

Starting school – Deferring or delaying admission including Summer Born children

Guidance and frequently asked questions for
parents and carers, early years settings,
schools, professionals and admission
authorities
2024/2025

a child's fourth birthday. However, this should be subject to well informed discussion with parents,



taking into account their views of a child's maturity and readiness to enter reception class. Arrangements should be such as to make entry to reception class an exciting and enjoyable experience for all children, with opportunities for flexible arrangements such as a period of part-

Independent Review of Primary Curriculum recommendation 14(1) - points of entry into reception class

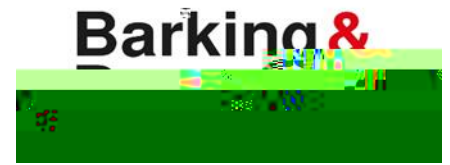
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Introduction

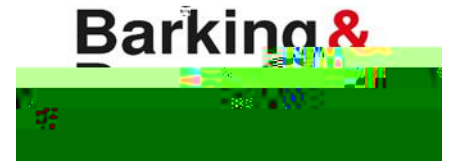


The majority of children start school full-



All children are entitled to start school full-time in the September following their fourth birthday.

By law, children have to be in full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday



What are the options?

birthday, it is possible to: -time in the September following their fourth

1. Opt for part-time admission

fourth birthday (but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age);

2. Opt to defer

i.e., until they are of compulsory school e.g.,

they might start in the January or April following their fourth birthday, in the allocated reception class;

3. Opt to defer

in the summer – **but they would need to reapply for a place and they would start in year one;**

4. Request to delay

their age and starting school in reception a year later.

What is the difference between deferred and delayed entry?

Deferred entry to school is where a parent decides to request that their child starts school later in the school year that follows their fourth birthday or when the child reaches compulsory school age

Delayed entry to school is where a parent holds back their child from joining the correct year group for their age so that they start school a year later than they are due to, in the reception class.

About part-time admission

Places in reception will be allocated as full-

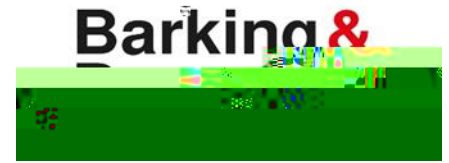
However, parents may choose part-time admission. Starting school can be tiring for children and parents may feel that their child would benefit from a phased entry with a short or longer period of part-

year as this will give them the opportunity to settle in gradually and start to make friends at the same time as other children in the class. Parents will need to discuss this with the headteacher so

plan how they can fit part-time admission into the organisation of the school.

What to do when parents have chosen part-time admission

Parents must make their choice of part-time admission clear to the school as soon as possible after receiving the notification of a place and before September **by contacting the school.**



What if a parent changes their mind later in the year about deferred entry?

If a parent decides later in the year that their child is ready for school then they should speak to the headteacher to discuss a start date and inform their early years provider (e.g., nursery, pre-school, child-minder) of their decision.

About deferred entry (until the following September)

If a child was born between 1 April and 31 August (Summer born) and their parents decide they want to take up the opportunity to defer their entry to school until the September after their fifth birthday, they need to consider the points earlier in this document but most importantly, they need to be aware that if they were allocated a school place for the September following their fourth birthday **the school place would not be held open for them** for a whole year (i.e. until the September in which they reach compulsory school age). They would need to **reapply for a school place, and this would be for one year**, because their child would have missed the reception year.

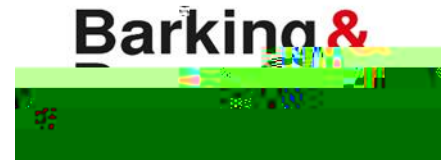
If parents believe that their child should start in reception instead, a year later than they are due to start, this is called **delayed entry**.

About delayed entry (starting near late in reception)

When first thinking about delayed entry:

submit an application for a school place for the September following reception place if it is agreed that their child should be held back a year.

Phased entry offers **flexibility** and parents need a phased entry to give them time to settle in. Have all of the options been considered which might be good alternatives to delayed entry?



requesting admission outside the normal age group. The process for community and voluntary-controlled schools, for which the LA is the admission authority, is set out in this document. The process for all other schools (academies, foundation, trust, voluntary-aided and free schools) must be set out in their admission arrangements but may be based on the recommended process in this document.

