

Please note that it is the view of the Government, the Diocese, the LA and the Governing Body of this school that a child is educated alongside his/her age equivalent peers in almost all cases.

The DfE have clarified that only summer born children can legally request decelerated entry to reception until the Autumn term after they turn five. Autumn and Spring born children must legally be in full time education at the beginning of the term after they turn five years old, i.e. spring and summer terms respectively. As such these children cannot be considered for decelerated entry to reception, although other provisions for them to start part time or to defer entry until later in the same school year (but not beyond the beginning of the term after their fifth birthday) remain.

Should a parent/carer request to have a decelerated entry to school, i.e. to start later than other children in their chronological age group, they must initially apply for a school place in accordance with the deadlines that apply for their child's chronological age.

(As an example, a request to the school for a summer born child (i.e. between 1 April to 31 August) to be admitted to the reception class in the September following their fifth birthday must be made prior or during the application process for the child's normal year group. An application also needs to be made to the LA for a school place in the correct year group. This will ensure that parents/carers are not disadvantaged for a preference school place in the event the request is refused.)

If the request is accepted, the application for the normal year group may be withdrawn before a place is offered. The parent/carer will be required to apply in the usual way the following year, along with the cohort of applicants for that year group. It should be noted that the application will not receive priority over or above any other applicant for that year group and the application will be considered in line with the published admission criteria applicable for that year of entry alongside all other applicants to the school.

In relation to the request, decisions are made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child. The Governing Body will expect the parent/carer to supply them with appropriate information and evidence. What the Governing Body will take into account will include:

- Views of parent/carer
- Information relating to the child's academic/social/emotional development, where relevant
- Medical history and the views of a medical professional
- Any previous history of being educated outside of their normal age group
- If the child may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- Views of the Headteacher of the school.

Please note that parents/carers do not have the right to insist that their child is admitted to a particular age group. It is the Governing Body who, having considered the circumstances of each individual case, will make a decision. The Governing Body will set out clearly for the parents/carers concerned the reasons for their decision in each case.

If the parent/carer is unhappy with a decision about which year group their child will be admitted to, the following applies. Parents/carers who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent admission appeal panel. However, there is not a right of appeal if the child has been offered a place and it is not in the year group the parent/carer would like. In such cases, the parent/carer could make a complaint through the school's complaint procedure.

If a parent/carer requests to have an accelerated entry to school, i.e. to start earlier than other children in their chronological age group, they must initially apply for a school place at the same time that other families are applying for that cohort. If the Governing Body agrees for the child to have an accelerated entry, the application will be processed. If it is not agreed for the child to have an accelerated entry, they will be invited to apply again in the following year for the correct cohort.