

Applying to start Primary School, 2026

Information about Summer born children and deferred entry to school.

In response to the Department for Education (DfE) guidance and the statutory requirements in the School Admissions Code, Enfield Council has updated its admissions guidance to address the options available to parents of summer born children (those born between 1 April and 31 August). This information covers the most frequently asked questions in relation to starting school.

When will my child reach statutory school age?

Children must be receiving full-time education by the start of the term following their fifth birthday.

- Children born between 1 September and 31 December reach compulsory school age on 31 December and must be receiving full-time education at the start of the Spring term (i.e. after the Christmas holidays, in January).
- Children born between 1 January and 31 March reach compulsory school age on 31 March and must be receiving full-time education by the start of the Summer Term (i.e. after the Easter holidays, in March or April)
- Children born between 1 April and 31 August reach compulsory school age on 31 August and must therefore be receiving full-time education at the start of the new school year (i.e. after the summer holidays, in September).

When do I need to apply for my child's school place?

Date of Birth	Start School	Application Period
1 Sept 2021 – 31 Aug 2022	Sept 2026	Sep 2025 – 15 Jan 2026
1 Sept 2022 – 31 Aug 2023	Sept 2027	Sep 2026 – 15 Jan 2027
1 Sept 2023 – 31 Aug 2024	Sept 2028	Sep 2027 – 15 Jan 2028
1 Sept 2024 – 31 Aug 2025	Sept 2029	Sep 2028 – 15 Jan 2029

What options do I have available?

In Enfield, children can start in the September following their fourth birthday. Parents of non-compulsory school age children (*four-year-olds*) can ask for part-time attendance or delay if that best meets the needs of their child. Parents will be offered the opportunity for their child to:

- start Reception in September on a full-time basis from their first day of attendance or on a part-time basis up to the point of reaching compulsory school age.
- delay 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 summer term of the school year for which the offer of the school place was made.

And for **summer born children** (those born between 1 April and 31 August) only:

- defer their child's entry to school by a whole year until they reach compulsory school age and be admitted to Reception rather than Year 1 with their chronological peers. This means that a summer born child would not start school at all during the academic year after their fourth birthday. Details on the process for seeking approval for deferring a child's admission are provided below.

What do I need to do to arrange for my summer born child's admission to be deferred for a whole year?

Before deciding to ask to defer your child's admission, you should contact the school(s) you are interested in applying for. They will be able to explain the provision on offer to children in Reception Year, and how they meet the needs of summer born children throughout their time at school. They may also be able to allay any concerns that you may have about your child's readiness for school.

If you still wish to defer your child's admission to school, you must get approval **from the admission authority** of each school you wish to apply for. They will then contact the Co-ordinated Admissions Authority to confirm whether they are prepared to defer entry for your summer born child. The admission authority for each type of school is shown below:

Type of School	Admission Authority for the School
Academy/Free School	Academy Trust
Community	Local Authority
Foundation	Governing Body
Voluntary Aided	Governing Body
Voluntary Controlled	Local Authority

You can find out the school's status on the school's website.

Enfield Council is the admission authority for all community schools in Enfield. You will need to write to the Enfield Schools Admission Service to request deferred admission. For other schools in Enfield or for those outside Enfield, you will need to contact the individual schools directly to make your request to defer your child's admission.

As well as asking for approval for your request to defer, you should make an application as part of the main admission round for the year group that your child would normally be admitted to school. This must be submitted by the closing date of 15th January. Wherever possible, you should also make your application for

deferment by 15th January. A deferral request form is available on the council website to enable you to do this.

All information, including any preferences you make, must be submitted by you to the Local Authority by the required dates. The Primary Information booklet can be found on Enfield's website www.enfield.gov.uk/admissions and has details of the admission arrangements for schools in Enfield as well as information about the pattern of admissions for community schools.

Each child's circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis, and a decision will be made in the best interests of the child. For your information, the Admission Authority will seek the views of the headteacher of the school(s) concerned.

If you have made your application by the required date, we aim to let you have a response by the 30 March of the offer year, setting out clearly the reasons for the decision.

- **If your request to defer is approved**, you can simply withdraw your application for the normal age group. You will then need to make a new application as part of the main admission round for the following year. At the moment, you will need to request a paper application as you cannot make an online application if your child will be out of their chronological year group.
- **If your request to defer is refused**, your application will be considered for the normal year group. You will need to decide whether to accept the offer of a place for the normal age group, or to refuse it and make an in-year application for admission to Year 1 for the September following the child's fifth birthday.

Do I need to provide medical evidence or reports from an educational psychologist?

You will already have considered the social and emotional development of your child when considering whether to ask to defer your child's entry to school. You may provide evidence in support of your request, such as letters from pre-school, nurseries or other professionals involved with your child if you wish but it is not an essential requirement.

Will all schools agree to my summer born child deferring for a year?

Not necessarily. One admission authority is not required to honour a decision made by another admission authority. It is important, therefore, that you seek approval to defer your child's admission at *all* of your preferred schools.

Am I guaranteed a place for my summer born child?

Any agreement to defer your child's admission to Reception does not guarantee a place at the preferred school, nor does it provide any additional priority for a place. Your application to the school will be considered alongside all other applications in accordance with the school's published admission criteria.

We can however, guarantee that your child will be given a school place. If we cannot offer any of your preferred schools, you will be allocated a Reception place at the nearest school with a vacancy that is able to admit a deferred child.

Can I appeal?

Parents who are refused a place at a school for which they have applied have the right of appeal to an independent appeal panel. As the purpose of the appeals process is to consider whether a child should be admitted to a particular school, parents do not have a right of appeal if they have been offered a place and it is not in the year group they would like.

However, they may make a complaint about an admission authority's decision not to admit their child outside their normal age group either using the Local Authority's complaints procedure (for Community and Controlled Schools) or the school's complaints procedures for *Academies, Aided, Foundation or Trust Schools*. For schools outside of Enfield, parents need to contact the school directly for information on their complaint's procedure.

What happens when my summer born child transfers to the next level of schooling (either to junior school or secondary school)?

Ideally, your child will remain with the cohort they have been taught with, but this is not guaranteed: at each point of transfer, your request to defer will need to be reassessed. Therefore, when your child's natural cohort are applying to transfer to junior or secondary school, you will need to contact to the headteacher of your preferred school(s) to obtain their agreement to continue your child's deferment. If agreed, you would then apply the following academic year (when the other children in your child's class are applying to transfer).

Does deferring my summer born child's admission impact on when my child can leave school?

Children reach school leaving age on the last Friday of June in the school year they turn 16.

Your child will reach school leaving age at the end of year 10, rather than year 11. The school will not ask them to leave, but they will no longer be required by law to attend school, and the school may not be able to enforce their attendance. Children usually take their GCSEs in year 11.

Pupils attending mainstream provision can be funded to the end of the academic year in which they are 19 years old. A child who is behind his or her chronological age group and is starting their post-16 studies at the age of 17 would be funded for the entirety of their programme.

My child is a summer born child and started in Reception Year this year but is struggling. What should I do?

You must speak to your child's school about your concerns. Together with the school, you may consider schooling on a part-time basis or defer their entry until the Summer Term. As we have already processed your application, you may not apply for a reception place for the following year.

Department for Education guidance for parents

This is a link to the Department for Education's guidance [Summer born children starting school: advice for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/summer-born-children-starting-school-advice-for-parents)

I'm still not clear, who can I contact?

Please contact staff within Enfield Schools Admission Service
esas@enfield.gov.uk

Autumn Term 2025