

Guidance on delayed and deferred entry to school requests

Every year, the North Somerset School Admissions Team publish a parents’ guide to starting school on the [North Somerset Council website](#). This guide explains the application process and what parents/carers need to do when requesting a delayed or deferred admission to school for their child.

Compulsory school age

Child’s date of birth	Child reaches compulsory school age on or by	By law, children must be in full-time education from
between 1 September and 31 December	31 December following their fifth birthday	1 January following their fifth birthday
between 1 January and 31 March	31 March following their fifth birthday	1 April following their fifth birthday
between 1 April and 31 August (summer-born)	31 August following their fifth birthday	1 September following their fifth birthday

Typically, children start school in September following their fourth birthday. The ‘summer-born’ children (born 1 April to 31 August) are not required to start school until a full school year after the point at which they could first have been admitted, i.e. the following September. For further information, please read the guide on [Advice on the admission of summer born children: for local authorities and school admission authorities \(September 2020\)](#) and [Summer-born children starting school: advice for parents \(September 2020\)](#).

Deferred entry to school

Parents/carers decide that their child will start school later in the academic year following their fourth birthday or when the child reaches their compulsory school age (the term following their fifth birthday). The child will be educated in their chronological year group from, at the latest, the required start-date following their fifth birthday.

Delayed entry to school

Parents/carers request that their summer-born child starts school in the Reception class a year later. The child will be educated in the group that is one year below their chronological age.

When parents/carers are considering delaying or deferring their child's entry to school, it is important that parents/carers are aware of all the options available to them along with any implications.

Things to consider when requesting a delayed entry to school could be:

- The implications on the early years funding (see below).
- The child will be educated in the year below their chronological age.
- A decision to agree a delay or defer request is only applicable to the school the request was made to. A place cannot legally be held for the following school year.
- If a child changes schools either during the year or, for example, transfers to secondary school, a new delay request will need to be submitted to each school applied for. The [School Admissions Code](#) requires schools making decisions to take into account whether the child has previously been educated out of their normal age group as well as individual circumstances. Depending on the decision of each school, if a delay is not agreed, the child would have to return to their normal chronological age group at the school a place is offered at. This would mean they have to miss a school year and transfer from either Year 5 to 7 or Year 6 to 8.
- If the child is educated in the year below their chronological age, the child may become more physically and socially mature than their peers.
- If the child is educated in the year below their chronological age, they would legally be allowed to leave school the term after their sixteenth birthday, a year before other young people in their year group. This might well be before completing any examination courses. They must then do one of the following until they are 18, which may be more complex to arrange if they have not completed any courses of study:
 - Stay in full-time education, for example at a college,
 - Start an apprenticeship or traineeship
 - Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training
- If a child has a delayed entry to school, they may not always be eligible for Home to School Transport when they start in Year 11 as they will no longer be of statutory school age.

The implications on the early years funding entitlement

- The child will only be able to access the universal 15 hours of early years funding or up to 30 hours of the extended early years funding, if eligible, during their delayed year or deferred time in the early years setting. This is not payable if the pupil is registered at a school. Any additional hours will have to be funded privately by parents/carers.
- The early years funding entitlement ceases when the child reaches compulsory school age.
- If a child starts attending school part-time, the child is on the school roll. Parents/carers can no longer claim any early years funded hours.

- Early years providers cannot claim for any child on a school waiting list. Early years providers can offer privately funded sessions.
- If a child has a deferred entry to school, for example, they start attending school in January following their fifth birthday, the child is on the school roll from the point when they start attending school, i.e. January.

Early years SEND Top-up funding

- Early years providers can apply for Top-up funding (TUF) only for those children who are in receipt of the early years funded entitlement (2, 3 or 4- year old).
- Top-up funding is paid on top of the funded hours.
- When the child is no longer entitled to the early years funding (i.e. reached compulsory school age or started attending school or is on a school waiting list), Top-up funding will cease.

Children with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan

- Parents/carers of children with an EHC plan need to discuss their children’s education provision with the local authority’s SEN Team.

The impact of a delayed or deferred entry to school on the early years funding

Type of Funding	Child’s date of birth		
	1 September - 31 December	1 January - 31 March	1 April - 31 August
Early years funded entitlement	A child is eligible up to 31 December following their fifth birthday	A child is eligible up to 31 March following their fifth birthday	A child is eligible up to 31 August following their fifth birthday
	The early years funding entitlement ceases when the child reaches compulsory school age		
Early Years SEND Top-up Funding	A child is eligible up to 31 December following their fifth birthday while in receipt of the funded hours	A child is eligible up to 31 March following their fifth birthday while in receipt of the funded hours	A child is eligible up to 31 August following their fifth birthday while in receipt of the funded hours

Early years providers and schools should notify the Early Years and Childcare Team on 01275 888 300 of the children where parents/carers are considering a delayed or deferred entry to school.

If a child does not have an EHC plan, advice should be sought and the parents’/carers’ request to delay or defer child’s entry to school should be made known to the School Admissions Team and supported by the Early Years and Childcare Team or by Multi-agency information and support in the early years (MAISEY) professionals if the child is known to MAISEY.

If a child has an EHC plan, advice should be sought and the parents’/carers’ request to delay or defer child’s entry to school should be supported by the SEND Team.

Contact details:

Early Years and Childcare Team

Telephone: 01275 888 300, Email: early.years@n-somerset.gov.uk

SEND Team

Telephone: 01275 888 297, Email: sen.team@n-somerset.gov.uk

Education Funding Team

Telephone: 01275 888 328, Email: education.funding@n-somerset.gov.uk

School Admissions Team

Telephone: 01275 884 078, Email: admissions@n-somerset.gov.uk