Guidance for delayed entry to Reception

Overview

Most children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 will be joining Reception in September 2027. However, children do not have to be in full-time education until they reach compulsory school age which is the term after their fifth birthday.

When will my child reach compulsory school age?

Children born between 1 September 2022 - 31 December 2022
Children born during this period would normally start school in September 2027.
They must be receiving full-time education by January 2028, which is the school term following their fifth birthday and when they become compulsory school age.

Children born between 1 January 2023 - 31 March 2023
Children born during this period would normally start school in September 2027, or January 2028.
They must be receiving full-time education by April 2028 which is the school term following their fifth birthday and when they become compulsory school age.

Children born between 1 April 2023 - 31 August 2023 (Summer-born Children)
Children born during this period can start school in September 2027, January 2028, or April 2028.
They must be receiving full-time education by **September 2028**, which is the school term following their fifth birthday and when they become of compulsory school age.

The parents of a summer born child may decide that their child should not start school until they are chronologically of Year 1 age (in September 2028). However, any place offered for entry in 2027/28 cannot be deferred to September 2028. The parent/carer would need to re-apply for a place for their child for entry in September.

What is delayed reception entry?

Delayed Reception entry is only available for children born between 1 April 2023 and 31 August 2023. Children born before this period cannot delay entry to full-time education until September 2028.

Some parents of summer-born children may believe it is in the best interest of their child to delay entry to school and request their child to start Reception rather than Year 1 in September 2028. There is no legal barrier to children being admitted outside their normal year group, but it is relatively uncommon

Things to consider before deciding to delay

Children develop at different rates, and schools in Gloucestershire have extensive experience supporting children with a wide range of academic, social, and emotional needs.

Reception classes are designed to support the children through the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) specifically with the needs of the youngest children in mind. Learning is based on play, exploration and practical experiences both indoors and out, and teaching is tailored to the needs of individual children to ensure that each child can reach their full potential by the end of their reception year in formal education.

Before making an application for delayed admission, we strongly recommend that you contact the school(s) you are interested in applying for. The school can explain:

- The provision on offer to children in Reception Year
- How they meet the needs of the youngest 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.

You will also need to check if your Early years setting has a place for your child to remain in the setting and discuss with them your eligibility to receive nursery education funding. The entitlement ceases when the child reaches compulsory school age (the term after their fifth birthday.)

This may help you decide whether delayed entry is the right option for your child.

How to apply for Delayed Entry

If, after speaking with your preferred school(s), you would like your child to start Reception in September 2028, you will need to obtain agreement from the admission authority for each school you wish to express as a preference on your 2028/2029 reception application. The application for delay admission needs to be submitted **ideally by the end of March 2027**.

If a child has been offered a reception place at a preferred school for the 2027/28 school year, that place cannot be held open until reception in September 2028. If the school agrees with the request, they are only agreeing to accept a reception application the following year. Applications will be considered alongside all others and places will be allocated in accordance with the school's published admission criteria and no higher priority to a place will be given to a delayed child.

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, you can no longer request delay entry.

Where the completed application 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 school directly to obtain their approval to delay entry.

Once you have received confirmation from a school that they are willing to accept a reception 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.

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-schools, 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 in the next academic year nor does it provide any additional priority for a place. You should therefore consider carefully requesting delayed entry. We can, however, guarantee that your child will be allocated 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. This may be a school you do not wish your child to attend.

What options do I have if my request is refused?
If an Admission Authority refuses the request, there is no right of appeal. You will need to decide whether to accept or refuse the reception 2027 offer. If you refuse the offer, you will need to make an in-year application for a Year 1 place. 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.

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 delayed, 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.

I have moved to Gloucestershire, and a delay request was approved by my previous authority?
There is no automatic right for a new admission authority to honor a decision made by another admission authority. You should provide evidence of the approval that your child has previously been educated on a delayed entry basis.

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