



Department
for Education

Delayed school admissions for summer born pupils

Research report

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Social Science in Government

Contents

List of figures	3
List of tables	4
Executive summary	5
Key findings	5
Local authorities	5
Parents	6
Early evidence	6
Background	7
Survey 1: local authorities	9
Key findings	9
Methodology	10
Limitations of data	10
Willingness to accept requests to delay entry	11
Increase in requests received by local authorities	12
Proportion of requests granted	13
How many parents do local authorities think would take up the offer?	15
Other qualitative responses	16
Survey 2: parents of summer-born children	17
Household Income	17
Ethnicity of children whose admission is delayed	18
Month of birth of children whose admission is delayed	21
Parents' reasons for delaying their child's admission	21
Early evidence on the impact of delayed admissions on attainment	23
Conclusion	24
Annex A: Local authority survey questionnaire	25
Annex B: Parent survey questionnaire	27

List of figures

Figure 1: Local authorities' summer-born admissions policies	12
Figure 2: Increase in number of requests received from 2015-16 to 2016-17	13
Figure 3: Household income of surveyed parents	18
Figure 4: Ethnicity of parents surveyed	19
Figure 5: Parents' reasons for wanting to delay school admission	21

List of tables

Table 1: Percentage of requests granted to delay entry from 2016 to 2017 14

Table 2: Ethnicity of parents who have delayed (or intend to delay) admission compared to demographic composition of their respective local authority 20

Executive summary

Children usually start school in the September after they turn 4 but parents of children born between 1 April and 31 August, also known as "summer-born" children, can ask to delay entry to reception for a year. While the School Admissions Code requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, a child does not reach compulsory school age until the "prescribed day" following their fifth birthday (or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day).¹

If a parent wishes to delay their child's admission to school until compulsory school age, and wants them to be admitted to reception at this point, they must request they are admitted out of their normal age group. In December 2014, the DfE amended the Code to require admission authorities to make decisions in the child's best interests (as well as on the basis of the circumstances of the case), taking into account a number of factors.

This report summarises the findings of two surveys, one issued to local authorities, the other to parents of summer-born children who have requested to delay their child's admission to reception.

Key findings

Local authorities

- The number of requests for delayed school entry increased significantly over the two-year period covered by the survey of local authorities (2015-2017).
- The number of requests received for summer-born children to delay admission to reception varied significantly between local authority areas. The number of requests agreed also varied significantly.
- Of the 1750 requests received by the local authorities surveyed for children to be admitted in September 2017 rather than September 2016, 75% were agreed. This is the same proportion as in the previous year.
- In general, it appears that fewer requests are received in local authority areas where the policy is only to grant requests that are supported by strong evidence. This may be because parents are more reluctant to submit a request when they believe it is unlikely to be granted. Similarly, it appears that more requests are received in areas where a higher proportion of requests are agreed.

¹ The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August.

Parents

- Parents with higher incomes were significantly more likely to delay their summer-born child's admission to reception. However, the small sample size means this finding is at best indicative.
- A majority of children whose admission was delayed were born in the later "summer months" – 22% were born in July and 53% were born in August.
- In certain local authorities there was a sizeable discrepancy between the proportions of black and white British primary pupils relative to the proportion of survey respondents in those same areas, with white British respondents being vastly overrepresented.

Early evidence

- In-house analysis of the only data we have so far on these pupils (phonics data) finds an increase in phonics scores of 0.87 marks for delayed entry summer-born children between 2014/15 and 2015/16, but that is not a statistically significant improvement. This implies that we are not seeing a significant impact of delaying admission to Reception on the performance of pupils in the Phonics Screening Check.

Background

Paragraph 2.16 of the School Admissions Code (hereafter referred to as the Code) requires school admission authorities to provide for the admission of all children in the September following their fourth birthday, and this is when almost all children start school. However, a child does not reach compulsory school age until the “prescribed day” following their fifth birthday, or on their fifth birthday if it falls on a prescribed day. The prescribed days are 31 December, 31 March and 31 August. A parent cannot be required to send their child to school before this point.

This means that children born in the summer term (1 April to 31 August) are not required to start school until a year after the point at which they could first have been admitted. This is the point at which the other children in their age group are moving up from reception to year 1. But while parents of summer-born children are able to delay their child’s admission, typically this means their child will start school in year 1, forfeiting reception.

If a parent wishes to delay their child’s admission to school until compulsory school age, and wants them to be admitted to reception at this point, they must request that their child is admitted out of their normal age group. Paragraph 2.17a of the Code requires the school’s admission authority to make a decision on the basis of the circumstances of the case and in the child’s best interests.

Whilst we believe the number of requests for delayed admissions is currently small, there is significant anecdotal evidence to suggest such requests have often been refused. Where a request is refused, and unless the parent agrees to send their child to school before compulsory school age, the child will miss the reception year. Where children are admitted out of their normal age group, they are sometimes required to skip a year later in their education in order to join their normal age group.

