

## Information for parents/carers considering/requesting delayed entry to Reception

This information sheet is to provide details of points parents/carers need to be aware of when considering a delayed entry request for their child.

Section 2.17A of The Admissions Code 2014 which states that:

*'Admissions authorities must make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking into account of the parent's views, information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. They **must** also take into account the views of the headteacher of the school concerned'.*

The statutory and non-statutory guidance, including 'Admission of summer-born children in schools' guidance' make the following points:

- *'in general, children should be educated in their normal age group and should only be educated out of this age group in very limited circumstances.'*
- *'admission authorities can expect parents to provide information to support their request since without it they are unlikely to be able to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case.'*
- *'It recommends this requires parents to apply for a place for their child's normal age group at the usual time but also apply for the child to be admitted out of the normal age group at the same time.'*
- *'The decision the admission authority must therefore make is whether, after reaching compulsory school age, it would be in that child's best interest to start in reception or year one. It must make this decision taking account of all relevant considerations, including the factors set out in the Code, and having taken into account the potential impact of admission to year one without first having completed reception.'*
- *'School admission authorities are required to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but flexibilities exist for children whose parents do not feel they are ready to begin school before they reach compulsory school age [CSA]'*
- *'Where a parent requests their child is admitted out of their normal age group, the school admission authority is responsible for making the decision on which year group a child should be admitted to. They are required to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child concerned.'*
- *'There is no statutory barrier to children being admitted outside their normal age group, but parents do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group.'*

In regards to the above, please note that the following has also been taken into account, and it is worth noting:

- All children are assisted with their transition between settings by their nurseries and schools, regardless of their backgrounds and needs.
- If a child enters Reception in a year later than their chronological peers, not only would they be the oldest in their year group, but they will be repeating all of the development areas they would have covered in nursery; thus holding them back developmentally. As a result, they may well become bored and disinterested in school. Clearly this would not be in the child's best interests.
- Pupils in the Reception year group at most primary schools experience a gentle introduction into education and do not follow a formal curriculum. The children are assessed against the same benchmarks/scale as

they are in nursery (if attending one) and the school day follows the same routines, with free play and learning through play-based tasks as central to their experiences at school.

- It is important for children's social, educational, and peer development to be within their age related cohort particularly as they progress into their teenage years.
- If a child was taught in a lower year group, parents/carers also need to be aware that parents/carers would be required to make a similar request when the child is in Year 5 in relation to a secondary school application. It is possible that a child might have to start secondary school from Year 5 if the request to delay entry to secondary school is not granted.
- The decision to agree a request for delayed entry sits with the admissions authority for the school and their headteacher. For Lambeth community schools the decision is made by the Medical and Social Panel and the school's headteacher. As written decisions can be made by different bodies, a different outcome can be given to the request for several schools. Parents/carers may have to decide then what action to take about which school place and time to pursue this.

### **If a delayed entry request is granted**

The Reception application made for approved schools for the child's chronological year group will be withdrawn from that year's process. If all schools agree the request, then the child's whole application will be withdrawn. This means that we will not be corresponding any application outcome to parents/carer on the following National Offer Day (if the request was received on time).

Parents/carers will be required to submit an on-time application for the following year's Reception intake and list the same schools where the request has been agreed. This form can be submitted when the process opens in the following September using a paper Common Application Form. It is recommended that parents/carers provide a copy of the letter(s) they have received agreeing to the request with the paper application, together with any other pertinent documentation to the application. The deadline for the new application will be the following 15 January (the academic year in which the child turns 5).

Please note that the decision to uphold a parent's/carer's request does not automatically guarantee a place at any of the schools listed on the Common Application Form. A child's application will be processed and considered in accordance with the oversubscription criteria along with other applicants applying for a Reception place in the same year group.

### **If a delayed entry request is not granted**

The child's current Reception Common Application Form will continue to be processed and an offer will be made on the forthcoming National Offer Day (if the request and form were received on time).

Parents/carers will have decisions to make

1. Continue with the current application form and liaise with senior school staff at the school offered about how the child can be supported in starting school. This could include part-time or staggered entry if agreed with the headteacher/governors.
2. Parents/carers can wait until the child is of compulsory school age (CSA) and apply for a Year 1 place, via the in-year process.
3. Parents/carers can apply for different schools for the Reception entry asking for delayed entry for the next academic year. Parents/carers need to be aware that the views mentioned in the letter(s) from admissions authorities will be taken in to account for any other schools which they have admissions control for.

### **If child is of current Reception age already**

The admissions authority for the school(s) applied for will process the application as an in-year application and consider the request that the child starts later. In the same way as on-time applications, the decisions made by admissions authorities may vary, and parents/carers will then have to decide what action they will take.

## **The choices parents/carers may take if the request is not agreed and is of current Reception age**

Parents/carers can make an in-year application for their child to start current Reception class, which could include part-time or staggered entry if agreed with the headteacher/governors. The in-year application processes are different to the initial Reception process, and parents/carers will need to check the requirements of the schools/other boroughs they wish to apply for.

Parents/carers can wait until their child is of CSA and apply for a Year 1 place, again via the in-year process.

Parents/carers can apply for different schools for the Reception entry asking for delayed entry for the next academic year. Parents/carers need to be aware that the views mentioned in the letter(s) from admissions authorities will be taken in to account for any other schools which they have admissions control for.

For further information on delayed entry please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission>

We hope that you find the information useful. Should you have any question or queries regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact Lambeth School Admissions Team at [schooladmissions@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@lambeth.gov.uk) or 020 7926 9503.