Admission authorities are not able to set a blanket policy which states that no admissions will be made outside normal age groups.

Making decisions on delayed entry to school

The Admissions Code 2021 and the admission of summer born children: advice for local



are deciding to delay admission to school. However, if failure to secure a place was due to the school being oversubscribed it must be remembered that the same admissions criteria will be applied on any subsequent application and therefore there is a very real possibility that an application to the same school will be unsuccessful again.

Principles for decision-makers

Barking and Dagenham LA recognises that each case must be considered on an individual basis but believes in the following principles:

borough and nationwide shows that, apart from in the most needs within their appropriate age group, and that this is a reasonable expectation.

school organisation, curriculum and assessment considerations or failing to secure a place at a school in the first time of applying.

Evidence-gathering

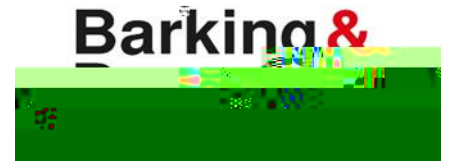
It is reasonable for admission authorities to expect parents to provide them with information to support their request but there should be no expectation that parents will obtain professional evidence that they do not already have. Admission authorities must still consider requests that are statement as to why they have made their request.

Barking and Dagenham LA makes the following recommendations for those making decisions about placement outside the normal age group decision makers should satisfy themselves that they have gathered sufficient evidence to show that:

development, and social skills appropriate for a younger peer group;

to an extent that it is not reasonable to expect differentiation within their normal age group to be successful;

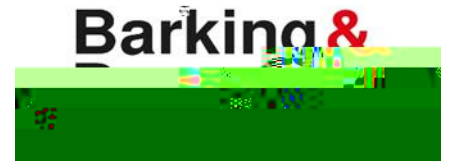
from their proposed peer group in such a way as to impact negatively on their self-esteem/self-awareness (including consideration of puberty).



for the child.

practice as the pupil progresses outside their normal age group.

Recommended/required procedures for making a decision on placement outside the normal age group in Barking and Dagenham

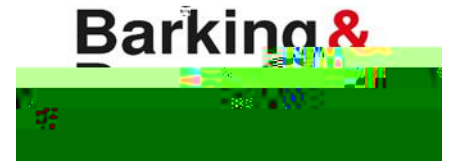


When a school receives a request

To support admission authorities and the LA in fulfilling their long term responsibilities for pupils and to ensure sound decision-making, the school should refer the parent to the Admissions Team for information or the relevant section on the borough website.

Arranging a meeting

The meeting should be arranged in good time, to allow for full consideration of the case and (if a placement outside the normal age group is agreed) to allow for supported admission/transition for the pupil, with adequate planning and preparation for their needs to be met in the allocated year group. Consideration must also be given to deadlines for applications, particularly if the request



the case and if a decision to accept a child outside their normal age group is made but a place has not yet been allocated, the following should be taken into account:

not guarantee a place at the school if this has not already been secured the normal processes relating to school place applications will need to go ahead. This means that an application will need

offered a place in the agreed year group.

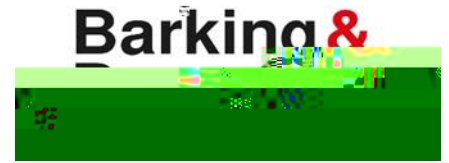
agreement to placement outside the normal age group means that the LA must treat the application as it would for any child, regardless of the fact that the application is not for the normal age group. This includes the process for the handling of late applications if this is the case.

admissions process will take place. -year

For deadlines and guidance related to normal admissions round and in-year applications, see www.lbbd.gov.uk/admissions or contact the School Admissions Team.