The Department for Education (DfE) has already taken steps to improve the situation. In July 2013, we published non-statutory advice to dispel some of the myths that appeared to hinder admission authorities in agreeing to parents’ requests. We made clear, for example, that there are no legal barriers to children being admitted out of their normal age group, that schools will not miss out on funding if they educate a child out of their normal age group, and that children are assessed when they reach the end of a key stage rather than when they reach a particular age.

In December 2014, the DfE amended the Code to require admission authorities to make decisions in the child’s best interests (as well as on the basis of the circumstances of the case) and to advise them that this will include taking account of: parents’ views; information about the child’s development; where relevant their medical history and the views of a medical professional; and whether a prematurely-born child would have fallen

into the lower age group anyway if they had been born at the expected time. At the same time, the Department revised the non-statutory advice.

Survey 1: local authorities

In February 2017, the Department issued an online survey to all 152 top tier local authorities. The purpose of this survey was to gather information about the policy each local authority is currently operating in relation to the admission of summer-born children, and to gather information about take-up rates for delayed school starts.

92 local authorities completed the survey, although some did not answer all questions, hence the fluctuation in base sizes in the following findings.

Key findings

- The number of requests for delayed school entry increased significantly over the two-year period covered by the survey (2015-2017).
- The number of requests received for summer-born children to delay admission to reception varied significantly between local authority areas. The number of requests agreed also varied significantly.
- 10 of the local authorities which responded now have a policy of automatically agreeing all requests that are made to delay entry. 23 local authorities said that they only agree requests where parents present very strong evidence. The majority of local authorities (56) surveyed still expect parents to make a case as to why their child should be admitted to reception at age 5, although they admit that they are more likely to agree requests than they were previously.
- Of the 1750 requests received by the local authorities surveyed for children to be admitted in September 2017 rather than September 2016, 75% were agreed. This is the same proportion as in the previous year.
- In general, it appears that fewer requests are received in areas where the policy is only to grant requests that are supported by strong evidence. This may be because parents are more reluctant to submit a request when they believe it is unlikely to be granted or because the request will need more effort from them.
- Similarly, it appears that more requests are received in areas where a higher proportion of requests are agreed. There are two possible reasons for this. Parents may be more likely to submit a request if they believe it is likely to be agreed, or local authorities that receive large numbers of requests may not have the resources to consider each one individually and, therefore, grant requests by default.

Methodology

152 local education authorities were asked to complete an online survey, of which 92 participated. The questions asked covered the following topics (for a full list of the questions please refer to Annex A):

- How the local authority currently handles requests for summer-born children to be admitted to reception at age 5, in respect of local authority maintained schools.
- How many requests the local authority received for summer-born children to be admitted to reception in 2016 (rather than in 2015), 2017 (rather than in 2016) and 2018 (rather than in 2017).
- The proportion of these requests that were granted.
- The same questions - concerning the number of requests received and subsequently granted - were asked regarding own admission authority schools in each local authority area.²
- Views on the number of parents of summer-born children they felt would take up the option of delaying their child's admission to reception, if they had free choice.
- Any other feedback that might be helpful to the DfE in considering this amendment to the Code. In particular, about the processes that should be used by local authorities where parents intend to delay their child's admission to reception by a year.

Limitations of data

The data presented here comes with a number of caveats, set out below:

- Local authorities were asked to estimate values when uncertain of the actual figures. However, whether the numbers provided were actual figures or estimates was not recorded (although in some instances it was quite clear when numbers had been estimated, most tellingly when all numbers had been rounded up or down). For this reason the numbers gathered as part of this survey should be viewed as indicative rather than as a precise measure of the number of requests to delay admission received and granted.
- Some local authorities included the requests received by own admission authority schools in their area in their main figures (ideally they were to be kept separate),

² The local authority is the admission authority for community and voluntary controlled schools. For voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and academies, the individual school's governing body or academy trust is the admission authority.

but it was not entirely clear which local authorities had done this and which had not. As a result, only the main figures were included in the analysis, to eliminate the possibility of double-counting requests received by own admission authority schools.

