Office of the Schools Adjudicator

Case references:	**REF4552-REF4594**
Referrer:	**A member of the public**
Admission authority:	**The Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust**
Date of decision:	**17 December 2025**

Determination

We have considered the admission arrangements for September 2026 for the schools within the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust in accordance with section 88I(5) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. We find that the admission arrangements for each of those schools do not conform fully with the admissions law requirements relating to deferred and part-time entry to Reception and admission of children outside their normal year group. The arrangements will, therefore, need to be revised.

By virtue of section 88K(2) the adjudicators' decision is binding on the admission authority. The School Admissions Code requires the admission authority to revise its admission arrangements within two months of the date of the determination unless an alternative timescale is specified by the adjudicator. In this case, we specify that the arrangements must be revised before the 31 January deadline for primary, infant and junior school applications.

The referral

1. An objection was referred to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) by a member of the public (the Referrer) about the admission arrangements (the arrangements) for all the schools (the Schools), within the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST, the Trust, the admission authority) for September 2026. For the reasons explained below, we have considered the case as a referral under section 88I(5) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

2. There are 43 schools within ODST, located in three local authority areas: Oxfordshire County Council, Reading Borough Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (the Local Authorities, the LAs). Due to the number of schools involved, the lateness of the objection and the pressures on us resulting from the volume of cases we have been dealing with this year, it has taken us rather longer to complete this determination than would normally be the case. For this we

apologise. The parties to the case are the Referrer, the Trust, the LAs and the Diocese of Oxford, which is the religious authority for the Schools. The Diocese of Oxford has been represented by the Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (the ODBE). We are grateful to the parties for their cooperation and timely responses to our enquiries.

Jurisdiction

3. The terms of the Academy agreement between the ODST and the Secretary of State for Education require that the admissions policies and arrangements for the academy schools are in accordance with admissions law as it applies to maintained schools. These arrangements were determined under section 88C of the Act by ODST, which is the admission authority for the Schools, on 4 February 2025 on that basis.

4. The Referrer submitted an objection to these determined arrangements on 2 July 2025. The School Admissions Code (the Code) requires objections to admission arrangements for 2026 to be made to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator by 15 May 2025. As this deadline was missed, the case cannot be treated as an objection. However, as the arrangements have been brought to our attention and appear to us not to comply with the requirements of the Code, we have decided to use the power conferred under section 88I(5) of the Act to consider whether the arrangements conform with the requirements relating to admission arrangements and are treating the objection as a referral.

5. The referral relates to admission out of the normal year group, and to the alleged failure to publish the arrangements for some of the Schools on their websites as required. For the avoidance of doubt, these are the aspects of the arrangements which, together with the rights of parents for their children to defer admission to Reception or attend part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age, are the focus of this determination. The fact that we have not considered, or commented upon, other aspects of the Schools' arrangements should not be taken as an endorsement that the admission arrangements for any of the Schools are fully compliant with the requirements of the Code and other relevant legislation.

Procedure

6. In considering this matter we have had regard to all relevant legislation and the Code.

7. The documents we have considered in reaching our decision include:

a) the Referrer's form of objection dated 2 July 2025;

b) copies of the minutes of the meeting at which the arrangements were determined;

c) a copy of the determined arrangements for each of the Schools;

d) comments from the admission authority on the matters raised;

e) comments from the ODBE on the matters raised;

f) Department for Education (DfE) guidance available on the GOV.UK website: 'Summer-born children starting school: advice for parents' (the DfE Guidance for parents); and 'Guidance on handling admission requests for summer-born children' (the DfE Guidance for admission authorities); (collectively 'the DfE Guidance'); and

g) Adjudicator determinations (case references) ADA4441 Englefield Church of England Primary School and ADA4442 Yattendon Church of England Primary School.

The Referral.

8. The objector asserts that not all of the Schools have published their admission arrangements for 2026.

9. The objector also asserts that, in respect of admission out of the normal year group, the arrangements state, "Applications are rarely likely to succeed" and this "runs completely opposite to current [DfE] Guidance".

10. The objector refers to the requirements in paragraphs 2.18 to 2.20 of the Code and asserts that the arrangements:

i. make no reference to summer born children; and

ii. do not set out the process for requesting admission out of the normal year group.

11. The objector asserts that due to these omissions the arrangements are not clear and are consequently contrary to paragraph 14 of the Code.

Background

12. The ODST website says that the Trust was founded in 2012 by the Diocese of Oxford out of a commitment to excellent education for all and has now grown into a large family of schools serving thousands of pupils, their families and communities across Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead. As mentioned above, there are currently 43 schools for which ODST is the admission authority. These comprise primary, infant, junior and middle schools, some of which have a Church of

England faith designation and some of which have no faith designation. Because the focus of this determination is narrow, we have not set out the admission arrangements for each of the Schools in full. Instead, we have set out each school's arrangements for admissions outside of the normal year group and, for those schools which admit pupils to Reception Year, arrangements for admissions to that year

Consideration of Case

13. In considering this referral we will proceed as follows: First, we will set out the representations of the Trust and the ODBE. Second, we will set out the relevant provisions of the Code. Third, we will set out parents' entitlements under the Code. Fourth, we will explain what admission arrangements need to contain in order to comply with the Code requirements and be in accordance with the DfE guidance. We will then proceed to consider the relevant extracts from the admission arrangements for each of the Schools and explain why the arrangements which were published at the time of the referral were not in accordance with the Code requirements.

14. The Trust has responded to this referral by saying that its arrangements are determined in accordance with guidance produced by the ODBE. This guidance has been amended following adjudicator determinations on two other schools (case references ADADA4441 Englefield Church of England Primary School and ADA4442 Yattendon Church of England Primary School). Since the arrangements for each of the Schools are said to be influenced by the ODBE guidance, we have devoted some time to considering the ODBE's response to the referral.

15. As we explain below, the schools adjudicator has no jurisdiction to determine whether or not diocesan guidance complies with the requirements of the Code. However, we hope that our summary of what admission arrangements must contain in order to comply with paragraphs 14, 2.17, 2.18, 2.19 and 2.20 will be helpful in advising both the Trust and the ODBE as to what the admission arrangements for the Schools must contain. Some admission authorities produce detailed guidance on the procedure for making an application for admission outside of the normal year group as a document which is separate to their admission arrangements. This is perfectly acceptable provided the guidance is immediately accessible via a one click link in the arrangements.

16. We have set out relevant extracts from the admission arrangements for each of the Schools and determined whether the admission arrangements of each school comply with the requirements of the Code in relation to deferred entry to Reception and admissions outside of the normal age group. As the arrangements for some of the Schools contain identical, or nearly identical wording, this approach means that there is some repetition in our determination, which we have avoided where

possible. We hope that the Trust and the ODBE will find this determination to be helpful and constructive, which is certainly its intention.

The Trust's Response to the Referral

17. The Trust, as the admission authority, gave the following response to the points raised in the referral:

> **"The objector asserts that not all of the schools in the Trust have published their admission arrangements for 2026.**
>
> We can confirm that all schools were instructed to publish their admission arrangements 2026/27 before the deadline of 15 March 2025; and following determination by the Trust Board prior to 28 February 2025.
>
> All schools manage their own websites and have individual publication systems. For example, some schools may publish their admissions arrangements under an 'Admissions' tab, and others under a 'Policies' tab. It is not clear from the Appendix[1] that a thorough search has been undertaken, and so we cannot comment on whether this list we provided is accurate.
>
> The Trust has undertaken a review of the publication process and will make immediate changes to this ensuring compliance. New websites for all schools are being implemented (by summer 2026) with consistent publication and central Trust oversight of statutory policies.
>
> **The objector asserts that, in respect of admission out of the normal year group, the arrangements state "Applications are rarely likely to succeed" and this "runs completely opposite to current [Department for Education] Guidance".**
>
> This statement is not included in the admissions arrangements as it is not in the model policy from ODBE used to support schools in setting their admission arrangements. As a diocesan multi academy trust, we work closely with the Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) and all schools follow the model policy.
>
> All admissions out of normal year group are considered under their own circumstances.

