Appendix 6 – Summer born policy

Requests for delayed admission into Reception for summer born children

Parents/ guardians of children who are summer born (born between 1st April and 31st August) can request that their child’s admission into Reception is delayed until the September after their fifth birthday. The decision whether to grant a request lies with the admission authority for the

This is different to a deferred admission which Parents/ guardians of children born between 1st September and 31st August have a legal right to do. This is the option for a child’s admission to reception be delayed until the **term after their fifth birthday,** which is either January or Easter. Such requests should be submitted directly to the allocated school, not the Local Authority.

**Considerations for Parents/ guardians to make before submitting a summer born request**

A Parent/ guardian’s decision to make a summer born request should be one that is informed and carefully considered. Children develop at varying speeds and Parents/ guardians may discover that admitting their child outside of their chronological year group will only solve short-term issues and may not be beneficial in the long-term.

Reception is a continuation of the same early years provision provided in Nursery. Before submitting a summer born request, Parents/ guardians are encouraged to visit their preferred school and discuss their wishes with the Headteacher and see what provision is currently in place for Reception children.

The school will be able to give details of how they can meet the needs of summer born children without them having to be admitted outside of their chronological year group. The school may also be able to give peace of mind to Parents/ guardians who are concerned about whether their child is ready to start school.

Parents/ guardians should also discuss their wishes with their current childcare provider and any medical professionals involved with their child to get their opinion on whether they feel the child would benefit from being admitted to Reception outside of their chronological year group.

Other considerations for Parents/ guardians:

* Places cannot be reserved - if a summer born request is granted, it does not indicate a formal offer of a school place. Instead, it is an agreement to consider the application for a school place outside of the normal admissions round. When an application is made for a Reception place for the following year, it would be assessed accordingly against the school’s oversubscription criteria.
* If a parent’s request is granted and when they do apply for a Reception place for the following year is unsuccessful in gaining a place at their preferred school, the agreement for the child to start in Reception may not extend to another school meaning the child may have to start Year 1 at another school.
* Children may not be able to stay in their current nursery provision if their summer born request is agreed.
* Children may feel left out if they don’t have the opportunity to move up from Nursery to Reception with their friendship group.
* If the child transfers to another school or another LA as an ‘in year admission’ it will be for the admission authority of the school the child is moving to, to decide whether the child should be taught outside of the chronological year group.

Parents/ guardians may find it useful to refer to the Department for Education’s advice for Parents/ guardians considering a summer born request for their child: [Summer born children - advice for Parents/ guardians (publishing.service.gov.uk)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921255/Guidance_for_parents_September_2020.pdf)

**How to submit a summer born request**

Parents/ guardians must apply for a Reception place for their child’s admission into their chronological year group prior to the closing date (15th January). Once the application has been submitted, the parent can then make their summer born request.

To make a request please email admissions.support@stockport.gov.uk to request a summer-born request form.

Requests should be submitted, where possible prior to National Offer Day (16th April). If this is not possible, requests can still be submitted after this date up until 1st September.

Where requests are being made for Voluntary Aided schools or schools with Academy status, both are their own admission authority and will therefore make the final decision whether to grant a request. The request must still be sent to the LA who will co-ordinate the request and advise Parents/ guardians of the decisions made.

For parents/ guardians of children with Education, Health and Care Plans they should not make a request via the Admissions Support and Advice Team for a delayed entry to Reception. They should contact the Special Education Needs Team on specialeducation@stockport.gov.uk for information and advice.

If the request is for a school in another Local Authority, the request must be sent to the relevant LA.

**How the Local Authority considers a summer born request**

Requests are considered on a case-by-case basis. When considering a summer born request, the LA will consider the following factors published in the Department for Education’s [*‘Admission of summer born children: advice for local authorities and school admission authorities’*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission/admission-of-summer-born-children-advice-for-local-authorities-and-school-admission-authorities#what-factors-are-we-to-take-into-account-in-making-a-decision)guidance:

* The views and wishes of the parent/guardian
* The professional opinion of the prospective Headteacher
* Academic, social and emotional development to date
* Where relevant, the child’s medical history and views of medical professionals involved with the child
* If the child was born prematurely (before 37 weeks of pregnancy), what age group the child would have fallen into, if the child had been born on time and whether this has caused health problems or developmental delays

To consider the above, the LA may request supporting evidence such as, but not limited to, the following:

* Any evidence from a health or social care professional who is involved in the care or treatment of the child, for example speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, social worker, paediatrician
* The view of any nursery or other early years setting the child attends and any records of the child’s development
* The child’s academic, social and emotional development in their current early years setting

Parents/ guardians can also submit any evidence as part of their request which they feel may help the LA in coming to a decision.

**What happens after the request has been considered?**

If a request is granted or declined, the LA will communicate this decision to Parents/ guardians in writing. Where possible, the LA will aim to communicate the decision prior to National Offer Day.

On National Offer Day, if Parents/ guardians are offered their preferred school and their summer born request has been granted, they have two options:

* Accept the place in the chronological year group.
* Decline the place and make an application in the next application round, which would open on 15th August. Please note, the offer of a place will not be upheld for the next academic year and the new application will be processed as normal.

If a summer born request is declined, this is a decision that is binding, and Parents/ guardians have no right to appeal the decision.