



**Schools for  
Every Child**

## **Education of Children outside of their chronological age Guidance**

*We recognize that the educational journey of each child is unique, and there may be exceptional circumstances where it is in the best interest of a pupil to be educated outside of their chronological year group. The decision to decelerate or accelerate a pupil's education by placing them in a different year group is a significant one, and it is not taken lightly. This policy outlines the framework within which such decisions will be made, ensuring they are thoughtful, fair, and tailored to the individual needs of the pupil.*

### **Parental requests:**

In the first instance parents who wish to admit their child to an age group that is not their chronological group must do so in writing to the headteacher of the school. The headteacher will refer to the DfE guidance when making their decision.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission/making-a-request-for-admission-out-of-the-normal-age-group>

You can, if you wish, support your request with information from any professionals involved in your child's care or treatment, such as:

- a speech and language therapist
- an occupational therapist
- a social worker
- a paediatrician
- your child's nursery or childminder

The headteacher will always make their decision based on what, in their opinion, is in the best interests of the child.

When considering requests for a pupil to be placed below (deceleration) or above (acceleration) their chronological age group the following factors will be considered:

- Is the pupil's development significantly below the expected level for their age range?
- Has the pupil experienced problems which have resulted in being out of education for a substantial period of time?
- Has the pupil previously been educated in a different year group from the normal one for their age up until that point?
- Is the pupil remarkably gifted and talented?
- Was the pupil born prematurely and would they have been admitted into the year 'below' if delivered on their due date?
- Is the pupil delayed emotionally and therefore cannot make adequate relationships with their peer group?

It will be important to substantiate a request for education outside of chronological age group with strong evidence. The following should be considered:

- Does the proposed action respond to the educational needs of the pupil based on available evidence?
- Has the proposal the strong support of all parties with a legitimate interest in the pupil's education, including the pupil?
- Has it been clearly demonstrated that the educational progress which could reasonably be expected of the pupil cannot be achieved by remaining with his or her normal age group by making reasonable adjustments?

Schools for Every Child reserves the right to have the final say on all applications to admit a child not in their normal year group- any appeal of the headteacher's decision will be adjudicated (through written submissions) by a panel of 3 professionals, 2 will not be employed by the school being applied for. 2.19 will be followed:

*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.*

## **Unilateral decisions by the headteacher:**

### **Legal Framework and Headteacher's Authority to Educate a pupil outside of their chronological age:**

*Under the statutory provisions set out by the Department for Education (DfE), the headteacher holds the ultimate responsibility for the internal organisation, management, and control of the school. As such, the headteacher is empowered to make decisions regarding the education and placement of pupils within the school. This includes the discretion to place pupils outside their chronological year group when deemed necessary for their educational and social/emotional well-being.*

*In exercising this discretion, the headteacher will operate within the bounds of the relevant statutory frameworks, including but not limited to the Education Act 1996, the Equality Act 2010, and the School Admissions Code. The decision to educate a pupil outside their chronological year group will be made in accordance with these legal obligations and in the best interests of the pupil's comprehensive educational needs.*

### **Criteria for unilateral decisions by the headteacher:**

*The decision-making process will be underpinned by a thorough evaluation of the pupil's educational needs, taking into consideration:*

- *Academic assessments and potential for progress*
- *Emotional, social, and psychological development*
- *Pupil's own perspective, where practicable*
- *Parental or carer views and aspirations*
- *Input from teachers and education professionals*

**Implementation**

*Following a decision to educate a pupil outside their chronological year group, an individual education plan will be created, outlining necessary support structures and resources. This plan will be regularly reviewed and adjusted as required.*

**Appeals**

*Parents/carers have the right to appeal the decision. The appeal must be lodged in writing, and the board will consider the appeal, taking into account all pertinent information and evidence, before issuing a final determination.*

Any appeal of the headteachers decision will be adjudicated (through written submissions) by a panel of 3 professionals, 2 will not be employed by the school being applied for:

*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.*