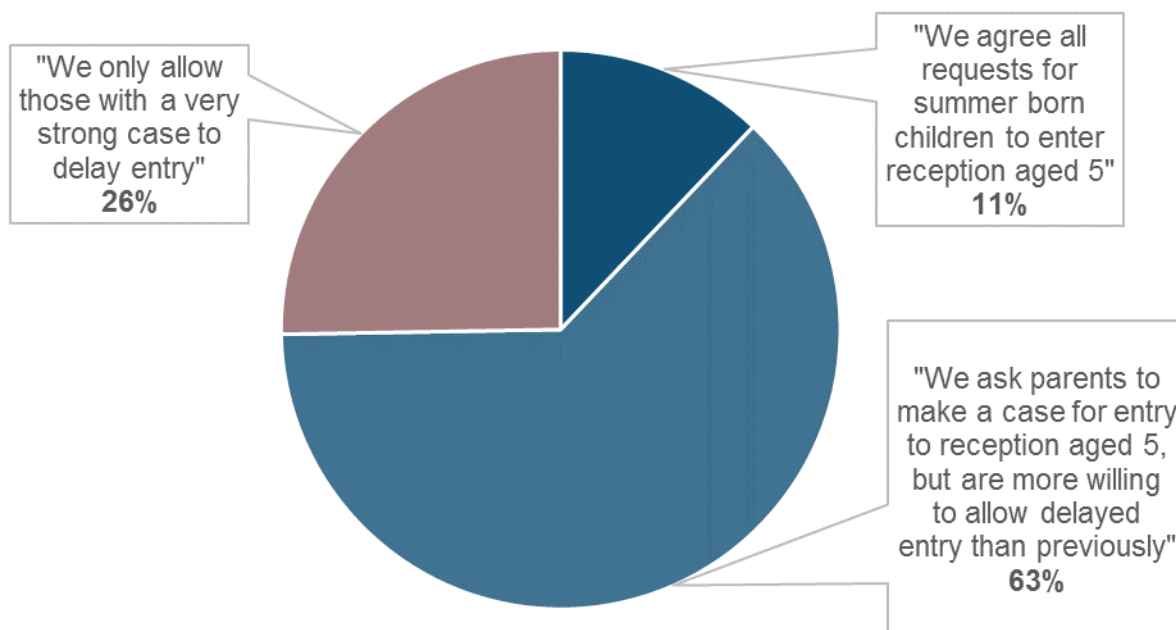
- Some local authorities provided only partial responses, which meant that proportions could not always be calculated.
- While figures were provided for requests received to delay admission from 2017 until 2018, they were not included in the analysis as local authorities were still receiving requests and so it was not possible to ascertain whether this figure would be higher than it was a year ago. However, the trends identified in our initial analysis suggests that the number of requests received to delay entry until 2018 will ultimately be higher than the corresponding figure for 2017.
- Some of the figures provided by local authorities were very small, which has the potential to distort changes in proportions.

Willingness to accept requests to delay entry

A small proportion (11%) of the local authorities surveyed currently grant all requests for delay, but the majority still want evidence as to why delaying would be in the child's best interest (see Figure 2). Saying that, approximately two-thirds of local authorities have become more favourable to granting a request to delay starting school.³

³ Data provided by a handful of local authorities did not allow for percentages to be calculated, i.e. they did not provide both the number of requests received and requests granted. However, the impact of this on the figures presented in this report is negligible.

Figure 1: Local authorities' summer-born admissions policies



Base: 89 local authorities

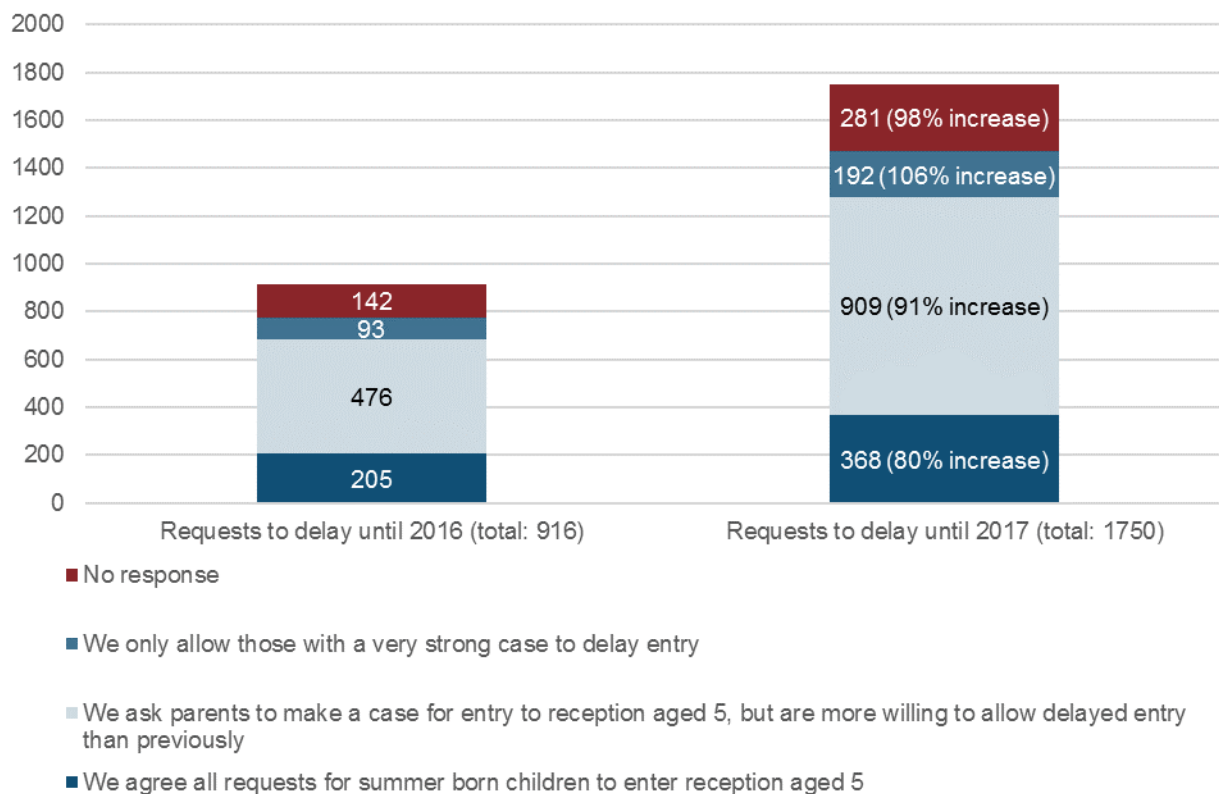
Increase in requests received by local authorities

