

Early Childhood Services School Admissions Bulletin Special – December 2021

School Admissions

Applications for school places for September 2022 are now open. Parents must apply for a reception place by 15th January 2022. Parents should have received communication from school admissions with information about this.

Settings can play a vital role in supporting parents with this process and it is important that parents are reminded of the deadline date to ensure their applications are accepted.



The Reception Year

The Reception Year in school is a vital part of a child's Early Years journey. This year is also known as YR, F2, Foundation Stage. This year still follows the EYFS Framework and uses the same curriculum guidance as nurseries, pre - schools and childminders. In the Reception Year children begin to become familiar with a school's structure and routines. The Early Learning Goals are assessed at the end of this year. We would encourage you to support parents to speak to schools about what their provision can offer and if they have concerns or questions, to speak to the school about this before making their decision about where to apply. Schools have a duty to provide suitable and inclusive educational environments for all children and to work to meet their needs.

Deferring a School Place

Some parents may approach you with questions regarding delaying their child's entry to school. It is important that you have a discussion with them regarding this and get support from your Early Years Specialist Teacher or Early Years Advisor to ensure this is in the best interests of the child. If a child has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, this does not usually mean that they should delay or defer a school place.

Parents may not be aware of some of the implications of deferring a school place and you may want to consider sharing some of the points below with them:

- Children can only receive funding in an Early Years setting until they are statutory school age. This includes 15/30 hours funding and additional funding e.g. EYIF
- Children that defer a school place may have to enter school into Year 1 rather than the Reception year
- If parents want to delay the Reception Year, they must make a request to school admissions to request admission out of the normal age group. They must do this at the same time as the usual school admission process (e.g. to start reception in September 2023 this request needs to be made before 15th January 2022)
- The deferred place may need to be reapplied for at transition points e.g. infants to juniors and juniors to secondary and may not be granted.
- At the end of secondary education, a child that had deferred will be over 16 and so schools cannot enforce attendance after this point even if they have not completed their exams.

- Evidence shows that the attainment gap for Summer Born children narrows over time.
- Until statutory school age children do not have to attend school full time and so a part time timetable could be discussed with school.
- Parents may delay a start to Reception by 1 or 2 terms depending on the age of the child.
- If parents are happy for their child to miss the Reception Year and not apply for a deferred start, they will need to make an in-year application to admissions and consider that school places may be full.
- Discussions should be held with parents regarding the impact on the child's social and emotional relationships e.g. peer groups moving to school
- Headteachers, after consultation with parents and with sound educational reason, can decide at any point to move a child back to their original age group.

Alongside this bulletin there are some documents that you may use to support parents in making the decision for their child:

- Summer Born Children Advice for Parents – Department of Education [Summer born children - advice for parents \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90222/summer-born-children-advice-for-parents.pdf)
- Nottinghamshire County Council Admission of Children Outside their Normal Age Group 2021 [Blank Fact Sheet Template \(B&W\) \(nottinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/admissions/blank-fact-sheet-template)
- Nottinghamshire County Council Admission to School Guide for Parents 2022/23 [admissiontoschoolsguideforparents.pdf \(nottinghamshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/admissions/admission-to-school-guide-for-parents)

If you have any parents who are considering deferring a school place or have missed the deadline for applications, please let your Early Years Specialist Teacher or Early Years Advisor know as soon as possible.

If you have any Children in your setting that have deferred previously, please support parents in applying for a school place if one hasn't already been accepted.

