

## Delayed or deferred entry into school reception.

We offer a school place to every child in Solihull in the September after their fourth birthday. This is the normal time for your child to start school.

The compulsory school age that your child must be in full-time education is the term after their fifth birthday.

Some parents don't feel they want their child to start school full time in the September there are two possible ways this can be managed this could be delayed or deferred entry

It is important that all parents understand they are entitled to full time education from the September after the child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and no school can tell a parent to delay or defer entry or insist, they attend school part time because they are not statutory school age it is only a parent that can choose to do this.

### Delayed entry

Delayed entry is when the child misses' part or all of their reception year

For example, if your child is born in December they reach compulsory school age at the start of the spring term in January. A parent can choose to not send them to school until January or to send them part time from September until January

If a child is born during the summer term, then a parent can choose not to send them to school until the September after their birthday, this will mean they miss all their reception year and join school in year 1.

You can ask that your child starts reception class:

- in September part-time until they reach compulsory school age
- later in the academic year the term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday
- the following September if they are a summer born child

Your child must be in full-time education when they reach compulsory school age.

It's important you consider the implications of your child missing some or all of their reception year and to consider if there will be places for your child at your chosen school if you delay entry you need to talk to the school to see if they will take your child later in the year.

## Deferred entry

### Summer born children

Summer born children are children born from 1 April to 31 August. They don't have to start school until a full school year after the date at which they could first have been admitted. You can do this as discussed above so they start school in September of year one, however for summer born children there is another option, when other children in their age group are beginning Year 1 you may want your child to be admitted to reception, rather than Year 1.

This means they'll be starting school out of their normal age group, the admission authority for your preferred school(s) will make a decision if this is possible on the basis of the circumstances and best interests of your child.

This must be done correctly and following the correct procedures to ensure you have an agreed place in the reception, if the procedures are not followed or not done in time, the child will start school in year one

Please contact Solihull admission team for advice around deferred entry before the closing date for applying for a reception place in the year your child would be starting if you did not delay or defer i.e. in the year after the child's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.