Among the local authorities surveyed, 916 requests were received to delay school entry from 2015-16 to 2016-17. Of these, 75% were granted. A year later, 1750 requests to delay school entry were received by the same number of local authorities - an 84% increase - indicating that parents' awareness of their rights regarding admissions may be increasing (see Figure 1). The same proportion of these requests (75%) were granted. However, those 1750 requests equated to less than 0.5% of the five-year-old population in those local authorities.

In the three local authorities which received over 100 requests, these requests related to between only 0.9% and 1.2% of the number of five-year-old pupils in those areas. The highest number of requests received, as a percentage of the five-year-old population, was 2.06%.⁴

⁴ These figures were calculated using the number of full-time pupils aged 5 in the 2016 school census.

Figure 2: Increase in number of requests received from 2015-16 to 2016-17



Base: 92 local authorities

Proportion of requests granted

While the proportion of requests being accepted appears relatively stable, the number of requests being received has increased significantly. However, as this trend is based on data from a relatively short period (two years), it is not possible to predict whether this rate of increase is likely to persist and, if so, for how long.

Precisely two thirds of local authorities granted over 80% of the requests they received to delay school entry from 2016 to 2017. Of the local authorities which responded, all that received 10 or more requests granted at least some of those requests. Table 1 shows the figures for delaying school entry until 2017. The figures remained relatively stable from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

Table 1: Percentage of requests granted to delay entry from 2016 to 2017

Percentage of requests granted by LAs	Number of requests received by LAs		
	10 or fewer	Between 10 and 30	30 or more
0-20%	13%	0%	0%
21-40%	4%	0%	8%
41-60%	6%	14%	8%
61-80%	10%	21%	25%
81-100%	67%	64%	58%

Base: 92 local authorities

Analysis also suggests that a higher percentage of requests are agreed in areas where a greater number of requests are received. Possible reasons for this include:

- a) Local authorities do not have the resource to deal with every request and so end up granting more requests by default.
- b) More applications are received in these areas as parents are aware that there is a likelihood that their request will be accepted.
- c) Some local authorities grant requests without a supporting case from parents. Since little effort is required of the parents, this may encourage more to make requests.

However, of the 10 local authorities who reported that their policy is to agree all requests, one received no requests to delay admission from 2016-2017 and three received fewer than five. We do not, however, have any information about how each of these local authorities publicise their policies, so it is possible that local parents are not aware of the policy in their area.

How many parents do local authorities think would take up the offer?

Local authorities were asked whether they had a view on the number of parents of summer-born children who might take up the option of their child being admitted to reception at the age of five, if they had free choice. There were a number of recurring themes in the responses provided. For example, a slim majority felt that numbers of requests would increase:

“Once the minister made his speech we immediately started to receive enquiries. We have requests to repeat reception, defer to the following year, applications [where] parents did not apply in the appropriate round and applications being received to go forward a year.”

“A survey sent out [...] to 8400 parents of Reception and Nursery children in October 2015 indicated that 65% of responders would have delayed their SB child's entry if they had been given the opportunity.”

However, not all local authorities shared this view:

“I feel the number would remain low based on the number of enquiries we receive.”

“I do not think this is a popular option at the moment. However, it could become more popular in the future if it became the 'norm'.”

Many felt that parents would delay entry for their child not because there was a genuine need, but because they nevertheless felt it would benefit their child in other ways such as having another chance to get into a preferred school. There was a fear of parents ‘playing the system’ (and evidence from the survey of parents suggested this was sometimes the case – see Figure 5):

“We feel that a number of parents would like to delay the start of their child just based on their age and not overall need.”

“My concern if it becomes a 'right' is that when a parent does not get a place at their preferred school they will delay their child's entry simply to get another chance to get a place at a particular school.”

There was a widespread belief that the number of requests would increase as publicity and awareness increased.

“I think the number of parents taking up this option would increase year on year as more parents became aware of the option and it became the norm.”

“There would be concern that, once it was widely known that parents/carers could CHOOSE which year a summer-born child could start in Reception, there may be a flood of requests.”

Other qualitative responses

Local authorities were also asked to provide any other feedback that they felt might be helpful to the Department in considering any amendments to the Code. In particular, did they have any views about the process that should be used by local authorities where parents intend to delay their child’s admission to reception by a year - for example, if there should be a deadline by which parents must notify their local authority of their intention. Some (but not all) of the themes identified in the responses to this question are listed below. An overwhelming majority were in favour of a strict deadline, with many suggesting it be aligned with the closing date for applications (15 January):

“In terms of planning it is helpful for parents to have a deadline to make requests.”

