

ADMISSION TO YEAR R – CHANGES TO STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FROM SEPTEMBER 2011

With effect from September 2011 the statutory School Admissions Code <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/sacode/> includes the following

Admission of children below compulsory school age

*2.65 For admission to the 2011–12 school year, and subsequent years, admission authorities for primary schools **must** provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday.*

*When determining the arrangements for primary schools the admission authority **must** make it clear that:*

- a) the arrangements do not apply to those being admitted for nursery provision including nursery provision delivered in a co-located children's centre;*
- b) parents of children who are admitted for nursery provision must apply for a place at the school if they want their child to transfer to the reception class;*
- c) attendance at the nursery or co-located children's centre does not guarantee admission to the school;*
- d) parents can request that the date their child is admitted to the school is deferred until later in the school year or until the child reaches compulsory school age in that school year;*
- e) parents can request that their child attends part-time until the child reaches compulsory school age.*

Deferred entry to primary schools

2.69 Admission authorities must allow parents of children who are offered a place at the school before they are of compulsory school age to defer their child's entry until later in the school year. Where entry is deferred, admission authorities must hold the place for that child and not offer it to another child. The parent would not however be able to defer entry beyond the beginning of the term after the child's fifth birthday, nor beyond the academic year for which the original application was accepted. This must be made clear in the admission arrangements for the school.

The key implications for Medway schools are:

- 1) All children must be offered a full time school place (ie: 9am - 3.15pm or equivalent) from the start of the Autumn Term (term 1)
- 2) A school cannot restrict the hours of attendance offered to a part day place for any or all of the school year.

Induction Arrangements

The clear expectation is that all children will start full time school on the first day of term 1 in September.

Virtually all children starting in a school reception class will have attended an early education place for at least one year. Nearly 50% of children will have been attending the FS1 (nursery) class of the same school for at least a year.

Information gathering prior to a child starting school, through meeting with families at school or home, and by arranging visits to and from a child's pre-school / FS1 setting, will in future need to take place before the start of term 1.

Schools will also want to make personalised arrangements in respect of individual children with the full involvement of the child's parents. Whilst a school must offer and provide a full school day place for every child, any parent may request that their child attends on a part day basis for some or all of the period until they reach compulsory school age (the term after their fifth birthday).

Staffing

The legal requirement is that there is a qualified teacher in a class of no more than 30 pupils. There are no other statutory regulations about staffing or ratios. There is no legal requirement concerning qualifications of any staff other than the QTS teacher. Good practice dictates that in addition to the teacher that a further adult (or adults) are available to support teaching and learning and pastoral needs of young children. It is good practice for some or all of these staff to be suitably skilled, and ideally qualified, in the care and learning of young children - eg: NVQ 2 or 3 in Early Years or equivalent (but this is NOT a requirement).

Further guidance

The Early Years Service will be offering a series of briefings and workshops for Foundation Stage leaders and managers early in 2011 to provide practical support in implementing these changes.

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