

Banister Primary

Policy relating to requests for admission outside the normal age group

Parents are entitled to request a place for their child outside of their normal age group.

Decisions on requests for admission outside the normal age group will be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case and in the best interests of the child concerned. In accordance with the School Admissions policy, this will include taking account of:

- Parents' 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
- Whether they may naturally have fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely
- The headteacher's views

Wherever possible, requests for admission outside a child's normal age group will be processed as part of the main admissions round. They will be considered on the basis of the admission arrangements laid out within the school's admission policy. Applications will not be treated as a lower priority if parents have made a request for a child to be admitted outside the normal age group.

Parents will always be informed of the reasons for any decision on the year group a child should be admitted to. Parents do not have a right to appeal if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

Deferred entry to Year R

Parents have the right to defer entry for their child until they reach compulsory school age (the beginning of the school term after their child's 5th birthday). Parents can also request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.

Parents of summer-born children, that is children born between 1st April and 31st August may, in addition, choose to send their child to school in the September following their 5th birthday and request that their child is admitted out of their normal age group to Reception year rather than Year 1. Any parent wishing to apply for their summer-born child to start school outside their normal age group must do so by submitting a request in writing to the Governing Body setting out their reasons as to why they feel their child should be admitted outside their normal age group. It is a parent's responsibility to include any supporting evidence.

Applications can be made to the Governing Body at any time, although we aim to have considered all requests before National Offer day (mid-April) to ensure that parents have sufficient time to make an application for their child to start school with their correct age group the following September.

Each decision will be made based on the merits of the case presented. Any decision reached by Banister is only relevant to Banister Primary and no other admission authority is bound by it.

If granted approval for admission outside of the child's normal age range, the parent will need to apply for an out of normal age group admission for a Reception Year place in the following year as part of that years application process (i.e. by the following January).

Parents should be aware that if they are allowed to apply for a place outside their child's normal age group, this is not a guarantee of a place at their preferred school. Their application will be considered along with the other applications made for children in the correct age group for that year and places will be offered strictly according to the admission criteria for the school. If the school to which the parent has applied is unable to offer a place to a child outside their normal age group, neither the Local Authority, or any other admission authority, are under any obligation to honour the agreement made by another admission authority to admit a child to a year group outside the normal age group.

This means that if a parent is unsuccessful in an application outside their child's normal age group, their child could be placed straight into a Year 1 class (their correct age group) at another school resulting in the child missing up to a year of education.

Approved: by Full Governing Body 11 February 2021

Next review: February 2023