

Admissions Policy on Delayed and Deferred Admission to Primary School

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Introduction

1. This policy applies to those schools where the City of York Council is the admission authority – that is all community and voluntary controlled primary and infant schools within the City of York area. It applies only to applications within the primary admissions round, that is when applying for a place in Reception as the normal year of entry to start primary or infant school for the first time.
2. This policy may also be adopted by other admission authorities wishing to reflect the aims of this policy in their own admission arrangements. A list of these admission authorities is available in Section J.
3. This policy complies with and operates within the City of York Coordinated Admissions Scheme for Primary and Infant Schools in the City of York Local Authority area.
4. This policy complies with the Department for Education School Admissions Code 2021 and all relevant guidance on the admission of summer born children into primary and infant schools Summer born children starting school: advice for parents - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).
5. The admission of children into the Reception year at an infant or primary school is a completely separate process to nursery admissions. Attendance at a particular nursery class or early years provider does not, unless explicitly stated in the relevant oversubscription criteria for that school, give a child any priority within the admissions policy for admission to an infant or primary school, even if the school and nursery are located on the same premises or the nursery is run by the school itself.
6. Advice and information for parent/carers on school admissions, including key information that applies to all applications as well as some frequently asked questions are available in the Guide for Parents which is available at www.york.gov.uk/GuideForParents, or upon request from the Education Support Services team.
7. The admission of children with an Education, Health and Care plan is covered by different admission regulations, and decisions on the delayed or deferred entry to school of these children should be directed to the relevant Local Authority Special Educational Needs team.

A: Admissions into Reception

1. Children will normally be admitted into the year group relevant to the child's age and will start full-time in the school year they turn 5. All children will be offered the opportunity of a full time place from September in the year of entry.
2. Children must be attending school on a full time basis when they reach **statutory school age** - at the start of the school term after the child turns 5.
 - a. A child born between 01 September and 31 December is of statutory school age from 01 January after they turn 5.
 - b. A child born between 01 January and 31 March is of statutory school age from 01 April after they turn 5.
 - c. A child born between 01 April and 31 August (a summer born child) is of statutory school age from 01 September after they turn 5.
3. Parent/carers who do not wish for their child to take up a full time place from September in the school year their child turns 5 have several options available to them, although these depend on their child's date of birth, including the right to:
 - a. request their child has a **part time** school place for some of the Reception year, until they are of statutory school age
 - b. request their child can **delay** starting school full-time until they are of statutory school age, but in the same year group
 - c. request their child can **defer** starting school full-time until they are of statutory school age, but in the following year group
4. Information on these three options are included Sections C-E of this policy, together with an example timetable in Section G.
5. Whether or not parent/carers decide to investigate these options further, an application for a school place for starting primary school should still be made between 12 September and 15 January in the school year a child turns 4. Further advice and information can be found in the Guide for Parents which is available at www.york.gov.uk/GuideForParents, and in the relevant admissions policies, available at www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissions.

B: Part Time provision

1. After being allocated a school place on National Offer Day, parent/carers who are interested in starting their child at school on a part time basis should ask their allocated school what part time provision **can be offered**.
2. Parent/carers should inform schools of their intention to start their child on a part time basis **by 31 May**.
3. Children must be attending school on a full time basis when they reach statutory school age - at the start of the school term after the child turns 5.
 - a. A child born between 01 September and 31 December can be part time only from 01 September to 31 December.
 - b. A child born between 01 January and 31 March can be part time only from 01 September to 31 March.
 - c. A child born between 01 April and 31 August (a summer born child) can be part time for the whole first Reception year of school.

C: Delayed Entry

1. After being allocated a school place on National Offer Day, parent/carers who are interested in delaying starting their child at school can do so only until their child is of statutory school age.
2. In these circumstances, parent/carers should **clearly communicate their intended start date** with their allocated school, and keep in regular contact regarding any changes to this intended date. Parent/carers should inform schools of their intention to delay their child's start date **by 31 May**. There is no need to reapply for a school place as part of the decision to delay admission into the same year group.
 - a. A child born between 1 September and 31 December can delay the start of full-time school no later than 01 January.
 - b. A child born between 1 January and 31 March can delay the start of full-time school no later than 01 April.
 - c. A child born between 1 April and 31 August (a **summer born** child) can delay the start of full-time school no later than 01 September. As a result of a delayed start date, this will be a place to start in Year 1. The child would then continue alongside their age-related peers for the duration of their time at school.
3. In the **20 school days before the intended start date**, parent/carers should contact the school to make arrangements for the admission of their child.
4. Should a parent/carer not contact a school in the 20 school days before an intended and/or previously communicated start date, schools should make **all reasonable efforts to contact the parent/carer** by telephone and in writing at any known physical or email addresses. In any letters after failure to establish contact, the parent/carer should be informed that the allocated place may be withdrawn if they do not make contact within 10 school days. Schools should also then follow the relevant procedures for **children who may be missing in education** and if necessary, seek the advice of the LA Attendance Advisor.

