

## Stage 11

### Guidance on applications for children outside of chronological age group

In line with the School Admissions Code, parent/carers may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. In particular, we are aware that some parent/carers of summer-born children may not want to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Before deciding to request to ask for advanced or delayed admission for your child, you should first contact the school(s) you are interested in applying to. They will be able to explain the provision on offer to children in Reception class, how it is tailored to meet the needs of all children including those who are especially able or born during the summer months and how those needs will continue to be met as children move up through the school. They may also be able to reassure you about any concerns that you may have about your child's readiness for school and differentiated learning.

If delayed entry is thought to be in a child's best interest, parent/carers must submit an application for the admissions round relevant to their child's chronological age with a formal request made for delayed entry to be considered i.e. all requests for delayed entry for 2022 entry must be made with the 2021 entry application. If advanced entry is thought to be in a child's best interest, parent/carers must submit an application for the academic year in which they wish their child to start i.e. 2021 entry rather than 2022.

Requests will be considered for each preference on the Common Application Form in accordance with the school's admissions published policy by the school's admissions authority. This will be undertaken in line with legislation on an individual basis. Section 2.17 of the School Admissions Code states that *"Admission 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 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 head teacher of the school concerned."*

Lambeth School Admissions Team will forward on any requests for on time applications to non-community Lambeth schools (except Oasis Academy Johanna) for their processes to be administered and decisions made. If the school is not in Lambeth, the request will be sent to the borough where the school is for distribution. The final decision for each school will be relayed to the parent/carer directly by the admissions authority for the school before National Offer Day. Requests received after 15 January 2021 will be dealt with in the same manner and a decision made as soon as possible.

Parent/carers applying for an out-of-year-group place in a Lambeth community primary school, Rosendale Primary School or Oasis Academy Johanna must submit supporting documentation (as per criterion 3 – Children with exceptional medical/social reasons) with their application. The MEDSOC Panel will then decide (along with the relevant head teacher for the school concerned) whether an out-of-year group entry will be agreed at the named school. This will allow this LA to comply with section 2.17 of the Code.

Please note that there could be differences of opinion between admissions authorities and schools about whether advanced or delayed entry is agreed, causing some difference in how preferences are handled. It is then the parent/carers' decision what action they take next regarding their child's application.

If the delayed entry request has been agreed/accepted, the application will be withdrawn. The parent/carer must then submit an application for the admissions round that has been agreed (i.e. 2022/23), which must be received before the deadline of 15 January in that year to be processed as an on time application. This application must be made on a paper form as the online

system will not allow a date of birth which is outside the range for that academic year. If not, the application will continue to be considered for a place within that round.

If advanced entry is agreed the child's application will continue to be processed in that round. If not, the application will be withdrawn and a new application will be needed for the following year (the year the child's application would be received for their chronological age).

Any application pursued fully will be processed with all other applicants in the agreed round in accordance with the school's admissions criteria.

Please note that if advanced or delayed entry request has been agreed/accepted, this does not guarantee the child a place at that school for the next academic year.

If the request is not granted, and no offer is made for the child to attend the school in any other year group, then the family will be given the right of appeal. However, if another year group has been offered in the school then the right of appeal will not be offered.

There is no framework (statutory or otherwise) for a parent/carer to appeal against the decision of the MEDSOC Panel. All Panel decisions are final and are binding for both school and children.

Current wording:

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In line with the School Admissions Code, parent/carers may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. We are aware that some parent/carers of summer-born children may not want to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Before deciding to request to delay your child's admission, you should first contact

the school(s) they are interested in applying for. They will be able to explain the provision on offer to children in Reception class, how it is tailored to meet the needs of all children including those born during the summer months and how those needs will continue to be met as children move up through the school. They may also be able to reassure you about any concerns that you may have about your child's readiness for school.

If delayed entry is thought to be in a child's best interest, parent/carers must submit an application for the admissions round relevant to their child's chronological age with a formal request made for delayed entry to be considered. ie. all requests for delayed entry for 2022 entry must be made with the 2021 entry application. Requests will be considered for each preference on the Common Application Form in accordance with the school's admissions published policy by the school's admissions authority. This will be undertaken in line with legislation on an individual basis. Section 2.17 of the School Admissions Code states that "*Admission 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 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 head teacher of the school concerned.*" Lambeth School Admissions Team will forward on any requests for on time applications to the noncommunity Lambeth schools (except Oasis Academy Johanna) for their processes to be administered and a decision made. If the school is not

in Lambeth, the request will be sent to the borough where the school is for distribution. The final decision for each school will be relayed to the parent/carer directly by the admissions authority for the school before National Offer Day. Requests received after 15 January 2021 will be dealt with in the same manner and a decision made as soon as possible. Parent/carers applying for an out-of-year-group place in a Lambeth community primary school, Rosendale Primary School or Oasis Academy Johanna must submit supporting documentation (as per criterion 3 – Children with exceptional medical/social reasons) with their application. The MEDSOC Panel will then decide (along with the relevant head teacher for the school concerned) whether an out-of-year group entry will be agreed at the named school. This will allow this LA to comply with section 2.17 of the Code.

Please note that there could be differences of opinion between admissions authorities and schools about whether delayed entry is agreed, causing some preferences to be accepted and some not for delayed entry. It is then the parent/carers' decision what action they take next regarding their child's application.

If the delayed entry request has been agreed/accepted, the application will be withdrawn. The parent/carer must then submit an application for the admissions round that has been agreed (i.e. 2022/23), which must be received before the deadline of 15 January in that year to be processed as an on time application. This application must be made on a paper form as the online system will not allow a date of birth which is outside the range for that academic year. The child's application will then be processed with all other applicants in the agreed round in accordance with the school's admissions criteria.

Please note that if a delayed entry request has been agreed/accepted, this does not guarantee the child

a place at that school for the next academic year.

If the request is not granted, and no offer is made for the child to attend the school in any other year group, then the family will be given the right of appeal. However, if another year group has been offered in the school then the right of appeal will not be offered.

There is no framework (statutory or otherwise) for a parent/carer to appeal against the decision of the MEDSOC Panel. All Panel decisions are final and are binding for both school and children.