“The deadline for requests should be in line with the closing date for applications i.e. 15 January.”

Many seemed to think that additional departmental guidance was required:

“It would be very helpful if guidance could be provided to Local Authorities (LA) and schools, as each LA and school are currently considering applications without any guidance.”

“Parents are already under the impression that it is a right to have delayed admission.”

Some questioned the logistical difficulties involved in implementing such a policy, which could in part be mitigated through additional guidance, deadlines, and amending the definition of ‘summer-born’:

“It may be appropriate to narrow the definition of 'summer-born' - for example restricted to those born in June/July/August. There is a concern about parents using this provision to have a second attempt at securing a place at a preferred school.”

“A deadline for submission may be advisable in order to reduce numbers of parents who are clearly using the fact that their children are summer-born to gain an advantage.”

Survey 2: parents of summer-born children

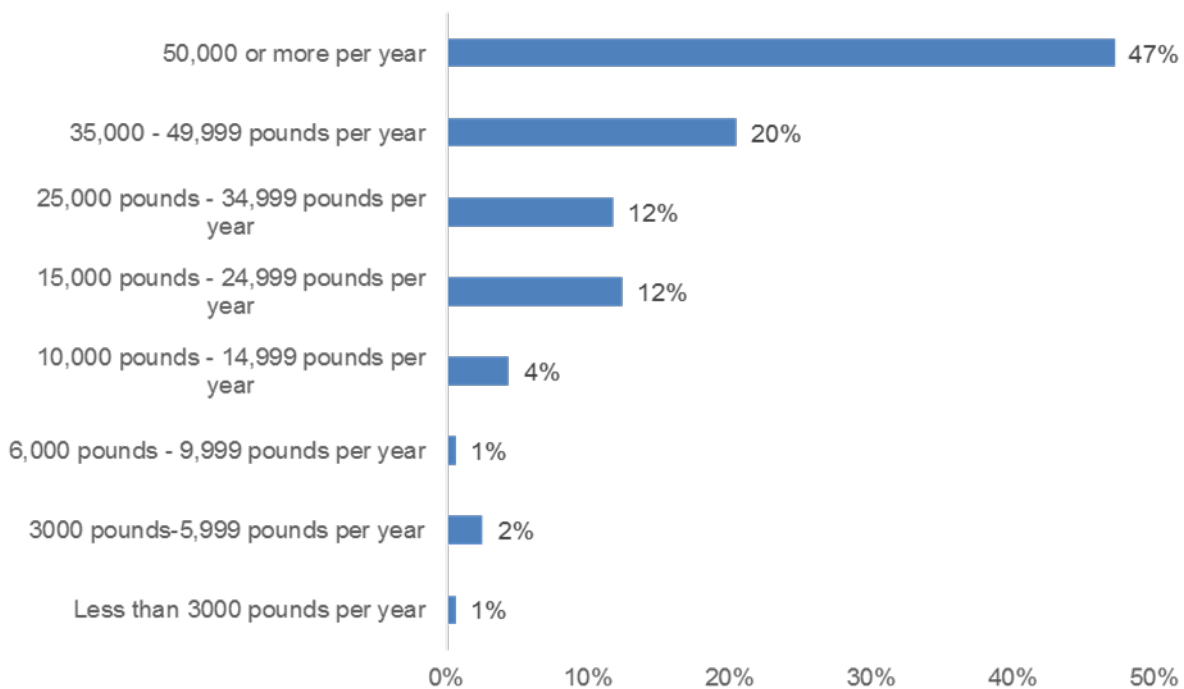
We were aware of four local authorities (Liverpool City Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Devon County Council and Lewisham Council) who already automatically admit summer-born children to reception in the September following their fifth birthday when parents request this. We issued an online survey to the parents in these areas who have taken up this option. The purpose of the survey was to gather information about the factors that influenced those parents' decisions to delay their child's admission to school. 396 parents were invited to complete the survey. 196 responses were received, giving a response rate of almost 50 per cent. Parents were asked questions on household income, their reasons for delaying entry to reception, qualification for the 30 hours of funded childcare, ethnic background, month of birth of their child and prematurity.

Household Income

Parents who had delayed their child's admission to reception were significantly more likely to have higher incomes. 79% had a household income of £25,000 (which is roughly the median household income) or more.⁵ Almost half (47%) had a household income of £50,000 or more.

⁵ Office for National Statistics, (2017). *Nowcasting household income in the UK: financial year ending 2017*.