[1] We set out in an appendix the list of schools whose arrangements had not been published on the schools' websites on the dates of our searches.

The objector refers to paragraphs 2.18 to 2.20 of the School Admissions Code (the Code) and asserts that the arrangements:

i. make no reference to summer born children; and

ii. do not set out the process for requesting admission out of the normal year group.

The ODBE model policy used for the 2026/27 admissions arrangements for ODST schools did contain reference to summer born children under the heading "Admission Arrangements for Reception year in September 2026". Reference was also made to the process for parents wishing to exercise their right to delaying entry or admission to outside the normal age group, by discussing this with the headteacher.

We were advised by OSA that similar objections had been raised (ADA4441 and ADA4442) and that the responses would be linked. The ODBE guidance and model policy have subsequently been updated and re-circulated and the Trust will administer the changes centrally to ensure compliance and consistency".

18. The Trust was not able to confirm which of the Schools had and had not published their arrangements, and questioned whether we undertook a thorough search of the websites of all 43 schools. We can confirm that we conducted thorough searches under the various different sections and headings of the websites in June 2025 and were unable to find published admission arrangements for the schools which we had listed in the Appendix which was sent to the Trust and is included as Appendix A to this determination. Since neither the Referrer nor the adjudicators were able to locate admission arrangements for these schools, and the Trust does not seem to know which arrangements were published, we conclude that the 2026 admission arrangements were not published by the required date on the websites for the schools listed in Appendix A. The Trust, as the admission authority and the body legally responsible for the publication of the admission arrangements for its schools must take steps to rectify this situation immediately if it has not already done so. We are pleased to learn that the Trust is taking active steps to ensure consistency across the websites of the various schools as this will provide greater clarity for parents. It is not sufficient to "instruct" schools to publish their arrangements. The Trust must take steps to ensure any such instruction is carried out.

19. We did not find that the admission arrangements for any of the Schools contained a statement that applications for admissions out of the normal age group would be unlikely to succeed.

20. In terms of the assertion that the Schools' arrangements make no reference to "summer born" and did not set out the process of requesting admissions out of the normal year group, for most of the Schools we found the latter part of this assertion to be true, at least in part. For those schools where such a process is referred to in the arrangements, it is not one which can be fully understood by parents reading the arrangements. This is why we have set out what such a process needs to look like in order to comply with the requirements in paragraphs 2.18 and 14 of the Code. We hope this will be helpful to both the Trust and the ODBE. Our role here is not to determine whether the Referrer is correct in their assertions. As explained above certain aspects the Schools' arrangements have been brought to our attention, therefore our function is to determine whether those aspects of the arrangements comply with the requirements of the Code.

The ODBE's Response to the Referral

21. The ODBE gave the following response to the points raised in the referral:

"The Oxford Diocesan Board of Education (ODBE) issues guidance including a model policy to schools which is freely available on the ODBE website and updated annually.

Summer-born children and deferred entry

The wording "Applications are rarely likely to succeed" is contained in the ODBE Guidance issued to schools and trusts (a copy of which is provided)". This wording is not contained in the ODBE model policy nor any ODST Admission Policy. Since the wording quoted by the objector is not contained in any admission arrangements, ODBE does not believe that this aspect of the objection falls under the jurisdiction of the Adjudicator in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 and subsequent legislation and regulations.

Nevertheless, DfE Guidance on handling admission requests for summer born children states "DfE supports the right of parents to decide their child will not start school until compulsory school age, but does not believe it should become the norm for summer born children to begin reception at age 5" and "Most summer born children will thrive if they are admitted to reception aged 4". ODBE Guidance states that "Where parents seek a place for their child outside the normal age group, the admission authority must make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the best interests of the child".

ODBE asserts that the current arrangements present a significant risk for parents and their summer-born children who must apply for admission for the September after the child's fifth birthday. As the DfE Guidance makes clear "It

is possible the school will not be able to offer your child a place. If there are more applications than places available, places will be allocated in accordance with the oversubscription criteria for the school." Furthermore, "Parents whose request for delayed entry is refused have no statutory right to appeal this decision. The statutory admission appeals process does not cover a decision to refuse delayed entry to school."

It is the experience of ODBE that applications are rarely likely to succeed as it is generally in the best interests of the child to be admitted to reception aged 4 alongside their chronological peers.

i. The Code does not contain any requirement for a 'summer born section' to be included in a school's admission arrangements.

The provisions relating to deferred entry to school is contained within the section titled "Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026". This is compliant with the provisions of the School Admissions Code 2021, specifically 2.17, which gives a right to parents to:
"defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made".
This is clearly set out in the policy.

ii. Parents may choose not to send their child to school until the September following that child's fifth birthday (Code 2.18). If they wish them to be admitted to Reception rather than Year 1, this is not a deferral and the parents must apply for the child to be admitted out of their normal age group – there is no statutory right to choose this route. This is covered in the section "Admission outside normal age group". There is also a recommendation that parents discuss their wishes with the headteacher in advance. There are significant risks to the parents and child in choosing this route which need to be discussed in detail.

In accordance with s19 of The School Admissions (Admission Arrangements and Co-ordination of Admission Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2012, all ODBE schools including ODST schools, have been advised to amend their admission arrangements to incorporate amendments to ensure compliance with the School Admissions Code with immediate effect. This also reflects the Determinations in ADA4441 Englefield Church of England Primary School and ADA4442 Yattendon Church of England Primary School which are based on the same model policy. Consequently, the policy now includes the web link to DfE Guidance for parents on making a request for admission out of the normal age group.

> It is our belief that the arrangements are clear and in accordance with the requirements of the Code. Paragraph 14 requires that admission arrangements must ensure that the "practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are fair, clear, and objective". The Code does not require the admission arrangements to contain detailed information relating to handling admission requests for summer born children so long as it is made clear what the next steps are for parents. The admission arrangements are intended to enable parents to "understand easily how places for that school will be allocated"; whilst it is not incumbent on the school to provide information on the various options available to parents of summer born children prior to starting school full-time, ODBE has added better signposting to the model policy to assist parents with their decision-making".

22. First, we are grateful to the ODBE for its cooperation with our processes. We note that the Schools have been advised to amend their admission arrangements to ensure compliance with the Code with immediate effect. However, we need to point out that the Schools cannot change their admission arrangements. The admission authority for the Schools is the Trust, and only the Trust is able to determine or revise the arrangements for each school.

23. Second, we accept the ODBE's assertion that the statement "Applications are rarely likely to succeed" is not contained in the ODBE model policy issued to schools and trusts and not in the admission arrangements for any of the Schools, and that we have no jurisdiction to consider the content of the ODBE's guidance even though it is suggestive of a practice which appears contrary to the spirit of the DfE Guidance.

24. Third, the ODBE has quoted selectively from The DfE Guidance for parents, which actually says "Most children start school in the September after their fourth birthday, but some children will benefit from a delayed school start, particularly if their school readiness has been delayed by a medical condition or developmental delays".