A sample letter is included as an Appendix to this policy.
5. Deferred or delayed school places may only then be withdrawn by the admission authority for the school, where C4 as above has been implemented fully and only where the allocated school (and, if different, the admission authority) have tried and failed to contact a parent/carer on a number of occasions.

D: Deferred Entry

6. Parent/Carers of **summer born children**, that is children born between 1 April and 31 August, may **request** to defer their child's entry at the date of statutory school age in the following September into the Reception year – a younger year group.
7. Parent/Carers wishing to do this should still apply for a school place at the normal time – that is by **15 January** in the school year their child turns 4. At this time parent/carers should also put in writing that they **wish to defer entry** for their child to start Reception in the following September, preferably by emailing education@york.gov.uk with the child's details and application reference number.

It is recommended that along with this request to the Local Authority, any **supporting information or evidence** parent/carers may wish to be considered is also submitted, including the written statements of any relevant professionals.

Circumstances which the admission authority will take into account include parent/carers wishes; information about the child's academic, social and emotional development; whether they have previously been educated outside their normal age group; and in the case of children born prematurely, whether they would naturally have fallen into the lower age group if born at the expected time.
8. The Local Authority will then share this information with the admission authorities and head teachers of the school(s) parent/carers have expressed a preference for. The head teacher(s) will then provide the reasoning for their decision as to whether or not they **support the request** for deferred entry. The final decision will be for the admission authority.
9. The Local Authority will then write to parent/carers to confirm the result of these decisions for on-time applications by **28 February**.
10. If such a request is **approved** then the application and preferences originally submitted by **15 January** will be withdrawn. No decisions will be made on the basis of the original application. Places are not held open for children who defer entry, so parent/carers must then reapply **by 15 January the following year** for a place in Reception alongside children who are one school year younger. Parent/carers may make an identical application for the same schools, or request different schools from their initial application.

Parents/carers should be aware that as the numbers of applications and preferences, and even the number of available

places, may differ from year to year, that a deferral does not mean a place at the same school can be allocated one year later. It will not be known which school is allocated for an agreed deferral until 16 April in the school year the child turns 5 and the results of the application one year later **may result in a different school being allocated**.

11. The decision to approve a deferral is agreed between all admission authorities that are part of this policy and process, namely schools for which the City of York Council is the admission authority and those schools listed in Section J who have chosen to adopt this policy. Should parent/carers in later years apply for a school place for their child in a different chronological year group than their age-related peers, any decision made under this policy is **not binding** on other admission authorities.

If you move to a different Local Authority and you want your child to remain out of their normal age group when they transfer to a new school, for example if you move house or when they transfer to secondary school, you will need to submit another request for admission out of the normal age group.

The admission authority of the new school will decide whether it is in your child's best interests to continue to be educated out of their normal age group. Unless there are good educational reasons for a child to join their normal year group (meaning they would miss a year of school), they should remain with their adopted year group.

12. When starting school the following September all summer-born children who have deferred entry will have already reached the age of 5 and so will be of statutory school age from the **first day** of the school year. These children will continue to be one school year behind their normal age group for the duration of their time at school in York.
13. If the request is **not approved**, parent carers will be notified of the results of their original application and preferences from 16 April. The options open to parent/carers in these circumstances are outlined above in Sections B-C.
14. If the request is **not approved** by all preference schools, parents/carers can then decide whether they wish to continue with the current application for their child or if they wish to defer to the following school year. If the parents/carers wish to defer, any Head teachers who refused the deferral request will be advised once a deferred application is received and they would then confirm whether they wish to admit the pupil into reception or into Year 1.

E: Late Deferral Requests

1. Applications to **defer** received after the closing date of **15 January** in the school year the child turns 4 will be treated as late requests – and may not receive a decision by the **28 February** as is intended for on-time requests.
2. Where possible such late requests will be dealt with within an intended **6 weeks** from receiving the request. However, school term times and statutory obligations and deadlines such as National Offer Day and the admission appeals period may delay this.
3. Should a request be received after the allocation of places, any subsequent agreed deferral would mean the **original offer of a school place is withdrawn** and that school place may be offered to another child from the waiting list for that school if applicable.
4. Requests received after the first day of the school year, regardless of whether a child has started attending school or not, are **outside the remit of this policy**. In these circumstances, we recommend that the parent/carer should discuss their reasons with the allocated school with reference to the **Out of Cohort** guidance.

F: Complaints

Parent/carers may, should they disagree with the admission authority about the decision to refuse their summer born child a deferral to the following school year, put their **complaint in writing** and follow the relevant complaints process for the Local Authority or school (whomever is the admission authority). There is no statutory right of appeal against such a decision.

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G: Timetable

In the school year the child turns 4 years old:

By 12 September: Opening date for applications for all applicants, including those that wish to **delay** entry and those that wish to **defer** entry. 'School admissions application for Primary School in September' form made available and online applications start to be accepted at www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissions.

15 January: Closing date for all applications. Those summer born children wishing to **defer** entry should also by this date write to formally request a deferral including any reasons, and documentation from relevant professionals.

