

If your request is not agreed Nottinghamshire County Council will continue to process your application for a place in the reception year group at the normal time. You can delay your child's start date until compulsory school age, but you would need to withdraw your application and apply for a place in year 1. Alternatively, you can accept the allocated place and defer admission until later in the school year.

If you decide to apply for a year 1 place when your child reaches compulsory school age remember there may not be places available at your preferred schools, as these may have already been offered to children who applied for a reception place. For Nottinghamshire residents, if it is not possible to offer any of your preferences, the County Council may make an "alternative offer" of a school place that is further away from your home address.

Requesting admission outside the normal age group

If your child has been previously educated outside of their normal age group, it will be your responsibility to request admission out of the normal age group again when the child transfers to junior or secondary school. This request should be submitted in writing at the point where the transfer round opens for your child's normal age group.

It is also possible for parents to seek a place for their child outside of the normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health.

It will be for the admission authority of the preferred school to decide whether to admit the child outside of the normal age group.

The admission authority will make a decision based on the views of the headteacher, the circumstances of each case and the best interests of the child concerned.

This will include taking into account information such as:

- the views of the parent(s)
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development
- the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional, where relevant
- whether the child has previously been educated outside of their normal age group
- if the child was born prematurely, what age group the child would have fallen in, if the child had been born on time.

Processing applications

If agreed, the child's application will be processed as part of the main admissions round unless the request is too late for this to be possible. It will be considered on the basis of the determined admission arrangements only, including the application of the oversubscription criteria where applicable. The application must not be given lower priority because the child is being admitted outside of their normal age group.

Parents will be notified of the decision in writing, including the year group into which the child will be admitted and the reasons for that decision.

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school, but it is not in the preferred age group.

General information

Phone: 0300 500 80 80

Monday to Friday: 8am to 6pm

(Calls cost no more than calls to standard geographic numbers (01 or 02) and will also be included in inclusive minutes and discount schemes.)

Email: enquiries@nottscc.gov.uk

Website: nottinghamshire.gov.uk/admissions

Relay UK: hearing and speech difficulties, contact us using www.relayuk.bt.com

Download the Relay UK app or using your existing text phone prefix our dedicated text Relay number with the Relay UK code (18001) 0115 977 4050

Phone 0300 500 80 80 if you need the information in a different language or format.

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<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/global-content/privacy/>