25. Furthermore, the ODBE has also quoted exclusively from the DfE Guidance for parents. The ODBE makes no mention of the DfE Guidance for admission authorities which says:

> ‘‘The admission authority of each school must make a decision based on the circumstances of the case and in the child's best interests. It should be rare for an authority to refuse a parent's request.
>
> An admission authority may not decide that a child should start school before compulsory school age - that is the parent's decision.
>
> The government believes it is rarely in a child's best interests to miss a year of their education, for example, by beginning primary school in year 1 rather than reception, or secondary school in year 8 rather than year 7."

26. Whilst it is correct that there is a risk that, even if an application for entry out of the normal year group succeeds, the applicant will not secure a place at the school the following year in the desired year group, the requirement in the Code is that this risk must be made clear to parents, not that admission arrangements should deter parents from making an application for admission outside of the normal year of entry in view of this risk.

27. Finally, again the ODBE is correct in its assertion that the Code does not require a 'summer born section' to be included in a school's admission arrangements. It does require that admission authorities make clear in their admission arrangements the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group. This applies to any application for admissions outside of the normal year group, including (but not limited to) applications made in respect of summer born children. The arrangements for most of the Schools contain a section entitled 'Admission Outside Normal Year Group'. We will go on to explain why we do not consider the section to be sufficiently detailed to comply with the requirements of the Code. The DfE Guidance for admission authorities is helpful in suggesting what should be included, and the level of detail expected by the DfE.

Code Provisions

Admission of children below compulsory school age and deferred entry to school

2.17 Admission authorities **must** provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday. The authority **must** make it clear in their arrangements that where they have offered a child a place at a school:

a) that child is entitled to a full-time place in the September following their fourth birthday;

b) the child's parents can defer the date their child is admitted to the school until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age and not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which it was made; and

c) where the parents wish, children may attend part-time until later in the school year but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

2.18 Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following

their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. Admission authorities **must** make clear in their admission arrangements the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group.

2.19 Admission authorities **must** make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. This will include taking account of the parent's views; information about the child's academic, social, and emotional development; where relevant, their medical history and the views of a medical professional; whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group; and whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. They **must** also take into account the views of the head teacher of the school concerned. When informing a parent of their decision on the year group the child should be admitted to, the admission authority **must** set out clearly the reasons for their decision.

2.20 Where an admission authority agrees to a parent's request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group and, as a consequence of that decision, the child will be admitted to a relevant age group (i.e. the age group to which pupils are normally admitted to the school) the local authority and admission authority **must** process the application as part of the main admissions round, unless the parental request is made too late for this to be possible, and on the basis of their determined admission arrangements only, including the application of oversubscription criteria where applicable. They **must not** give the application lower priority on the basis that the child is being admitted out of their normal age group. 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.

Footnote 56: "Compulsory school age" is defined in Section 8 of the Education Act 1996 and the Education (Start of Compulsory School Age) Order 1998. A child reaches compulsory school age on the prescribed day following his or her fifth birthday (or on his or her fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day). The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March, and 31 August.

Footnote 57: The term "summer born children" relates to all children born from 1 April to 31 August. These children reach compulsory school age on 31 August following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on 31 August). It is likely that most requests for summer born children to be admitted out of their normal age group will come from parents of children born in the later summer months or those born prematurely.

Summary of the entitlements of parents set out in the Code in relation to 2026 admission arrangements.

28. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 (plus parents of children who have had a request for admission outside of the normal year group approved in the previous year) may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

29. Parents of all such children – including children who were summer born - have the right to apply for a place in Reception and to defer taking up that place until later in the school year, provided they do not defer until a date which is after their child has reached compulsory school or after the beginning of the final term. They also have a right for their child to attend on a part-time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.

30. Parents of “summer born” children do not have to apply for a place in Reception in the September following their child’s fourth birthday, although they can do if they so wish. They must apply for a place in the school for the September following their child’s fifth birthday, in Year 1, or in Reception if admission out of the normal age group has been agreed.

31. Parents of summer born children may choose that the child’s admission be delayed for a year, and request that the child be admitted out of their normal year group into Reception, as opposed to Year 1. They do not have an entitlement to be admitted in Reception, but they have the right to make such a request. The factors which an admission authority needs to take into account in making a decision on such an application are set out in the Code and the DfE Guidance for admission authorities.

32. Parents of a summer born child have the right to choose to delay admission to the September following that child’s fifth birthday, so entering the school in Year 1 rather than Reception. This is an entitlement which admission authorities cannot legally refuse.

33. This means that although a summer born child may, for example, have the right to start full time education in September 2026, the parent can postpone the date at which the child starts school until September 2027. Such a child would join Year 1 in September 2027 unless the parent requests, and the admission authority agrees, that the child should be admitted out of their normal year group and join Year R.

Summary of the requirements of the Code

34. Regarding part-time and deferred attendance, admission arrangements must make clear that:

- parents of children eligible to start school in Reception will be offered a place in Reception if they apply and there is a place available. Where a school is oversubscribed, the oversubscription criteria will need to be applied;
- parents who are offered a place in Reception have an entitlement to defer their child's start date until the term in which the child reaches compulsory school age, but they are not able defer admission to a date after the beginning of the final term; and
- parents have a right for their child to attend on a part-time basis until the child reaches compulsory school age.

35. Admission arrangements must make clear the process for requesting admission out of the normal age group. We have interpreted this to mean the following. Admission arrangements must explain:

- who the application needs to be made to;
- when the application needs to be made;
- who the decision-maker is; and
- what will be taken into account. Paragraph 2.19 sets out the factors that must be taken into account, and it must be the admission authority, as opposed to the local authority or the head teacher, which makes the decision. The head teacher's views will be a relevant factor but are only one of a number of relevant factors.

36. To assist admission authorities in making decisions on whether summer born children should be able to begin school, at age five, in Reception as opposed to their normal year group, the DfE has issued the Guidance for admission authorities. That guidance also applies to admissions in the normal year of entry for junior and middle schools. Admission authorities should be complying with DfE Guidance unless they have good reason to depart from it. The DfE Guidance says that the child's best interests should be the deciding factor and also makes clear that it should be rare for a child to start school for the first time in Year 1 as opposed to Reception.

37. Often, an application for admission to Reception out of the normal age group (in the September following the child's fifth birthday) will be made at the same time as the application for a place in the September following the child's fourth birthday. A parent may also choose not to apply for a place in the September following the child's fourth birthday and request a place out of the normal age group for the following September. However, the request for a place must be made to the relevant

local authority on the common application form and the request for the child to be admitted outside their normal age group must be made to the admission authority. Admission arrangements need to make this process clear to parents.

38. The arrangements must also make clear that: if admission out of normal age group to Reception is approved, parents must nevertheless make an application for a place in Reception the following year; that the offer of such a place will be determined having applied the oversubscription criteria; and that, whilst an appeal can be made against a decision not to offer a place at the school, there is no right of appeal against a refusal to admit a child out of their normal age group.

39. Finally, the parents of any child can apply for their child to be admitted to any year group outside the normal year of entry. This provision is not exclusive to applications to Reception for “summer born” children. Again, the arrangements must make this clear.