Figure 3: Household income of surveyed parents



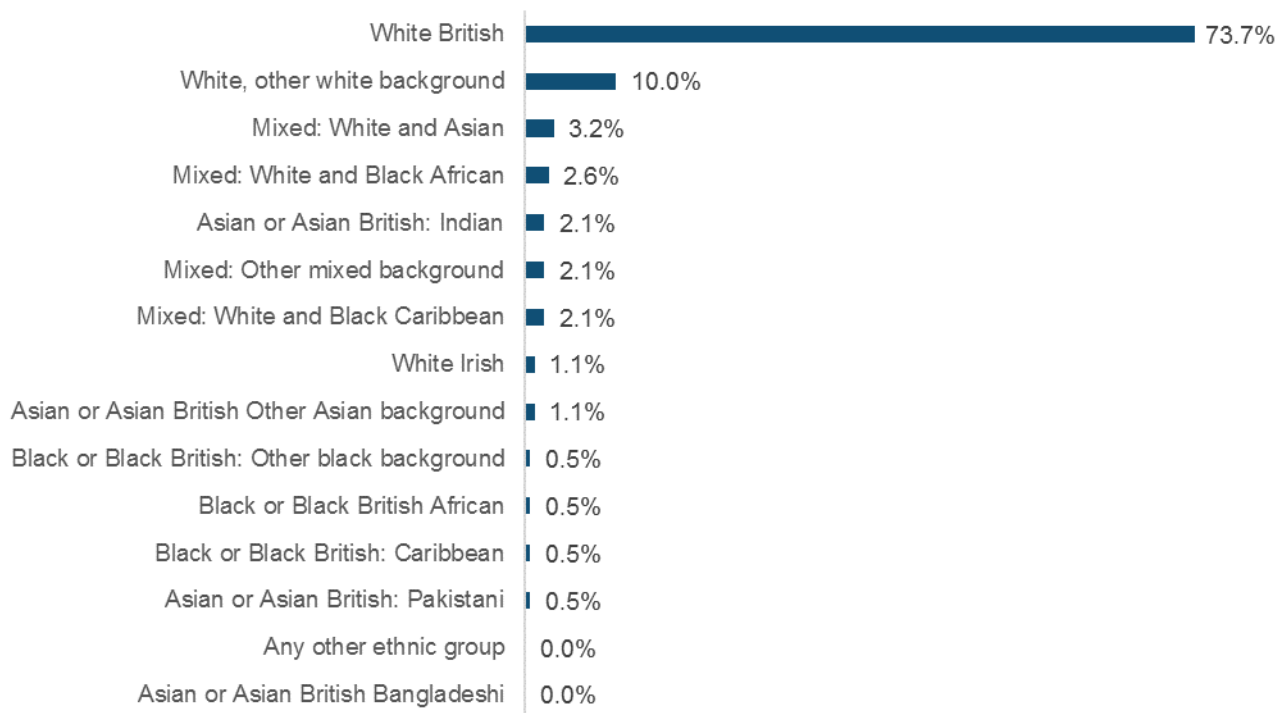
Base: All respondents who provided household income (161)

Ethnicity of children whose admission is delayed

Almost 85% of children whose admission was delayed were white. This percentage comprised almost 74% whose ethnicity was described as 'White British' and 10% whose ethnicity was described as 'White Other'.⁶

⁶ The 2011 Census found that 81.9% of the population described their ethnicity as White British.

Figure 4: Ethnicity of parents surveyed



Base: All respondents who provided ethnicity information (161)

However, there was significant variation between the local authorities. In Lewisham, for example, only 24% of pupils are White British but 66% of those whose admission was delayed were described as such, whereas in Hertfordshire the proportion of White British primary pupils was broadly the same as the proportion of summer-born children whose admission had been delayed, meaning that here ethnicity was a less reliable predictor of a parent's likelihood of applying to delay their child's admission (see Table 2).

Table 2: Ethnicity of parents who have delayed (or intend to delay) admission compared to demographic composition of their respective local authority

Local authority	Lewisham		Hertfordshire	
	Proportion of primary pupils – school census	Proportion of survey respondents	Proportion of primary pupils – school census	Proportion of survey respondents
Black	38%	0%	4%	2%
White British	24%	66%	70%	68%
Mixed	15%	24%	7%	10%
White other	11%	7%	8%	12%
Asian	7%	3%	8%	7%
Base size	19840	29*	81634	91

Base: All respondents (161)

That a relatively small number of parents were surveyed needs to be borne in mind when viewing these figures. However, the discrepancy between the proportions of black and White British primary pupils in Lewisham relative to the proportion of survey respondents (see the highlighted cells in Table 2) is stark. When viewed alongside the analysis of summer-born admissions and household income (see Figure 3), this data suggests that it is higher income, White British parents who are more likely to take advantage of the ability to delay admission.

It should be noted, however, that this trend might not apply should the policy be rolled out nationwide, as it is likely that one of the primary drivers of requests is knowledge of the potential benefits of delaying. Research suggests that middle class parents are typically more likely to possess knowledge that can be used to positively affect their children’s educational outcomes.⁷ If the issue was to receive prolonged media attention and significant publicity, it is feasible that the size of the discrepancies observed here could diminish.

⁷ Exley, S. (2015). *Making working-class parents think more like middle-class parents: Choice Advisers in English education*. LSE Research Online.

