

Guidance for delayed entry to Reception for Summer Born Children

Overview

In response to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance and the statutory requirements in the School Admissions Code 2021, Gloucestershire County Council has updated its admissions policy to address the options available to parents. This information guide is designed to explain the options available to parents for their child's starting school.

Most children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 will be joining Reception in September 2026. However, children do not have to be in full-time education until the term after their fifth birthday.

Delayed entry to Reception only applies to those children who are 'summer-born' (birthdates between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022) whose parents wish for them to be educated out of their normal age group - starting school the September after their fifth birthday.

When will my child reach statutory school age?

1 September 2021 - 31 December 2021

Children born between these dates can start school in September 2026, but they must be receiving full-time education by January 2027, as this is the term after their fifth birthday and when they will be statutory school age.

1 January 2022 - 31 March 2022

Children born between these dates can start school in September 2026 or January 2027, but they must be receiving full-time education by April 2027 as this is the term after their fifth birthday and when they will be statutory school age.

Parents of children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 cannot delay entry to full-time education to September 2027.

1 April 2022 - 31 August 2022

Children born between these dates can start school in September 2026, January 2027 or April 2027, but they must be receiving full-time education by September 2027 as this is the term after their fifth birthday and when they will be statutory school age.

The parent/carer of a summer born child may decide that their child should not start school until they are chronologically of Year 1 age (in September 2027). However, any place offered for Reception entry in 2026/27 cannot be kept open until September 2027. The parent/carer would need to re-apply for a place for their child for reception entry in September 2027 and unless the parent would like their child to enter Year 1, they need to request an Admission Authority's permission for their child to be considered for a place in Reception for September 2027.

We are very aware that children can develop at different speeds at different times and schools in Gloucestershire have a breadth of experience in successfully managing the varying academic, emotional and social requirements of all pupils regardless of their age.

This is supported by the continuity of the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage between Pre-School and the Reception Year. Classroom environments are designed specifically with the needs of the youngest children in mind and learning opportunities are based on active, hands-on learning both indoors and out.

Careful planning tailored to each unique individual child ensures that each child can reach their full potential by the end of their reception year in formal education.

Before deciding to admit your child out of their normal age group, you should first contact the school(s) you are interested in applying for. They will be able to explain the provision on offer to children in Reception Year, how it is tailored to meet the needs of summer born children and how those needs will continue to be met as the children move up through the school. They may also be able to allay any concerns that you may have about your child's readiness for school.

How to make an application for Delayed Entry

If you still wish to apply, you need to seek approval from the admission authority of each school you wish to apply for by making an application - **ideally by the end of March 2026.**

You can request delayed admission up to the end of September after your child's fourth birthday. Beyond this point we consider that your child has been admitted to school. We allow for a child to try Reception in this first month to enable you to take a view on whether he or she is ready for school.

If your child is on role at a school from October and you decide to delay this will affect Nursery/Pre-School funding

Where the completed form needs to be sent

You can find out the school's status on the school's website or in the Information Booklet available on the webpage

Type of School	Admission Authority for the School	Where to send the completed form
Academy	Academy Trust	School
Community *	Gloucestershire County Council	Co-ordinated Admissions Gloucestershire County Council
Foundation	Governing Body	School
Voluntary Aided	Governing Body	School
Voluntary Controlled *	Gloucestershire County Council	Co-ordinated Admissions Gloucestershire County Council

*Gloucestershire County Council is the admission authority for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in Gloucestershire so schools with this status can be placed on the one application

For schools outside of Gloucestershire, you will need to contact the individual schools directly to obtain their approval to delay entry.

Once you have received confirmation from a school that they are willing to accept an 'out of year group's application for the next academic year, please send a copy of the approval(s) to the Co-ordinated Admissions Team for our records

We will then contact you to confirm that we will withdraw your application for the chronological year group and ask you to reapply the following year.

Options if delayed entry is refused.

If an Admission Authority refuses a request for a child to be considered for admission to Reception a year later, you will need to decide whether to accept or refuse the Reception 2026 offer. If you refuse the

offer, you will need to make an in-year application for admission to Year 1 - for September following the child's fifth birthday. There is no guarantee that a place will still be available for the following year. This would mean your child would miss the reception year.

Some points to consider:

- Early years settings may not have a place for your child to remain in the setting.
- You should discuss with your early years setting the implications on your eligibility to receive nursery education funding. The entitlement ceases when the child reaches compulsory school age (the term after their fifth birthday.)

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to provide medical evidence or reports from an educational psychologist?

Parents of Summer Born children know their children's needs and requirements but may want to investigate their concerns further by contacting pre-school settings or other professionals to discuss their child starting school a year later. You may provide evidence in support of your request, such as letters from Pre-School, nurseries or other professionals involved with your child but it is not an essential requirement.

Am I guaranteed a place for my summer born child?

Any agreement to delay your child's admission to Reception does not guarantee a place at the preferred school/s in the next academic year nor does it provide any additional priority for a place. You should therefore give careful consideration to requesting delayed entry. Your application to the school will be considered alongside all other applications in accordance with the school's published admission criteria.

We can, however, guarantee that your child will be given a school place. If we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, you will be allocated a Reception place at the nearest school with a vacancy that is willing to accommodate a child requesting a place out of normal year group.

Can I appeal against your decision to refuse my request to delay?

Parents do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like. However, parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right to appeal to an independent appeal panel.

How can I complain if I am not happy with the decision to refuse the request?

You may make a complaint either using the Local Authority's complaints procedure (for Community and Controlled Schools) or the school's own complaints procedures for Academies, Aided, Foundation or Trust Schools. For schools outside of Gloucestershire, parents should contact the school directly for information on their complaint procedure.

What happens when my summer born child transfers to the next level of schooling (either to junior school or any secondary school)?

Ideally, your child will remain with the cohort they have been taught with, but this is not guaranteed: at each point of transfer, the request for your child to be taught out of normal year group will be reassessed. Therefore, when your child's natural cohort are applying to transfer to junior or secondary school, you will need to speak to the Headteacher of your preferred school(s) to obtain their admission authority's agreement to be taught out of normal year group. This includes grammar schools where test results will take account of a child's age. If agreed, you would then apply for the following academic year (when the other children in your child's class are applying to transfer).

My summer born child is currently deferred, but we feel he/she is catching up. Can they now be moved into their correct chronological year group?

You should speak to your child's school and together consider your best option. There is no automatic right for your child to move into the chronological year group. If there is a vacancy in their chronological year group a place may be offered. If there is no vacancy in the chronological year group, a place may not be offered.

I have moved to Gloucestershire - can my child be taught in a different year group?

School places are generally considered based on a child's normal year group once the school system has started.

If you wish to apply for a place out of normal year group, you should provide evidence that your child has previously been educated on a delayed entry basis. The admission authority for the school will consider your application along with any evidence you wish to submit. There is no automatic right for a new admission authority to honor a decision made by another admission authority.

I'm still not clear who I can speak to.

Please contact the Co-ordinated Admissions Team to discuss further using the following contact email address school.admissions@gloucestershire.gov.uk , 01452 425407