40. We have read the admission arrangements for the schools for which the Trust is the admission authority. None of these arrangements comply fully with the requirements of paragraphs 2.17 – 2.20 of the Code. In addition, most contain incorrect information or insufficient information meaning that the arrangements are not compliant with the requirements of paragraph 14 of the Code, which requires that in drawing up their admission arrangements, admission authorities must ensure that the practices and the criteria used to decide the allocation of school places are clear, and that parents should be able to look at a set of arrangements and understand easily how places for that school will be allocated.

41. Having set out the relevant requirements, we will now consider the admission arrangements for the 43 schools in the Trust, and will set out our brief findings on why each set of arrangements is not compliant with the requirements of the Code. The admission authority should ensure that the arrangements for all of the Trust schools are in accordance with those requirements.

Analysis of the relevant sections of the admission arrangements of the Schools

St Christopher's Church of England School (Langford)

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2026 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

a. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code states that admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday and sets out the rights of parents to defer admission. Whilst it may be correct that the majority of children start school at the beginning of the school year in which they reach their fifth birthday, we are concerned that the arrangements state that this is 'normal'. When read alongside the statement in the arrangements that children benefit, or may benefit, from starting at the beginning of the school year rather than part way through it, it could be said that the arrangements discourage parents from exercising their right to defer admission. The arrangements are required to make clear that all parents, including parents of children who are summer born, have the right to defer admission into Reception where this is the normal year of entry and should not seek to deter parents from exercising this right.

b. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code requires that admission arrangements make it clear that all parents have the right for their child to attend school part-time until they reach compulsory school age. The arrangements may imply that the right to part-time attendance in Reception only applies to summer born children, which is incorrect. At the very least, the arrangements are insufficiently clear.

c. It is confusing that the rights to deferred and part-time entry for summer born children are set out separately. Parents of any child have a right to defer their child's entry until the child reaches compulsory school age or to the beginning of the summer term, if earlier, and for their child to attend part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Where parents decide to exercise these rights this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

d. The arrangements do not make clear the rights of a parent of a summer born child to delay entry until the September following the child's fifth birthday, when the child is the right age to join Year 1, and to apply for a place in that year group. Neither do they make it clear that admission out of the normal age group to Reception (rather than Year 1) may be requested for a summer born child and, if this is approved, parents must make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round for admissions in that year.

e. The provisions in respect of summer born children need to be cross referenced to the provisions in the arrangements relating to admission outside of the normal age group. Without such a cross reference, this section on its own gives the impression that summer born children must start school before the end of Reception year following the child's fourth birthday, whereas they are not required to do so until the September of the following school year in which case they would normally be admitted to Year 1 unless a successful application is made for admission outside the normal year group.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

f. The arrangements do not set out in sufficient detail or with sufficient clarity the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group. A parent reading this paragraph would not know when or how to make such an application, what the admission authority must take into account or any of the other important implications, such as that approval of the request for admission outside of the normal age group does not guarantee a place in Reception the following year. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) appears to be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code. Whilst the views of the head teacher will indeed be a relevant

factor in determining whether it is in the best interests of a child to be admitted outside of their normal year group, there are a range of other factors which admission authorities must consider.

g. The governors have no right to approach professionals themselves to obtain evidence, or to discuss an individual child for whom an application has been made, without the explicit consent of the parents. To do so would be an infringement of the child's privacy rights.

John Henry Newman Academy

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at John Henry Newman Academy, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

a. The analysis that we have provided for this section of the arrangements for St Christopher's Church of England School applies to this school. In addition:

b. The parents of a child born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021 may have chosen to have their child start school in September 2026 as provided for by the Code and requested that the child be admitted to Year R rather than to Year 1. If

the request was agreed, the parent would need to apply for a Year R place for September 2026. In stating that parents of children “born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026” the arrangements fail accurately to set out the position of such children.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil’s best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

c. The analysis which we have provided for this section of the arrangements for St Christopher’s Church of England School applies to this school.

Wheatley Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends Acorns Nursery at Wheatley CE Primary, a new application must be made to start the Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to

school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

b. In addition, the arrangements state "For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026." This fails to recognise the rights of such parents to delay admission until September 2027 (subject to an application for a place in the normal admission round for that year).

Grove Church of England School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at Grove CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

St Christopher's Church of England School, Cowley

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at St Christopher's CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

St Peter's Church of England School, Alvescot

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

A new application must be made to start our Reception year group for the first time. Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January

or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Bampton CofE Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at Bampton CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may

benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

North Leigh Church of England School

Admission Arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at North Leigh Pre School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the headteacher.

Admission Outside Normal Age Group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The Governing Body may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Brize Norton Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

St John's Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although in the majority of cases we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Dr South's Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at Dr South's CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Tackley Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at Tackley CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time. Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It

is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Leafield Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

South Moreton Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2026 and 31 August 2027 (summer-born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. In such cases, detailed arrangements should be discussed with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the Headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Fir Tree Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

St Nicholas' Church of England Infants' School and Nursery Class, Wallingford

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at St Nicholas CE Infants' School a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022(summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year. For further information, please see https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission/summer-born-children-starting-school-advice-for-parents.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the headteacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The Governing Board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy also applies to those of this school.

b. We also note that whilst an admission authority may wish to signpost parents to the DfE guidance in respect of summer born children, this cannot be in lieu of setting out, in the arrangements, information which the Code requires.

Benson Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at Benson C of E Primary School a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

Christopher Rawlins Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at Christopher Rawlins CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

St Francis Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Even if a child already attends the nursery class at St Francis CE Primary School, a new application must be made to start Reception year group for the first time.

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child born between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children born between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, eg for those previously educated abroad or those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of John Henry Newman Academy applies to those of this school.

The Batt Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2025 **[sic]**

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

There are 30 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27) although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age ie when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for John Henry Newman Academy applies to this school. In addition:

b. The arrangements state that summer born children reach compulsory school age when they reach their fifth birthday. This is not correct. As stated in footnote 57 to the Code, a summer born child reaches compulsory school age on 31 August following their fifth birthday. A child who, for example, turns five years old in June will reach statutory school age on 31 August of the same year.

c. The arrangements state that a parent of a summer born child who wishes to defer entry “should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.” This fails to recognise the right of such parents to delay entry until September 2027.

St Mary’s Church of England Infant School

Admission Arrangements to the Reception Year September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27) although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age ie when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil’s interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to those of this school.

Kidmore End Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 30 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age i.e. when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to those of this school.

North Hinksey Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age i.e. when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to those of this school.

St Laurence Church of England School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age i.e. when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to those of this school.

Wroxton Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027(summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the date they reach compulsory school age ie when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to those of this school.

Holyport CofE Primary School

Admission Arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 30 places (the published admission number - PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/2027), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer-born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, i.e. when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2026.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission Outside Normal Age Group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to those of this school.

St Frideswide Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At St Frideswide school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 60 places available. Our policy is not to offer admission in September 2026 to children who were born on or after 1 September 2022.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026-27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents may defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age (ie. when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a place in September 2027. Although in the majority of cases we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis which we have provided for the admission arrangements of The Batt Church of England Primary School also applies to those of this school. In respect of a parent of a summer born child who wishes to defer entry, the arrangements state that they "should apply in the normal way for a place in September 2027." This does not make clear to such parents the choices available to them, and implies that they may choose for their child to start Reception in 2027

without any requirement to request that the child is admitted out of their normal year group.

St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Banbury

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2025 **[sic]**

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age ie when they reach their fifth birthday. They should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2025.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for The Batt Church of England Primary School applies to this school.

b. In respect of a parent of a summer born child who wishes to defer entry, the arrangements state that they "should apply in the normal way for a Reception place in September 2025." It is not clear whether this is intended to refer to September 2025 as the time of admission or the time at which applications must be made. In either case this date is incorrect. The arrangements are for places at the School in September 2026, applications for which must be made by 15 January 2026.

