

Deferred Entry

When do children have to start school?

Children normally start school in the September following their fourth birthday. Parent/Carer(s) can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year.

The law states that all children must be in full time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday. This is the point when children reach statutory school age.

Children born between:	Must start school on or before:	Starting year group:
1 September 2020 and 31 December 2020	January 2026 (Spring term)	Reception
1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021	April 2026 (Summer term)	Reception
1 April 2021 – 31 August 2021	September 2026 (Autumn term)	*Reception or **Year 1

*Reception: refer to section 'Admission of children outside of their normal age group'

** Year 1: Complete an In year application for a school place (no guarantee that a place will be available at your school of preference)

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parent/Carer(s) of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted outside of their normal age group – entry into reception rather than year 1.

If you plan to request your child is admitted outside of their normal age group, you should make your application at the standard application point and at the same time, submit your request in writing to Milton Keynes City Council by completing the request form found under the document tab on this webpage. Please send the completed form to primaryadmissions@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Your request must include any supporting information regarding your child's academic, social and emotional development including where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional.

Your request form should be sent to the council who will then liaise with the school and admissions authority for a decision and you will be informed of the outcome. We encourage parents to have a discussion with their preference school ahead of making the request.

There are several factors to consider carefully before making a request to admit a child outside of their normal age group.

It is important to note that admission outside of a child's normal age group may affect later applications for moving up to junior and/or secondary school.

Deferred Entry FAQ's

What should I consider before deciding to defer my child's entry to school?

- your child will join an established class of pupils later in the year, these pupils will have already started to form friendships
- your child will miss out on whole class activities at the start of the academic year
- your child may not be guaranteed a place at your preferred school if your child is to join year 1 the year following their 5th birthday
- if you change schools, the admissions authority for the new school may not agree to continue to educate your child outside of their chronological year group e.g. moving to junior or secondary school. This could result in them having to skip a year group.

When should I request deferred entry?

Even if you plan to consider deferred entry you should still make your application at the standard application point, and you should submit your request for deferred entry in writing to the council at this time. If you select a preference school which manages its own admissions the council will forward the information to them for a decision. Following consultation with the preferred school(s) or admission authority, the council will write to you to confirm the outcome of your request.

It is advisable to contact your preferred school(s) directly to fully discuss your request before you submit your application, as this may influence your decision.

When will I find out if my request has been agreed?

If you applied and made your request prior to closing date, you will find out the outcome of your request ahead of National Offer Day (16 April 2025). At the point you are notified of the outcome you will be asked how you wish to proceed.

If the admissions authority agrees to defer admission by a whole school year so that your child joins year R the following year, you will need to apply for a school place to start the following September.

The application will be processed within the normal admissions timeline for that academic year. A place cannot be guaranteed at a preference school and if the school receives more applications than the number of places available, places will be offered in line with the school's oversubscription criteria.

If a place cannot be offered at the preferred school which has agreed to the deferred admission as they are oversubscribed, this could result in your child being offered a place at another school in your child's normal year group.

If the decision is that entry can be deferred but the child must start in year one the following September, you will need to reapply for a place in year one through the "in year admissions process".

Please note that it is not guaranteed you will be able to access a school of preference as schools ordinarily fill up at the standard admission point of entry to year R.

Admission Outside Of Chronological Year Group FAQ's

The majority of children are usually educated in their chronological year group, although a parent/carer(s) may request admission outside of their child's normal age group.

Parent/Carer(s) of a summer born child (born between 1 April – 31 August) may request that their child is admitted out of their normal age group to reception year rather than year 1, for the September following their fifth birthday.

The law states that all children must be in full time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday. This is the point when children reach statutory school age.

What should I consider before deciding to request entry outside of chronological year group?

- the longer term impact when your child is due to transfer school, i.e. moving to junior or secondary school. The admissions authority for the school may not continue with the agreement to educate your child outside of chronological year group
- the potential social implications as your child will be separated from their peers

Schools are usually able to support children appropriately within their chronological year group. It is strongly recommended to contact your preferred schools directly to discuss your request fully before making an application.

If I request admission into year R one academic year later, will it be agreed?

Whilst you have the right for your child to be admitted outside of their standard year group it is for the admissions authority to consider what is in the child's best interest. In doing this, the admissions authority will take into account:

- the views of the parents
- any supporting information provided by you regarding your child's academic, social and emotional development; including where relevant, the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional.
- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the headteacher of the preference school

My child is not starting school for the first time, can I request for my child to be admitted outside of chronological year group?

Yes, you can request for your child to be educated outside of their chronological year group for example, if your child has previously been educated outside of their chronological age group, if your child is gifted or talented or experienced problems such as ill health.

Most admission authorities will only admit children outside of their chronological year group in exceptional circumstances.

The decision will usually be based on the individual circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This includes:

- the views of the parents
- any supporting information provided by you regarding your child's academic, social and emotional development; including any medical views
- whether the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- the views of the Headteacher of the preference school

How do I make a request for admission outside of chronological year group?

Before making an application you should discuss the reason for your request with your preference school(s).

Once you have discussed this with your preference schools, and sought their agreement for admissions outside of the chronological year group, you will need to:

- complete an in-year admission application form and state any discussions you have had
- complete a request form available under the document tab on this webpage
- provide any supporting evidence with your application

The Council will forward the application to the relevant school(s) / admission authority for consideration and notify you of the outcome.

If my request is declined can I appeal?

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. This right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school, but it is not in their preferred age group