Francis, B. and Hutchings, M. (2013). *Parent Power? Using money and information to boost children’s chances of educational success*. The Sutton Trust.

Month of birth of children whose admission is delayed

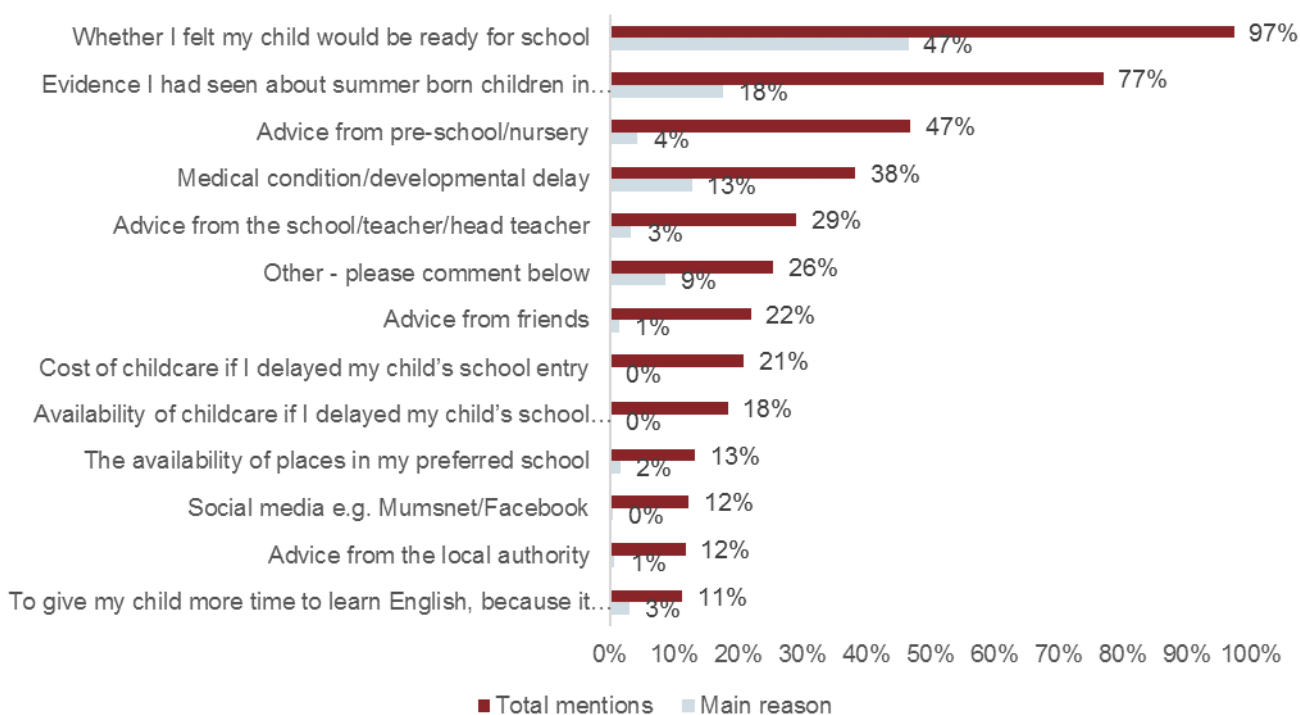
A majority of children whose admission was delayed were born in the later summer months – 22% were born in July and 53% were born in August.

Additionally, 15% of children whose admission was delayed were born prematurely, which is more than double the national average of 7.2%.⁸ Premature birth and associated concerns about child development are often cited as a primary reason for allowing greater flexibility when it comes to school admissions.

Parents' reasons for delaying their child's admission

Parents were asked what factors had been most influential when deciding whether or not to delay their child's school admission (see Figure 5 below).

Figure 5: Parents' reasons for wanting to delay school admission



Base: All respondents (161)

Parents' decisions to delay their child's admission were most influenced by their own views about whether their child was ready for school - 97% of parents mentioned this as

⁸ Office for National Statistics, (2011). *Gestation-specific Infant Mortality in England and Wales, 2011*.

one of the factors that influenced them and 47% said it was the main reason for them delaying. This was followed by evidence about summer-born children - 77% of parents said this was one of the factors that influenced them, while 18% said it was the main reason for their decision to delay.

Almost half (47%) of parents mentioned advice from a pre-school or nursery as one of the factors that influenced them, although far fewer (only 4%) said that it was the main reason. 38% of parents mentioned a medical condition/developmental delay as one of the factors that influenced their decision, with 13% citing it as the main reason.

36% of the parents who responded to the survey said that they had originally applied for their child to start school in the September following their fourth birthday and only subsequently made the decision to delay their admission. 8% of the parents who responded said the fact they were not happy with the school place they had originally been offered was one of the factors that influenced their decision to delay.

Early evidence on the impact of delayed admissions on attainment

Existing research (e.g. Crawford et al, 2013) suggests that a range of factors - the age at which children sit tests, the age at which they start school, the amount of schooling they receive prior to tests, and their age relative to their classmates - are involved in summer-born pupils attaining less well than their non-summer-born peers, meaning a single solution (such as delayed admission) may not address all these factors. It will be important, therefore, to assess the impact of delayed admissions on pupil performance as data becomes available over time.