Burchetts Green CofE Infants' School

Admission Arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, and those with prior written agreement from the Headteacher to defer their place under Summer born admission rules, may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 25 places available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026-27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026-27 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027 should proceed as follows:

They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2027. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The Local Authority requires written confirmation from the headteacher or their representative that they have agreed for a child to be educated out of year group, so any decision on Summer born deferrals needs to be sent through to the Local Authority in writing by the parent. The school will consider the request carefully and if it is agreed this should

be clear before the national offer day (16 April 2026), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2027) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2026/27 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2026 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027– the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the headteacher.

a. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code states that admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday and sets out the rights of parents to defer admission. Whilst it may be correct that the majority of children start school at the beginning of the school year in which they reach their fifth birthday, we are concerned that the arrangements state that this is 'normal'. When read alongside the statement in the arrangements that children benefit, or may benefit, from starting at the beginning of the school year rather than part way through it, it could be said that the arrangements discourage parents from exercising their right to defer admission. The arrangements are required to make clear that all parents have the right to defer admission as set out in paragraph 2.17 of the Code. For the avoidance of doubt, where parents decide to defer the entry of their child in accordance with this paragraph this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

b. The arrangements for this school do not explain that parents of summer born children have a right to defer entry to Reception. They describe this right for children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027, but then proceed to explain admission outside of the normal year group for summer born children. The arrangements are required to make clear that all parents have the right to defer admission as set out in paragraph 2.17 of the Code, including for those children who are summer born. For the avoidance of doubt, where parents decide to defer the entry of their child in accordance with this paragraph this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

c. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code requires that admission arrangements make it clear that all parents have the right for their child to attend school part-time until they reach compulsory school age. The arrangements may imply that the right to part-

time attendance in Reception only applies to summer born children, which is incorrect. At the very least, the arrangements are insufficiently clear.

d. It is confusing that the rights to deferred and part-time entry for summer born children are set out separately. Parents of any child have a right to defer their child's entry until the child reaches compulsory school age or to the beginning of the summer term, if earlier, and for their child to attend part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Where parents decide to exercise these rights this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

e. The process for making an application for a child to be admitted out of the normal year group are clearer than many of the other arrangements we have considered but nevertheless are insufficiently detailed to comply with paragraph 2.18 of the Code. The arrangements need to set out the process as we have described above.

Admission Outside Normal Age Group Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the Headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal. The right of appeal only applies to chronological age group admissions.

f. The arrangements do not set out in sufficient detail or with sufficient clarity the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group. Although there is some detail set out in the section of the arrangements entitled 'Admission arrangements to Reception Year in September 2026' a parent reading this paragraph would not know that the common application form (CAF) should be sent to the local authority whereas the application for admission outside of the relevant year group should be made to the admission authority, what the admission authority must take into account or any of the other important implications, such as that approval of the request for admission outside of the normal age group does not guarantee a place in Reception the following year.

g. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) appears to be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code. Whilst the views of the head teacher will indeed be a relevant factor in determining whether it is in the best interests of a child

to be admitted outside of their normal year group, there are a range of other factors which admission authorities must consider.

h. The governors have no right to approach professionals themselves to obtain evidence, or to discuss an individual child for whom an application has been made, without the explicit consent of the parents. To do so would be an infringement of the child's privacy rights.

St Luke's CofE Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, and those with prior written agreement from the Headteacher to defer their place under Summer-Born admission rules, may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 45 places available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday) The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27) although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer-born children), who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026-27, but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027, should proceed as follows. They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026. The Local Authority requires written confirmation from the Headteacher or their representative that they have agreed for a child to be educated out of year group, so any decision on summer-born deferrals needs to be sent through to the LA, in writing, by the parent, together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 20271 . NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and, if it is agreed, this should be clear before the national offer day (17 April 2026), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2027) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a

place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the 2026-27 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2026 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher. At St. Luke's CE School 'part time' is understood to be either 5 mornings or 5 afternoons.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place.

The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. There right of appeal only applies to chronological age group admissions.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Burchetts Green CofE Infants' School applies to this school.

Blewbury Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026.

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 25 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold

the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026/27 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027 should proceed as follows: They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2027. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and, if it is agreed, this should be clear before the national offer day (13 April 2026), and their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2026) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies, and it could be full with children transferring from the 2025/26 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2026 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group.

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Burchetts Green CofE Infants' School applies to this school. In addition:

b. The parents of a child born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021 may have chosen to have their child start school in September 2026 as provided by the Code and requested that the child be admitted to Year R rather than to Year 1. If the request was agreed, the parent would need to apply for a Year R place for September 2026. In stating that parents of children "born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026" the arrangements fail accurately to set out the position of such children.

Tyndale Community School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 60 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026/7 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027 should proceed as follows: They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2027. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and, if it is agreed, this should be clear before the national offer day (17 April 2026), and their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2027) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is

refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2026/7 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2026 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Blewbury Church of England Primary School applies to this school.

The Blake Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our School, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September - 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 60 places available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may request that their child is not admitted until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold any deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up

during the school year 2026/27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer- born children), who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026-27, but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027, should proceed as follows. They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2027.

NB parents would need to provide strong supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. If their request is agreed, and this should be clear before the national offer day (17 April 2026), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered and they should reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2026) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any offer of a place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the 2026-27 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2026 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply. Until the child reaches compulsory school age, parents may also request that s/he attends part-time. In such cases, detailed arrangements should be discussed with the headteacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such missions **[sic]** will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Blewbury Church of England Primary School applies to this school.

Dr Radcliffe's Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday.

Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021, and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 30 places (the published admission number "PAN") available. Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may request that their child is not admitted until later in the school year (no later than the term [using three term year] after the child's fifth birthday, when s/he reaches compulsory school age). The school will hold any deferred place for the child, although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer-born children), whose parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026-27, but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027, should proceed as follows. They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the reception year in September 2027. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. If their request is agreed, and this should be clear before the national offer day (16 April 2026) their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered and they should reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2027) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any offer of a place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring from the 2026-27 Reception Year group.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, parents may also request that s/he attends part-time. In such cases, detailed arrangements should be discussed with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g., for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Blewbury Church of England Primary School applies to this school.

Deddington Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 30 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.
The governors have made every effort to comply with all relevant statutory provisions, including those relating to class sizes and equal opportunities and with all mandatory provisions of the School Admissions Code 2021.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026 / 27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31 August 2027 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2027, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026 / 27 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027 should proceed as follows:

• They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2027. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible.
• The school will consider the request carefully and, if it is agreed, this should be clear before the national offer day and their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered.
• They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2026) for a Reception place in September 2027.
• If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2026 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027.
• Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2026 / 27 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.
• Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher. Parents (see Note 1) wishing to apply for the Reception Year in September 2026 must complete the common application form provided by their home local authority (the home LA). The home LA is the LA in whose area the parents live at the time of the application.

Parents (see Note 1) wishing to apply for the Reception Year in September 2026 must complete the common application form provided by their home local authority (the home LA). The home LA is the LA in whose area the parents live at the time of the application. Applications received after the cut-off date will normally only be considered after all those received on or before the cut-off date Offers and refusals of places will be sent by the home LA in April 2026.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Blewbury Church of England Primary School applies to this school.

Burford Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At Burford Primary School, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September- 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2021 and 31st August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 20 places (the published admission number) available.