Summary of process when a parent chooses to defer entry to school

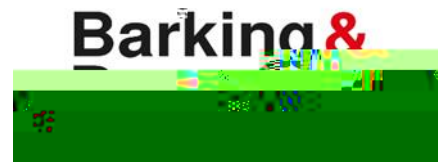
1. Setting/school/School Admissions Team receives



Group Manager School Estate Admissions Team
Group Manager - Group Manager Early Years and Childcare
Principal Education Psychologist
Principal Adviser Education
Advisory Teacher, Early Years and Inclusion
Manager School Admissions team
Head Teacher from a London Borough of Barking and Havering

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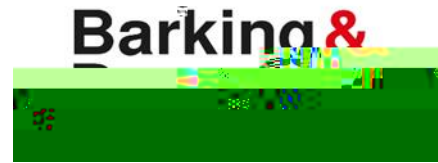
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Advice and information

Choice Advice from the Family Information Service

The Family Information Services can help with information and support when



When do I apply for a place?

You need to apply for a place by 15 January in the year that they could start in the September.

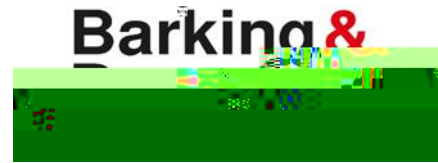
Do I apply for a place even if I don't want my child to start until January or April?

Yes the place will be held open for you if you let the school you are allocated know.

to start in the April, you would need to submit an in-year application and there may be no places available in the reception class at your preferred school/s.

How do I apply for a place?

You can do this online. Visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/admissions for more information or



How do I apply for a place?

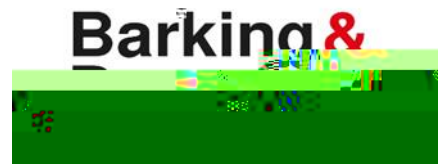
You can do this online. Visit www.lbbd.gov.uk/admissions for more information or contact the School Admissions Team or Family Information Service.

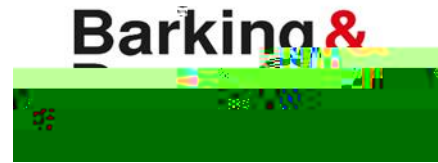
What if I don't want my summer-born child to start school until the September following their fifth birthday?

If you have been offered a school place this will be withdrawn and you will need to be treated

as a new application and there is no guarantee that a place will be available at your preferred school. If this is the first time you have applied for a school place, you will need to make a new -year application for a place in year one.

What if I don't want my summer-born child to start school until the September following their fifth birthday and want them to start in the reception year then, rather than year one?





Your application would then be considered in the normal admissions process to see criteria.

Who makes decisions about whether my child can start a year late in reception?

School **admission authorities** are responsible for making the decision on whether or not a child will be admitted outside their normal age group. The admission authority in the case of community and voluntary-controlled schools is the LA and in the case of academies, foundation, trust, voluntary-aided and free schools, it is the academy trust or governing body of the school.

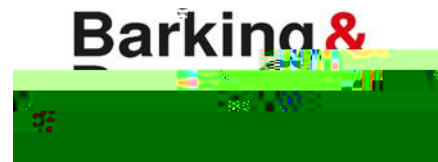
Who might be involved in an admission authority's decision on delayed entry to reception for my child?

The following people would be involved in the decision on delayed entry:

- Head of School Performance & Partnerships
- Group Manager School Estate Admissions Team
- Group Manager - Group Manager Early Years and Childcare
- Principal Education Psychologist
- Principal Adviser Education
- Advisory Teacher, Early Years and Inclusion
- Manager School Admissions team
- Head Teacher from a London Borough of Barking and Dagenham School

What will an admission authority consider in relation to a request to delay my child's entry to reception?

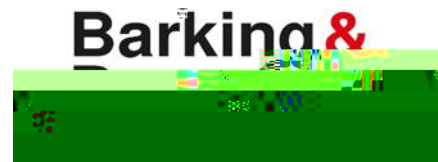
Admission authorities should consider your views; the views of the headteacher of



If the Admission authority has NOT agreed that your child can start in reception a year later:

-

My child could have started in the reception class in September but as he/she isn't of compulsory school age until next September, I didn't apply/refused the school place offered. How do I apply for them to start in the reception class



school place offered. How do I apply for them to start in year one, their correct year group, in September?