15 January to 28 February: Any requests for children to **defer** entry (along with any information provided) will be sent by the Local Authority to the head teachers of all schools relevant to the application – this includes all schools named as preferences, and the catchment school of the child. Head teachers will be asked, on the basis of the information provided, whether they support the parent's request. The Local Authority will collate these responses, with the final decision being made by a majority of the admission authorities whom have been consulted, or if these tie, by the Local Authority.

By 28 February: The Local Authority will inform those who have requested to **defer** by 15 January whether this has been approved or refused. If approved, the original application will be withdrawn and a new application must be made in the next school year.

16 April (or the next working day): National Offer Day for all remaining applicants. Those summer born children who have had a deferral agreed will not receive an offer of a school place and must apply again in the next school year.

16 April to 31 May: Parent/Carers of children wishing to **delay** the start of full time education to communicate and agree with their allocated school their child's start date by 31 May. Parent/Carers interested in what part time school may be available should also request this by 31 May.

In the school year the child turns 5 years old:

Start of the Autumn Term: Start of the school year. All children may start full time school from the start of the autumn term.

Start of the Autumn Term: Requests to defer can no longer be made. Instead, the parent/carer should discuss their reasons with the allocated school with reference to the **Out of Cohort** guidance.

By 12 September: Opening date for applications for summer born children who have had a **deferral agreed** in the previous year. 'School admissions application for Primary School in September' form made available and online applications start to be accepted at www.york.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissions. Parents should make clear in their application that a deferral has previously been agreed as the date of birth will fall outside the normal date of birth range for the required **admissions round**.

Start of the Spring Term: Children born between 1 September and 31 December may not delay the start of full time school beyond this date as they will have reached statutory school age.

15 January: Closing date for applications for summer born children who have had a **deferral agreed** in the previous year.

Start of the Summer Term: Children born between 1 January and 31 March may not delay the start of full time school beyond this date as they will have reached statutory school age.

16 April (or the next working day): National Offer Day for applications for summer born children who have had a **deferral agreed** in the previous year.

In the school year the child turns 6 years old:

Start of the Autumn Term: Children born between 1 April and 31 August (summer born children) may not delay the start of full time school beyond this date as they will have reached statutory school age. Those that have **delayed** entry to this date will start in Year 1. Those that have **deferred** entry to this date will start in the Reception year.

H: Contact details for correspondence

City of York Council Education Support Services

West Offices,

Station Rise,

York

YO1 6GA

Telephone: 01904 551554

Email: education@york.gov.uk

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I: City of York Community and Voluntary Controlled

- Carr Infant (Community, 5-7)
- Clifton Green Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Copmanthorpe Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Dringhouses Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Elvington CE Primary (Voluntary Controlled, 5-11)
- Fishergate Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Headlands Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Huntington School (Community, 11-18)
- Joseph Rowntree School (Voluntary Controlled, 11-18)
- Lord Deramore's Primary (Voluntary Controlled, 5-11)
- Ralph Butterfield Primary (Community, 5-11)
- St Barnabas' CE Primary (Voluntary Controlled, 5-11)
- St Mary's CE Primary (Voluntary Controlled, 5-11)
- St Oswald's CE Primary (Voluntary Controlled, 5-11)
- St Paul's CE Primary (Voluntary Controlled, 5-11)
- Stockton on the Forest Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Westfield Primary Community (Community, 5-11)
- Wigginton Primary (Community, 5-11)
- Yearsley Grove Primary (Community, 5-11)

View school contact details:

<https://www.york.gov.uk/SchoolsContactDetails>.

School details correct at the time of update

J: Other admission authorities who have adopted this

- Academy Trust of Ebor Academy Trust, York
- Academy Trust of Heartwood Learning Trust, York
- Academy Trust of Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust
- Academy Trust of Excel Learning Trust
- Academy Trust of South York Multi Academy Trust
- Academy Trust of Nicholas Postgate Catholic Multi Academy Trust
- Academy Trust of The Education Alliance

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Delayed entry - sample letter when parent/carers have failed to contact the school after an intended/previously communicated start date

1 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Delayed entry to <School> for <Child Name>

I am writing to you after we have failed to make contact with you by telephone regarding <Child Name>'s delayed entry to Reception and intended start date at our school.

We ask that in these circumstances, parent/carers contact the school to confirm your plans within 20 school days of the start date, and communicate any changes of circumstances to the school as soon as possible throughout the school year. This enables us to adequately plan for <Child Name>'s admission in the Reception year.

According to our records, you last informed us on <date informed> that you intended to delay the start date of <Child Name> from the start of the school year in September 2019 until <intended date>.

As we have now passed this date, we have yet to hear from you and our attempts at making contact with you have failed, I would be grateful if you could contact us **as soon as possible** to confirm your intended start date for <Child Name> at our school.

It may be that you now have moved address, or arranged for a school place for <Child Name> elsewhere. If this is the case please contact us so we can formally withdraw this school place and offer it to another child.

Should you fail to respond to this letter, and not make contact with us by <date 10 school days from receipt of this letter> this school place may be withdrawn by the admission authority for the school, which is City of York Council.

Yours sincerely,
<Head teacher>