

PARENT GUIDANCE - Requests to Start School Outside the Usual Age Group

Information for Parents and Carers

What does this mean?

Most children start school in the September after their fourth birthday and remain with children of the same age. Sometimes, parents ask for their child:

- To start Reception later
- To be taught in a different year group

These requests are called **admission outside the normal age group**.

Summer-Born Children

Children born between **1 April and 31 August** are known as summer born.

Parents may:

- Take up a reception place as normal
- Defer entry within the same school year
- Ask for their child to start Reception at compulsory school age instead of Year 1

There is **no automatic right**, but all requests must be considered carefully.

How Decisions Are Made

Decisions are made by the admission authority and consider:

- Your views and reasons
- Your child's development and needs
- Professional advice
- Views of the school

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Each request is decided **individually**.

What This Might Affect in the Future

Being educated outside the normal age group may affect:

- When your child leaves school
- GCSE timing
- Sixth form or college funding

These will be explained if relevant.

How to Make a Request

- Contact your school or local authority
- Provide any supporting information
- You will receive a written decision explaining the outcome