

Schools' responses to the proposed changes to summer born admissions in the Changes to the School Admission Code consultation

Respondent	Comment
School	There may be some circumstances where deferred entry may be appropriate, however if a child joins later there will undoubtedly be a knock-on effect in transitions through the key stages and there could be the possibility of ultimately finishing school before completing GCSE examinations. Also a child may well be ready to begin school, even though their parent may not think this. They may know their child emotionally and socially, but not academically.
School	Not necessary.
School	I am concerned about the strengthening for the possibility of children being accommodated outside their chronological year group. Good schools make suitable provision for all learners through skilful differentiation that reflects the age & maturity of children across each cohort. Placing children outside their chronological year group will deny places for other children who need them.
School	Great idea, but by leaving the Secondary schools free to choose whether they accept these children into Year 6, it may add complication and difficulty in to the system
School	I feel that the proposed changes will allow parents to make an informed decision about their summer born child knowing that if they do not decide to send their child to reception until they are 5 they will not miss all their Reception life and start the next term in Year 1. Many summer born children with specific needs would benefit from another year in Nursery to ensure they are school ready.
School	In my experience, despite what the parent believes most children are able and ready to start school and do not need to defer entry. It is often a parental perspective that quickly changes when the child begins school. There are medical reasons why deferment is more appropriate however deferring entry may cause a slower rate of progress throughout school.
School	We do not believe this is in the best interests of the child.
School	These proposals all seem reasonable.
School	As head of a large infant school, all of our children have started in September and this has worked well. Parents already have the right for the children to start later in the school year and should continue with

that choice. I do not think that the parents should have the ability to request that they should then start in Year R rather than in Year 1. This provides problems when the children are older, as they will go through all of their school life out of cohort.

School The emphasis on parental opinion in determining whether a child should defer entry to Reception to a different cohort is of particular concern. Whilst there are some cases where it is in a child's best interests to defer, e.g. where there have been health issues or delays in development, it is sensible. However, parents do not always know what is best for their child and a decision to join a year later, so that a child may be the oldest rather than the youngest in cohort, is not always in a child's best interests. As a child progresses through their education and on to secondary school this can cause unforeseen problems and children may be eligible to leave school before completion of their GCSE qualifications.

School If a child has gone through school in a specific year group s/he should be permitted, on the parents'/carers' request to stay within that year group when entering secondary school and that the parent's wishes should take precedence over those of the school.

School It is not true that the majority of parents of summer born children are happy for their child to start Reception in the September following their fourth birthday – however, many parents are intimidated by schools that say that their child will have no friends if they defer entry, that they will fall behind with phonics etc. The important thing is that children transfer to Reception at the point at which they are ready and not at the convenience of the primary school. It is obviously easier administratively to have one intake but this disregards what is in the best interests of the individual child.

School yes agree

School We believe too that the vast majority of summer born children are happy to start school in the September following their 4th birthday

School Support

School These proposals seem sensible. However, there should be no penalties for secondary schools in accepting children out of year as far as accountability measures are concerned.

School Most children come to school anyway. We've never had a summer born child stay back a year.

School We are concerned that without very clear guidance on what circumstances might be considered, that this could place an unnecessary administrative burden on headteachers and SENCOs, who would need to assess the individual cases being made. It is not

unheard of for 50 per cent of a reception class to be summer babies. If all asked for a deferred place to be considered it would put pressure on places the following year and add significantly to workload. Very clear guidance would need to be given on this to avoid accusations of unfairness and LAs must take the lead in the decision making process to ensure headteachers and schools are properly supported in what can be an emotive issue.

School
The current problem is that schools are expected to keep places open for children whose parents do not want them to start school until they are of compulsory school age, yet consistent funding with PVI's only pays schools for the sessions attended, so schools lose funding for agreeing to these arrangements. This proposal seems eminently sensible

School
I can see advantages for a delayed start into reception for summer born children as often they are not 'school ready'.

School
Agree that this seems sensible.

School
I agree this could be better for the child. Would this child then be guaranteed a place at the school of their choice for the following year? What would happen if they wouldn't have been granted a place the second year under normal circumstances? For example, if a child lives out of catchment and would get a place in the first year as there weren't many in catchment applications, but wouldn't get one the second as there were more applications from in catchment children. Would they then be guaranteed a place because they had deferred?

School
I have huge concerns regarding this area. If children born in July/August are allowed to defer their places for a year, the 'Summer born' children will effectively become those born in June/May and as such the problem continues although pushed back for two months.

School
The clarification makes sense and I support the proposal of the Headteacher's views being taken in to account.

School
The advice sent out earlier this year was sensible. It is good to adjust the Code accordingly