Delayed entry to Primary school

Advice for parents / carers
Q. What is delayed entry?

A. If your child is ‘summer born’ (born between 1 April and 31 August) you may choose not to send him/her to school until the September following their fifth birthday. In Wigan we call this delayed entry. You may request that your child starts school a year later than they normally would and that when they start they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1.

Q. Is delayed entry the same as deferred entry?

A. No. Instead of starting school in September your child’s entry to reception class can be deferred until later in the academic year when they would normally start school. Your child must start school the term after they turn five or at the start of the Summer Term whichever is earlier. A request for deferred entry can be made directly to the school once a place has been offered.

Q. How do I request delayed entry?

A. You must make a formal request to the Wigan Council School Organisation Team in writing, stating which three schools you want to request delayed entry to with any supporting evidence you wish to be considered.

A request for delayed entry to reception class must be made at the same time as applying for a place for normal entry (i.e. by the closing date of 15 January) to allow enough time for your request to be considered before the offer of school places on 16 April.

Q. How will my request to delay entry be considered?

A. A decision will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case.

Requests for voluntary-aided, foundation and academy schools will be referred to the school to be considered.

Requests for community and voluntary controlled schools will be considered by the local authority. The local authority will consult with the headteacher of each school.

The following factors will be considered, but these are not exhaustive:

- Your views
- The needs of your child and the possible impact on them of being educated out of their normal year group
- Your child’s medical history and views of medical professionals if appropriate
- In the case of children born prematurely the fact that they may have naturally fallen into the lower age group if they had been born on their expected date of birth
- Whether delayed academic, social, emotional or physical development is adversely affecting their readiness for school;
- Any other information which you ask us to consider.
It may be necessary to consult your child’s early years’ provider for further information. We may request a meeting with you to discuss this further.

Q. How will I be notified of the decision?

A. You will be notified of the decision in writing by the Wigan Council School Organisation Team by 16 April.

Q. What happens if my request is agreed?

A. You can apply for a reception place for your child the following year. Your application will be ranked alongside any other applications in accordance with the oversubscription criteria for the school. **There is no guarantee that a place will be offered at any of your preferred schools.** If your child is refused a place you will have a statutory right to appeal.

If you change your mind about your school preferences or are not offered a place at any of the schools for which delayed entry has been agreed we cannot guarantee to offer a reception class place at any other school for which a delayed entry request has not been made.

Q. If my request to delay entry is refused can I appeal?

A. There is no statutory right of appeal against the refusal of a request for delayed entry. However, if you are dissatisfied you have the right to complain through Wigan Council’s complaints procedure for decisions made by the local authority or under the school’s complaints procedure where the decision has been made by the school.

Q. If delayed entry is agreed can I change my mind?

A. Your application for a place in your child’s normal year group will be processed alongside your request to delay entry. You will receive an offer of a school place in your child’s normal year group on 16 April unless, following agreement to your delayed entry request, you tell us to withdraw it. Where your child is offered a place in their normal year group you will have 2 weeks to accept this.

Q. If I delay my child’s entry to primary school do they automatically go to secondary school a year later?

A. No. The law currently doesn’t allow this. Unless the law is changed you will have to make a written request for delayed into Year 7 at the time when you would normally apply for a transfer to secondary school, (i.e. before 31 October when your child is in Year 5) to allow enough time for your request to be considered before the offer of school places on 1 March.
Q. What happens when my child reaches the compulsory school leaving age?

A child ceases to be of compulsory school age on the last Friday of June in the school year they become 16. If a child is educated outside their normal age group (i.e. is in year 10 when this date is reached) the school will continue to receive funding for that child but the child will no longer be of compulsory school age during the school year in which most children take their GCSE examinations and cannot, therefore, be obliged to attend.

Q. Is my child guaranteed a place in their current nursery?

A. No. You would need to liaise with the nursery to confirm if places are available and if the nursery is in agreement for your child to remain. If places are not available, you would need to liaise with the Family Information Service www.wigan.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer > Families > Family Information Services Directory to identify alternative local provision and approach them to see if there are vacancies and if they would agree to your child remaining with them out of chronological year group.

Q. How many hours can they access if they remain in nursery?

A. Currently, you can access the Nursery Education Grant which is 15 hours per week, term time (38 weeks a year). With effect from September 2017, under the Childcare Bill, your child may be eligible for up to 30 hours free childcare. See the enclosed link for more details. www.wigan.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer > Families > Childcare

Q. My child has special educational needs, will they still receive support if they stay in nursery?

A. The setting will provide support appropriate to your child’s identified needs through their general resources. If your child needs support over and above this, the setting/provision will liaise with the Early Learning and Childcare Team who will follow the graduated approach and consider if additional support is needed in line with your child’s identified needs.

Q. Can I delay entry into special school provision?

A. The School Admissions Code and Summer Born Policy apply to admission to mainstream schools. Although the Local Authority will consider requests on an individual basis, it is not felt to be in your child’s best interests to delay entry into special school provision due to the differentiated curriculum, high levels of skilled and experienced staff and resources that special schools are able to offer. Special schools, where possible, tend to group by ability and additional needs to ensure children have appropriate chronological peer groups.
Q. Where can I find more information?

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Further information:</th>
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| School Organisation Team         | 01942 489013   | Email: schoolplaces@wigan.gov.uk  
| Early Learning and Childcare Team | 01942 828849   | Email: elccteam@wigan.gov.uk  
Webpage: www.wigan.gov.uk > Education and Families > More > Early Years and Childcare |
| Special Educational Needs and Disability Service | 01942 486136  | Webpage: www.wigan.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer  
> Families> Educational Support> Early Years (SEND)  
Contact can also be made via the Local Offer page: SEN News and Updates > Contact us |

You can also speak to your child’s current setting.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the teams above who can arrange for you to receive relevant information.