



**BARNSLEY**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**Delayed Admission of Summer Born  
Children into Reception Year Group**

**Information for Parents**

**Summer Born Children  
are those born between  
1<sup>st</sup> April and 31<sup>st</sup> August**



## Admission into Reception Year Group

A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday. These are:

- 31 December, 31 March, 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, though, flexibility for parents who do not feel their child is ready to start full-time school before their compulsory date; this could be part-time admission or remaining in early years provision.

**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.

### Delayed Admission of Summer Born Children

Statistically not all children born in the summer term will struggle at school and teachers are very skilled at differentiating the curriculum to meet a diverse range of needs.

We would always recommend that parents visit the schools they are thinking of applying for. Teachers will be able to explain the provision on offer to children in the reception class, how it is tailored to meet the needs of the youngest pupils and how the needs of these pupils will continue to be met as they move up through the school. They may also be able to allay any concerns parents may have about their child's readiness for school.

It is also important to note that, whether a child attends a primary school or an early years setting during the academic year following their fourth birthday, children will receive the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which is largely based around learning through play.

## Parental Requests for Delayed Admission into Reception Group

If you wish to submit a request to delay your summer born child's admission to the following year in Reception Group rather than into their chronological year group, you should submit a written request for any school within the Authority. A decision will be taken by the relevant admission authority based on the circumstances of the case and in your child's best interests.

Your request must be made to **the Admissions Team in Barnsley Council, P O Box 34, Barnsley, S70 9GG or via email to admissions@barnsley.gov.uk**. You should also submit any supporting documentation which you may have available with your request. Eg. professional medical evidence. The guidance from the Department of Education feels it is reasonable to expect parents to provide this in support of their request since without it we are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the full circumstances of the case. However, there is no expectation that you obtain professional evidence that you do not already have

You **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.

**Your request for deferred admission must be made at the same time as the application for admission into the normal age group.**

This is in order to ensure that your child is not disadvantaged in any way should your request not be determined prior to the primary national offer day date or be refused.

If your request is agreed, your child would then be admitted into Reception Year group in the following year when other children in they age range are beginning Year 1.

## Considering Your Request

- 1 Upon receipt of your written request, the Admissions Service will liaise with a number of Services and the Headteacher(s) of your preferred school(s) in order to come to a decision which is in the best interests of your child.
- 2 Circumstances for consideration may include information about the child's social and emotional development, medical history and any special needs requirements
- 2 Consideration will usually be requested from representatives of:
  - a) Special Needs Service, if appropriate
  - 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 your child's individual needs and abilities and consider whether these can best be met in reception or year one.
- 4 Consideration will also involve taking account of the potential impact of your child being admitted to Year 1 without first having completed the reception year.
- 6 For community and voluntary controlled schools a decision will be taken by the Local Authority, having considered all of the information and advice you have provided 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 It is important to note that a decision taken on behalf of one school/academy is not binding on a different school.

Any decision taken will only apply to the school for which you have named in your request. You should, therefore, consider whether to request admission out of the normal age group at all of your preferred schools rather than just your first preference.

- 9 Please be assured, that all decisions taken will be made on the basis of the circumstances of your case and in the best interests of your child.



### **Notification of Decisions**

You will be notified as soon as possible of the decision and prior to primary offer day, (16th April) if your request was made by the closing date for receipt of applications and you will be given an explanation for the decision.

**If your request for deferred admission is agreed** you can then withdraw tther application for your child's chronological year group.

You will then **need to apply again in the following year as part of the main admissions round**, and your application will be considered with all other applications being considered at that time.

**Please note, however, that there is no guarantee that your child can be admitted to the school of preference at that time.**

**If your request for deferred admission is refused**, you will then have to 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 your child's fifth birthday

You will still have the options of part-time admission/early years provision available for your child if you choose to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group.



## **Moving Children to their Normal Age Group following Admission**

- Once a child has been admitted to the 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 into their normal age group at some point but not in all cases.
- 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**

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

## **Appeals and Complaints**

- 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.

## **Contact Details**

Admissions Team

Barnsley Council, P O Box 34, Barnsley, S70 9GG

Email : [admissions@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@barnsley.gov.uk)