The PAN only applies to Reception year. This means that admission authorities may not refuse admission to other age groups on the grounds that they have already reached their PAN. They may, however, refuse admission where the admission of another child would prejudice the provision of efficient education or efficient use of resources.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31st August 2027 (Summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2026, parents who do not wish them to start in school year 2026/27 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2027 should proceed as follows: They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2027. Please note, parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the Head Teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and if it is agreed this should be clear before national offer day (April 2026), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than January 2027) for a Reception place in September 2027. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for another offer of a place in September 2026 (Please note, this will still be subject to the oversubscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the summer

term 2027 for a Year 1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2026/27 Reception Year group.
Until the child reaches compulsory school age, they may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Admission outside normal age group

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the Head Teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Blewbury Church of England Primary School applies to this school. In addition:

b. The arrangements state that summer born children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31st August 2027 reach compulsory school age in September 2026. This is not correct.

Northbourne Church of England Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At Northbourne, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1st September – 31st August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose children were born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026. There are 45 places available. Our policy is not to offer admission in September 2026 to children born on or after 1st September 2022.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1st September 2026 and 31st March 2027 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2027-

28), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1st April 2027 and 31st August 2027 (summer-born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2026, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2026-27, but to be admitted to the Reception year in September 2027 for school year 2027-28, should proceed as follows. They should apply at the usual time for a space in September 2026 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in 2027. Parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the headteacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and if it is agreed this should be clear before the national offer day, as their application for the normal year group will need to be withdrawn before this space is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15th January 2027) for a Reception Year place in September 2027. If the request is refused the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2026 (which will still be made in line with the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the summer term 2027 for a Y1 place in September 2027. Parents should be aware that the Y1 group may have no vacancies as it could be full with children transferring in the 2026-27 Reception year group. Agreement by the school in 2026 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2027 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, parents may also request that s/he attends part-time. Such arrangements should be discussed with the headteacher following allocation of places through the Local Authority. Generally, we find it beneficial for children – socially, emotionally and academically - to start school full-time as quickly as possible after the start of the school year.

<u>Admission outside normal age group</u>

Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, for example, related to those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the pupil's interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors will ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that, if a place in the requested age group is refused but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The analysis that we have provided for the arrangements for Blewbury Church of England Primary School applies to this school. In addition:

b. The arrangements state that summer born children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2027 and 31st August 2027 reach compulsory school age in September 2026. This is not correct.

c. The arrangements state that parents may “request” part-time attendance. As we have set out, until a child is of compulsory school age part-time attendance is a right and consequently does not need to be requested. The arrangements also seem to discourage both part-time attendance and deferred entry, stating that, “Generally, we find it beneficial for children – socially, emotionally and academically - to start school full-time as quickly as possible after the start of the school year.”

St Peter’s Church of England Middle School

Allocation of places within criteria

. . . Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances. However, such admissions will not normally be agreed without a consensus that to do so would be in the student’s interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the Headteacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion on the case. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

a. The arrangements do not set out in sufficient detail or with sufficient clarity the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group. A parent reading this paragraph would not know when or how to make such an application, what the admission authority must take into account or any of the other important implications, such as that approval of the request for admission outside of the normal age group does not guarantee a place in Year 3 the following year. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) appears to be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code. Whilst the views of the head teacher will indeed be a relevant factor in determining whether it is in the best interests of a child to be admitted outside of their normal year group, there are a range of other factors which admission authorities must consider.

b. The governors have no right to approach professionals themselves to obtain evidence, or to discuss an individual child for whom an application has been made,

without the explicit consent of the parents. To do so would be an infringement of the child's privacy rights.

The Hendreds Church of England School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday. Parents whose child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2026/27), although children may benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022 (summer born children) parents can defer the date that their child is admitted to school but not beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right, they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

Delayed admission to reception

Parents who are offered a place for their child in the reception class may defer the date they are admitted, or arrange for them to attend part-time, until they reach compulsory school age. Places cannot be deferred beyond the beginning of the final term of the school year for which the offer was made. Children reach compulsory school age on the prescribed day following their fifth birthday, or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day. The prescribed days are 31 August, 31 December and 31 March.

a. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code states that admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday and sets out the rights of parents to defer admission. Whilst it may be correct that the majority

of children start school at the beginning of the school year in which they reach their fifth birthday, we are concerned that the arrangements state that this is 'normal'. When read alongside the statement in the arrangements that children benefit, or may benefit, from starting at the beginning of the school year rather than part way through it, it could be said that the arrangements discourage parents from exercising their right to defer admission. The arrangements are required to make clear that all parents, including parents of children who are summer born, have the right to defer admission into Reception where this is the normal year of entry and should not seek to deter parents from exercising this right.

b. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code requires that admission arrangements make it clear that all parents have the right for their child to attend school part-time until they reach compulsory school age. The arrangements may imply that the right to part-time attendance in Reception only applies to summer born children, which is incorrect. At the very least, the arrangements are insufficiently clear.

c. It is confusing that the rights to deferred and part-time entry for summer born children are set out separately. Parents of any child have a right to defer their child's entry until the child reaches compulsory school age or to the beginning of the summer term, if earlier, and for their child to attend part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Where parents decide to exercise these rights this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

d. The arrangements do not make clear the rights of a parent of a summer born child to delay entry until the September following the child's fifth birthday, when child is the right age to join Year 1, and to apply for a place in that year group. Neither do they make it clear that admission out of normal age group to Reception (rather than Year 1) may be requested for a summer born child and, if this is approved, parents must make an application for a place in Reception in the normal round for admissions in that year.

e. The provisions in respect of summer born children need to be cross referenced to the provisions in the arrangements relating to admission outside of the normal age group. Without such a cross reference, this section on its own gives the impression that summer born children must start school before the end of Reception year following the child's fourth birthday, whereas they are not required to do so until the September of the following school year in which case they would normally be admitted to Year 1 unless a successful application is made for admission outside the normal year group.

f. The parents of a child born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021 may have chosen to have their child start school in September 2026 as provided by the Code and requested that the child be admitted to Year R rather than to Year 1. If the

request was agreed, the parent would need to apply for a Year R place for September 2026. In stating that parents of children "born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026" the arrangements fail accurately to set out the position of such children.

g. The arrangements refer to children "whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2022" and those "whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2022 and 31 August 2022". These dates are clearly incorrect; it appears that dates of birth rather than the dates of fifth birthdays have been used.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request their child is admitted outside their normal age group. Please read the DFE's Advice on the Admission of Summer Born Children. Parents who wish to do so should include a request with their application, specifying the year group to which they wish their child to be admitted and why they believe it would be in their best interests. The academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the child's best interests, taking into account the views of the Headteacher and any information provided by the parent. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

h. The arrangements do not set out in sufficient detail or with sufficient clarity the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group. A parent reading this paragraph would not know when or how to make such an application, what the admission authority must take into account or any of the other important implications, such as that approval of the request for admission outside of the normal age group does not guarantee a place in Reception the following year. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) appears to be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code. Whilst the views of the head teacher will indeed be a relevant factor in determining whether it is in the best interests of a child to be admitted outside of their normal year group, there are a range of other factors which admission authorities must consider. We also note that whilst an admission authority may wish to signpost parents to the DfE guidance in respect of summer born children, this cannot be in lieu of setting out, in the arrangements, information which the Code requires.

i. The governors have no right to approach professionals themselves to obtain evidence, or to discuss an individual child for whom an application has been made,

without the explicit consent of the parents. To do so would be an infringement of the child's privacy rights.

