

Applying for a place in the Reception School Year – Information for Settings, Childminders and Nursery Classes.

For children to attend a Reception class, parents/carers must apply for a school place, (even if the child is attending the nursery class of the school.) It is important to apply by the **closing date: January 15th, 2022**. Applying on time is likely to maximise the chance of their children being offered a place at one of their preferred schools. If the application is late, this is far less likely to happen.

Please help your families by

- knowing about the school admissions process and where to direct parents www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions. Parents can contact the school admissions team on 0345 241 2487 for a paper application form.
- encouraging your families to find out more about the schools that they are considering. (The online booklet ‘Starting School’ is also available [here](#))
- sharing the admissions poster with parents/carers
- discussing the process and the importance of applying on time
- offering support to your vulnerable families early on and offering any help that is needed.

Deferring an Application: (summer born children only)

Parents/carers who want to defer their application should also submit a ‘normal’ application for their child’s age in case the deferral request is not accepted. If it is accepted, then the ‘normal’ application can be cancelled.

If a parent believes it is in **their child’s best interests** to defer their child’s start in Reception to the following academic year, they may [apply for deferred place](#) at a school stating their reasons.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/defer-reception-application>

Their request needs to be agreed by the admissions authority for each school listed.

If the deferral request is agreed, they may apply for a Reception place in the same school for their child to start the following year. (This is not a guarantee of a place.)

If for any reason, the parents/carers apply to a different school, the deferral process begins again, and their request may or may not be agreed by the new school. This means that the child may start school in Year One, despite the parents’ expressed wishes. For further information see - [Summer Born Children Starting School: Advice for parents](#)