

Deferring Entry to Reception – Procedure (North Tyneside)

1. Purpose

To outline the process for managing parental requests to defer a child's entry to Reception, in line with North Tyneside Council admissions arrangements and the School Admissions Code.

2. Scope

This procedure applies to:

- All children offered a Reception place in the normal admissions round
 - Parents wishing to delay their child's start **within the same academic year**
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3. Legal Framework

- Children are entitled to a full-time Reception place in the September following their 4th birthday [[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)]
 - Parents have the right to:
 - Defer entry
 - Request part-time attendance
 - Compulsory school age is reached in the **term after the child's 5th birthday** [[localgover...wyer.co.uk](https://www.localgover...wyer.co.uk)]
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4. Procedure

4.1 Application

- Parents must apply for a Reception place via **North Tyneside Council admissions** in the normal admissions round.
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4.2 Offer and acceptance

- Parents must **accept the offered school place** to retain it.
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4.3 Request to defer

- Parents notify the school (in writing or via meeting) that they wish to:
 - Defer their child's start date
 - This is a **parental right**, not a request requiring approval.
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4.4 School responsibilities

The school must:

- Confirm receipt of the deferral request
 - Agree a start date with the parent
 - **Hold the place open** until the child starts
 - Record the pupil as expected to start later in the academic year
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4.5 Start date options

Children may start:

- Spring term (January), or
 - Summer term (after Easter)
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4.6 Legal limits

- Deferral:
 - Must not extend beyond **compulsory school age**
 - Must not extend beyond the **start of the final term of the school year** [\[twinkltrust.org\]](https://www.twinkltrust.org)
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4.7 Part-time attendance

- Parents may request part-time attendance:
 - Instead of, or alongside, deferral
 - This must be accommodated by the school until compulsory school age.
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5. Key considerations

- The child remains in their **chronological age group**
 - The child will transfer to **Year 1 at the usual time**
 - Deferring may result in a **reduced time in Reception**
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6. Distinction from delayed entry

- Deferring entry:
 - Start delayed within the same academic year
 - Delayed entry:
 - Starting Reception a year later (age 5)
 - Requires a **formal request to the admission authority**
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7. Further information

- North Tyneside Council:
[Guide to school admissions](#)