All Saints Church of England Junior School

Admission outside normal age group
Requests from parents for places outside a normal age group will be considered carefully, e.g. for those who have missed education due to ill health. Each case will be considered on its own merits and circumstances and a decision made based on what is in the pupil's best interests. It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governors may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal. The Local Authority requires written confirmation from the Headteacher or their representative that they have agreed for a child to be educated out of year group, so any decision on out of year group admissions needs to be sent through to RBWM, in writing, by the parent. As well, there is no right of appeal for pupils asking to be educated out of year group. Right of appeal only exists when appealing for admission to their chronological age group. The school's decision to accept a pupil out of year group is final.

a. The arrangements do not set out in sufficient detail or with sufficient clarity the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group. A parent reading this paragraph would not know when or how to make such an application, what the admission authority must take into account or any of the other important implications, such as that approval of the request for admission outside of the normal age group does not guarantee a place in Year 3 the following year. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) appears to be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code. Whilst the views of the head teacher will indeed be a relevant factor in determining whether it is in the best interests of a child to be admitted outside of their normal year group, there are a range of other factors which admission authorities must consider.

b. The governors have no right to approach professionals themselves to obtain evidence, or to discuss an individual child for whom an application has been made, without the explicit consent of the parents. To do so would be an infringement of the child's privacy rights.

Datchet St Mary's CofE Primary School

Admission arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

At our school, pupils are normally admitted at the beginning of the school year (1 September – 31 August) in which they reach their fifth birthday.

Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2024. There are 30 places (the published admission number or PAN) available.

Parents of a child whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2024 and 31 March 2025 may defer entry until their child reaches compulsory school age (the term beginning in January or April after his or her fifth birthday). The school will hold the deferred place for the child (provided it is taken up during the school year 2025/26), although, in the majority of cases, we find that children benefit from starting at the beginning of the school year, rather than part way through it.

For children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2026 and 31 August 2026 (summer born children) who do not reach compulsory school age until September 2026, parents who do not wish them to start school in school year 2025/26 but to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2026 should proceed as follows: They should apply at the usual time for a place in September 2025 together with a written request that the child is admitted outside his or her normal age group to the Reception year in September 2026. NB parents would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and, if it is agreed, this should be clear before the national offer day (17 April 2025), and their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. They should then reapply in the normal way (no later than 15 January 2025) for a Reception place in September 2026. If their request is refused, the parents must decide whether to wait for any other offer of a place in September 2023 (NB it will still be subject to the over-subscription criteria below) or to withdraw their application and apply in the second half of the of the summer term 2025 for a Year 1 place in September 2026. Parents should be aware that the Year 1 group may have no vacancies and it could be full with children transferring from the 2026/27 Reception Year group. NB agreement by the school in 2025 to defer does not guarantee a place in September 2026 – the normal over-subscription criteria apply.

Until the child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the head teacher.

a. The arrangements which the Trust provided for this school are in draft form. All admission authorities are required, as specified in paragraph 1.49 of the Code, to determine their admission arrangements by 28 February in the determination year.

This means that arrangements for 2026 should have been determined by 28 February 2025.

b. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code states that admission authorities must provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday and sets out the rights of parents to defer admission. Whilst it may be correct that the majority of children start school at the beginning of the school year in which they reach their fifth birthday, we are concerned that the arrangements state that this is 'normal'. When read alongside the statement in the arrangements that children benefit, or may benefit, from starting at the beginning of the school year rather than part way through it, it could be said that the arrangements discourage parents from exercising their right to defer admission. The arrangements are required to make clear that all parents, including parents of children who are summer born, have the right to defer admission into Reception where this is the normal year of entry and should not seek to deter parents from exercising this right.

c. The arrangements for this school do not explain that parents of summer born children have a right to defer entry to Reception. They describe this right for children whose fifth birthday falls between 1 September 2026 and 31 March 2027 only, but then proceed to explain admission outside of the normal year group for summer born children.

d. The arrangements are required to make clear that all parents have the right to defer admission as set out in paragraph 2.17 of the Code, including for those children who are summer born. For the avoidance of doubt, where parents decide to defer the entry of their child in accordance with this paragraph this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

e. Paragraph 2.17 of the Code requires that admission arrangements make it clear that all parents have the right for their child to attend school part-time until they reach compulsory school age. The arrangements may imply that the right to part-time attendance in Reception only applies to summer born children, which is incorrect. At the very least, the arrangements are insufficiently clear.

f. It is confusing that the rights to deferred and part-time entry for summer born children are set out separately. Parents of any child have a right to defer their child's entry until the child reaches compulsory school age or to the beginning of the summer term, if earlier, and for their child to attend part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age. Where parents decide to exercise these rights this cannot be denied; the admission authority has no discretion in this matter.

g. The arrangements state that summer born children "whose fifth birthday falls between 1 April 2026 and 31 August 2026 (summer born children)", do not reach compulsory school age "until September 2026". In respect of arrangements for 2026,

both the dates stated for the fifth birthdays of summer born children, and the compulsory school age of such children, are incorrect.

h. The arrangements state, “Parents whose children were born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020 may apply for them to be admitted to the Reception Year in September 2024”. This includes incorrect birthdates, the incorrect year of admission and does not set out accurately the position of a child born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021 for whom deferred entry to Reception in 2026 has been agreed.

i. There are a number of other instances in the arrangements of dates that are both incorrect and contradictory, including the deadline for applications.

Admission of children outside their normal age group

Parents may request their child is admitted outside their normal age group. Please read the DFE’s Advice on the Admission of Summer Born Children. Parents who wish to do so should include a request with their application, specifying the year group to which they wish their child to be admitted and why they believe it would be in their best interests. The academy trust will make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the child’s best interests, taking into account the views of the Headteacher and any information provided by the parent.
It is recommended that parents discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. The governing board may ask relevant professionals for their opinion. If a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

j. The arrangements do not set out in sufficient detail or with sufficient clarity the process for requesting admission outside of the normal age group. A parent reading this paragraph would not know when or how to make such an application, what the admission authority must take into account or any of the other important implications, such as that approval of the request for admission outside of the normal age group does not guarantee a place in Reception the following year. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) appears to be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code. Whilst the views of the head teacher will indeed be a relevant factor in determining whether it is in the best interests of a child to be admitted outside of their normal year group, there are a range of other factors which admission authorities must consider. We also note that whilst an admission authority may wish to signpost parents to the DfE guidance in respect of summer born

children, this cannot be in lieu of setting out, in the arrangements, information which the Code requires.

k. The governors have no right to approach professionals themselves to obtain evidence, or to discuss an individual child for whom an application has been made, without the explicit consent of the parents. To do so would be an infringement of the child's privacy rights.

New Town Primary School

Cohort

Applications for children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022 will be considered for admission to a reception class 2026-2027 as part of the 2026/2027 routine admission round.

Admission of children outside the normal age to New Town Primary School

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group, for example, if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than Year One in September 2027.

The governing body as the Admission Authority will consider each case individually and make a decision in every case that is in the best interest of the child, taking into account:

- The parents/carers' views
- Information about the child's academic, social and emotional development from their current setting
- The child's medical history and the views of a medical professional (where relevant)
- Whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if they had not been born prematurely

In each case the Headteacher will be consulted and their views will be taken into account.

