



## Delayed Admission to Reception Year Group

Date agreed by Governors: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Review date: September 2017

Date of next Review: September 2018

### **General Introduction:**

This policy supports the work of the school in promoting its mission statement, aims and values.

### **Mission statement:**

St Michael's Church of England Primary School endeavours to provide a happy, safe, caring and stimulating learning environment, based on Christian principles in which all members of the school community are valued as individuals and are encouraged to reach their full potential.

### **School aims:**

At St Michael's we value every member of our school community and our aims are for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Develop their understanding of the value of leading a healthy lifestyle
- Work and play in a secure and safe environment in which they are encouraged to develop moral values and mutual respect
- Experience an exciting curriculum which fosters their enthusiasm, develops an enquiring mind and enables every child to achieve his/her full potential
- Access an education for life where they are able to learn how to become effective and reliable members of the wider community
- Foster ambition and expectation to carry through to adult life

To achieve these aims all learners, staff, parents and governors will work together to promote our **core values** of peace, courage and respect.





### **Introduction**

This policy sets out the process and criteria for considering requests for delayed admission to the Reception Year Group to the following academic year and applies to summer born children only. Summer born is defined as any child born between 1 April and 31 August.

### **Background**

Paragraph 2.16 of the School Admissions Code (the code) requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, but children do not reach compulsory school age until after their fifth birthday. There is flexibility for parents who do not feel their child is ready to start school before compulsory school age. They may defer the date their child is admitted to school until later in the school year following their fourth birthday, provided they do not defer beyond the point at which they reach compulsory school age, or beyond the start of the final term of that school year. Alternatively, their child may attend school part-time until later in the school year. Our Admissions Policy stipulates that this is no later than autumn half term.

Paragraph 2.17 of the code states that parents of a summer born child may choose not to send their child to school until the September following their fifth birthday and may request that they are admitted out of their normal age group – to reception rather than year 1. This policy aims to make clear our process for requesting admission out of the normal age group.

The school recognises that whilst most parents are happy for their child to start school in the September following their fourth birthday, some parents will have concerns about whether their child will be ready for school at this point, and will consider delaying entry until compulsory school age. The School's Admission policy and this policy help parents to understand what options are available to them and to provide them with the necessary information to make an informed decision.

Paragraph 2.17 also allows for parent to seek a place for their child outside of their normal age group if the child is gifted and talented or has experienced problems such as ill health. Such requests will be dealt with on an individual basis.

### **Decision Making Process**

As the Admission Authority, the school will make decisions on the basis of the circumstances of each case and always in the best interest of the child concerned as stipulated in 2.17A of the code. This will include taking account of parents' 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 have naturally fallen into a lower age group if it were not for being born prematurely. The views of the Head Teacher of the school will also be taken into account.

Where the School agrees to a parental request for their child to be admitted out of their normal age group the application will be processed in exactly the same way as all other applications using the criteria stipulated in the School's Admissions Policy to determine whether or not to offer a place. Neither favour no bias will be shown to an application out of the normal year group.





### **Appeal**

Parents have a statutory right to appeal against the refusal of a place at a school for which they have applied. However, this right does not apply if they are offered a place at the school but it is not in their preferred age group.

### **Process**

Process for consideration of parental requests for summer born children to be admitted to reception a year later than their chronological age group.

Parents should make a written request if they wish the School to consider a delayed admission for their child to the Reception age group.

Parents should discuss this with the Head Teacher who will be able to provide them with additional information that they will help them to make an informed decision.

The School will notify the parent in writing within 15 working days of the date on which the Admissions Panel will next meet to consider their request.

Parents may be asked to provide the School with additional information, including from other agencies, so that, as the Admissions Authority, it can make an informed decision taken in the best interest of the child. The School will allow at least 15 working days for the submission additional documentation.

The School will notify the parents within 5 working days of the Admissions Panel meeting of its decision.

### **What to do after the Admissions Panel has reached a decision**

If the Admissions Panel does not agree to the parents' request for delayed entry into the Reception year group, the parents will have the right to proceed with an admissions application for as normal and consider choosing one of the options for delayed entry within the normal age group as outlined in the School's Admissions policy.

If the Admissions Panel agrees to the parents' request for delayed entry into the Reception year group, any offer of a place will be with draw if it has already been made or the parents will withdraw their application for a place if the decision has been reached prior to an offer being made. The parents must then reapply the following year in the normal way. Their application the following year will be treated without bias or favour and the same criteria will be applied as to all applications.

