

Applying for a School Place in Reception for September 2021

Information for Settings, Childminders and Nursery Classes

It is important to apply for a school place by the **closing date: January 15th 2021**. 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.) Applying on time maximises the chance of their child 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 i.e. www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions
- encouraging your families to find out more about the schools that they are considering.
- sharing the admissions poster with parents/carers.
- discussing the process and the importance of applying on time.
- offering timely support to any vulnerable families.
- supporting families to apply online. (The postal service is less reliable due to the pandemic and staff have restricted access to County buildings.)

Deferring an Application

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 a deferred place at a school stating their reasons.

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.

<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](#)