Where the request is for a summer born child to start school in a reception class in September 2027, then the parents/carers' reasons will be carefully considered and if

they are confident it is in the best interest of their child to start school for the first time when they are five then this will be the deciding factor if the other evidence is balanced. In circumstances where professionals have significant concerns the request may not be approved.

To request a child's admission is delayed, to start in September 2027 parents/carers must apply in writing giving their reasons and supply any supporting documents i.e. information from their child's education setting or medical evidence. At the same time, they are recommended to make an application for a reception place, in the normal way to the Local Authority for September 2026 by 15 January 2026 so that the application can be forwarded to the headteacher for consideration. Note that this approval is for a place at New Town school but does not guarantee a place at the school. The normal oversubscription criteria, as cited below, will apply.

a. The parents of a child born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021 may have chosen to defer admission to September 2026 as provided by the Code and requested that the child be admitted to Year R rather than to Year 1. If the request was agreed, the parent would need to apply for a Year R place for September 2026. In stating that parents of children "Applications for children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022 will be considered for admission to a reception class 2026-2027 as part of the 2026/2027 routine admission round" the arrangements fail accurately to set out the position of such children.

b. The process for making an application for a child to be admitted out of the normal year group is much clearer than many of the other arrangements we have considered. Nevertheless, some additional detail is required to comply with paragraph 2.18 of the Code. The arrangements need to set out the process as we have described above.

Deferring a Place

There is a legal requirement to offer a full-time place to every child whose parents wish to take up that option from the September following a child's fourth birthday. Places offered in a Reading school are on a full-time basis from September 2026 as a "rising 5" admission. Children do not need to be in statutory education until the September, January or April after their fifth birthday. When children are offered "rising 5" places, parent/carers may defer the place until January 2027 or April 2027 or until their child reaches statutory school age whichever is earlier, but may not defer after April 2027 as admissions beyond that are in the next school year. Parents will then need to re-apply for a place in Year 1, which may not have any places because the places will have been allocated to children in the previous year as part of the routine admissions round.

Part Time Admissions

If parents/carers consider it is in their child's best interest to attend school on a part-time basis their request will be considered. If parents choose this option, they cannot insist on part-time provision that is individually tailored to their needs. They will be offered a minimum of 15 hours spread over every morning or similar depending on what meets the school's needs. Parents/carers must discuss this with the Headteacher to agree the best arrangements.

c. The arrangements state that parents may "request" part-time attendance. As we have set out, such attendance is a right and consequently does not need to be requested. The arrangements do not make this clear or specify, as required by the Code, that children may attend part-time but not beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age.

New Christ Church Church of England Primary School

Admissions arrangements to the Reception Year in September 2026

Applications for children born between 1-9-2021 and 31-8-2022 will be considered for admission to a reception class in 2026-2027 as part of the routine admission round. The PAN for NCC is 30 places.

Admission of children outside the normal age to New Christ Church C.E. Primary School

Parents may seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group. In addition, the parents of a summer born child may choose not to send that child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – i.e. to reception rather than year 1 in September 2027 through the offset application form as part of Reading School Admissions Team.

Parents/carers would need to provide supporting reasons for seeking a place outside the normal age group and should discuss the position with the head teacher as early as possible. The school will consider the request carefully and if it is agreed this should be clear before the national offer day (16 April 2026), their application for the normal age group may be withdrawn before any place is offered. It is recommended that parents/carers discuss their wishes with the head teacher in advance of applying for a place. It should be noted that if a place in the requested age group is refused, but one in the normal age group is offered, then there is no right of appeal.

The governing body as the Admission Authority will consider each case individually and make a decision in every case that is in the best interest of the child, taking into account:
- the parents'/carers' views;
- information about the child's academic, social and emotional development from their current setting;
- the child's medical history and the views of a medical professional (where relevant);
- whether they have previously been educated out of their normal age group;
- whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if they had not been born prematurely.

a. The parents of a child born between 1 April 2021 and 31 August 2021 may have chosen to defer admission to September 2026 as provided by the Code and requested that the child be admitted to Year R rather than to Year 1. If the request was agreed, the parent would need to apply for a Year R place for September 2026. In stating that parents of children "Applications for children born between 1-9-2021 and 31-8-2022 will be considered for admission to a reception class in 2026-2027 as part of the routine admission round" the arrangements fail accurately to set out the position of such children.

b. The process for making an application for a child to be admitted out of the normal year group is much clearer than many of the other arrangements we have considered. Nevertheless, some additional detail is required to comply with paragraph 2.18 of the Code. The arrangements need to set out the process as we have described above. The suggested discussion with the head teacher (which may be good practice) cannot be a proxy for setting out the process in the arrangements as is required by paragraph 2.18 of the Code.

c. The arrangements state that the governing body is the admission authority. As the Trust is the admission authority for all its schools, this is incorrect.

d. The arrangements state that a request for admission out of the normal age group for a summer born child should be made "through the offset application form as part of Reading School Admissions Team." The arrangements do not make it clear where such a form may be obtained. It is also not clear why a local authority form is relevant in respect of a decision that must be made by the admission authority.

<u>Deferring a Place</u>

There is a legal requirement to offer a full-time place to every child whose parents wish to take up that option from the September following a child's fourth birthday. Places offered in a Reading school are on a full-time basis from September as a "rising 5" admission. Children do not need to be in statutory education until the

September, January or April after their fifth birthday. When children are offered “rising 5” places, parent/carers may defer the place until January or April of that admission year or until their child reaches statutory school age whichever is earlier, but may not defer after April as admissions beyond that are in the next school year. Parents will then need to re-apply for a place in Year 1, which may not have any places because the places will have been allocated to children in the previous year as part of the routine admissions round. Do remember that full-time actually means full-time from day one in Reception.

Part Time Admissions

Until a child reaches compulsory school age, s/he may attend part-time. If parents wish to exercise this right they should discuss detailed arrangements with the headteacher.

e. Although the arrangements say that a child may attend part-time until they reach compulsory school age, they do not make clear that this is a right. Furthermore, the statements “Places... are on a full-time basis” and “Do remember that full-time actually means full-time from day one in Reception” imply that children must attend school full time, whereas this is not the case until the child reaches compulsory school age.

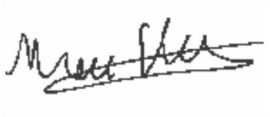
Determination

42. We have considered the admission arrangements for September 2026 for the schools within the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust in accordance with section 88I(5) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. We find that the admission arrangements for each of those schools do not conform fully with the admissions law requirements relating to deferred and part-time entry to Reception and admission of children outside their normal year group. The arrangements will, therefore, need to be revised.

43. By virtue of section 88K(2) the adjudicators’ decision is binding on the admission authority. The School Admissions Code requires the admission authority to revise its admission arrangements within two months of the date of the determination unless an alternative timescale is specified by the adjudicator. In this case, we specify that the arrangements must be revised before the 31 January deadline for primary, infant and junior school applications.

Dated: 17 December 2025

Signed:



Schools Adjudicators: Jennifer Gamble

Marisa Vallely

Appendix A: Publication of admission arrangements for 2026

Schools for which admission arrangements were not published

Datchet St Mary's CofE Primary School
Tyndale Community School
Wheatley Church of England Primary School
Grove Church of England School
St Christopher's Church of England School
Bampton CofE Primary School
Leafield Church of England Primary School
Wroxton Church of England Primary School
Kidmore End Church of England Primary School
North Hinksey Church of England Primary School
St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Banbury
St Laurence Church of England School
All Saints Church of England Junior School
St Francis Church of England Primary School
The Hendreds Church of England School