

Request to defer reception class until September 2020

- Hackney community schools only
- 'Summer-born' children (born between 1 April and 31 August 2015)

Send to: **reception.class@learningtrust.co.uk** or
Admissions and Pupil benefits, Hackney Learning Trust, 1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ

Send by: **15 January 2019** for decision before National Offer Day (16 April 2019)

Child Details	
First name	Surname
Date of birth	Address
Was the child born prematurely? (yes/no)	If yes, what was their due date?
Parent/carer details	
First name	Surname
Email address	Phone number(s)
Reasons for requesting deferred entry	
Please explain why you believe it is in your child's best interests to be educated out of their normal age appropriate cohort. (Please attach additional sheets if you wish or supply your reasons in electronic format)	
I have provided my reasons in a separate document (yes/no)	
Have you attached additional evidence to support your request? (yes/no)	
Signature	Date

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Introduction

In the UK children normally start reception class when they are four years old; This means they turn five during their reception class year. This is a time of significant change for many children and their families.

If your child is born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 they would normally start reception class in September 2019. You must apply before **15 January 2019** even if you wish to delay or defer their start in reception.

If you are concerned about your child starting reception class you should talk to the headteacher of the primary school they will be attending (or the schools you want to apply for). They will explain how the school can support your child as they move to into reception class.

Requesting deferred entry

If your child was 'summer born', i.e. born between 1 April and 31 August 2015, you can request to defer their admission to reception class for a full year. For Hackney community schools Hackney Learning Trust, as the admission authority, will decide whether your request to defer will be agreed. You must complete the attached form and return it to reception.class@learningtrust.co.uk

For all other schools (including academies, free schools, voluntary aided/religious schools and community schools outside Hackney) the decision is made by the academy trust, governing body or local authority (for community schools). You must make your request to defer direct to each school or local authority.

How decisions are made

Decisions for Hackney community schools will be based on your child's individual circumstances including your views and the views of the headteachers of your preferred schools and evidence of your child's social, academic and emotional development.

It is recommended that you provide evidence to support your request from relevant professionals working with your child/family that clearly demonstrate why it is in your child's best interest to be placed outside their normal age appropriate cohort. Without evidence Hackney Learning Trust will be unable to assess your child's individual circumstances.

Hackney Learning Trust place significant weight on the views of the headteacher of each school because they have the best knowledge of their school and how the children starting reception class can be supported. Requests will be granted where the headteacher of every Hackney community school listed on your application form agrees that it is in your child's best interest to be educated outside their normal age appropriate cohort.

How will I be advised the outcome of my request?

If you submit your reception application and your request for deferral by 15 January 2019 you will be advised of the outcome of your request in writing prior to national offer day (16 April 2019).

If your request for deferral is received after 15 January 2019 it is likely you will hear the outcome after national offer day. Additionally, request made at the end of the 2018/2019 academic year or during the summer holiday may not be decided until September 2019.

You will be advised whether your request has been agreed for Hackney community schools. With this information, and the responses you have from academies, free schools, voluntary aided/religious schools and community schools outside Hackney, you will need to decide whether you will withdraw your application for a September 2019 start and reapply in the September 2020 cohort. You will be permitted to apply for Reception once only. Further information about your options will be provided in the decision letter.