The changes to the Admissions Code in December 2014, and the subsequent alterations several Local Authorities made to their management of delayed entry are still quite recent and the first subsequent cohort of delayed admission pupils have only reached their first national test – the Phonics Screening Check. This check is thus the first national data to allow investigation of the impact of increased rates of delayed entry for summer-born pupils on their test performance. The findings from a simple analysis of this data will only be preliminary and indicative and it will be important to make further assessments as more data becomes available (such as for key stage 2 in 2021/22).

Our analysis finds that delayed admission summer-born pupils in 2015/16 (758 pupils) scored 0.9 marks higher on average than delayed admission summer-born pupils in 2014/15 (345 pupils), but that this difference is not a statistically significant change. This implies that we are not seeing a significant impact of delaying admission to Reception on the performance of pupils in the Phonics Screening Check. The pupils who were not summer-born out-performed both the delayed and normal admission summer-born pupils in 2014/15 and this continued in 2015/16. However, in both 2014/15 and 2015/16 delayed admission summer-born pupils scored on average 0.7 marks higher than normal admission summer-born pupils.

It is important to note that there are several significant limitations to this analysis, which are listed below:

- We are not able to identify pupils who have had their school admission delayed solely because of the change to the admissions code.
- We have limited this analysis to pupils that do not have a SEN flag in both Reception year and Year 1.

Conclusion

The overall number of requests for delayed school entry increased significantly over the two-year period covered by the survey of local authorities (2015-2017), although there was considerable variation between local authority areas. But despite the increase in the number of requests to delay, as a proportion of the five-year-old populations in the local authorities surveyed it still amounts to a very small proportion of the cohort at less than 0.5%.

It is, however, possible that this figure could rise if parents become increasingly aware of the willingness of local authorities to grant requests to delay entry to Reception. Indeed, ten of the 92 local authorities surveyed said that they agree all requests, and 56 said that they were more willing to allow delayed entry than previously. There was also a correlation between the leniency of local authorities and the number of requests received, although we were not able to establish the direction of this relationship; in other words, whether more requests were received because parents felt they had a higher likelihood of their request being granted, or if more requests were granted as a result of receiving a greater volume of requests.

While the survey of parents outlines the reasons why certain parents decided to delay their child's entry to school, it does not provide an indication of how many parents of summer-born children would choose to delay their child's entry. Nor does this research offer insight into whether delaying admission will improve the outcomes of summer-born pupils. External research suggests that it will not and our earliest evidence (from phonics data) is broadly in agreement, but this will require further and careful monitoring as more data becomes available.

Annex A: Local authority survey questionnaire

Please provide the name of your local authority:

1. Which of the options below best represents the way in which your local authority currently handles requests for summer born children to be admitted to reception at age 5?
 - a. We agree all requests for summer born children to enter reception aged 5
 - b. We ask parents to make a case for entry to reception aged 5, but are more willing to allow delayed entry than previously
 - c. We only allow those with a very strong case to delay entry
2. How many requests did your local authority receive for summer born children to be admitted to reception in 2016, rather than in 2015? How many were agreed? If you do not record this data, please provide an estimate.
3. If you know how many requests were received by own admission authority schools in your area, for summer born children to be admitted to reception in 2016 rather than in 2015, please give that number here. Please also say how many were agreed.
4. How many requests did your local authority receive for summer born children to be admitted to reception in 2017, rather than in 2016? How many were agreed? If you do not record this data, please provide an estimate.
5. If you know how many requests were received by own admission authority schools in your area, for summer born children to be admitted to reception in 2017 rather than in 2016, please give that number here. Please also say how many were agreed.
6. How many requests did your local authority receive for summer born children to be admitted to reception in 2018, rather than in 2017? If you do not record this data, please provide an estimate.
7. If you know how many requests were received by own admission authority schools in your area, for summer born children to be admitted to reception in 2018 rather than in 2017, please give that number here.
8. Do you have a view on the number of parents of summer born children who would take up the option of their child being admitted to reception at the age of five, if they had free choice? Please explain why you hold this view.

9. Please provide any other feedback that you think would be helpful to us in considering this amendment to the Code. In particular, do you have any views about the process that should be used by local authorities where parents intend to delay their child's admission to reception by a year, for example, whether there should be a deadline by which parents must notify their local authority of their intention?

10. Would you be willing for an official from the Department for Education to contact you to discuss your answers in greater depth? If so please provide the best contact details below:

Annex B: Parent survey questionnaire

1. Please confirm that you have a child born between 1 April and 31 August and that you have either: already delayed their entry to reception by 12 months; or indicated your intention to do so?

2. How did you become aware of the possibility of delaying your child's entry to reception?
 - a. Information from the local authority
 - b. Social media
 - c. Talking with other parents
 - d. Advice from pre-school/nursery
 - e. Advice from a school
 - f. Other (please specify)

3. Which of these things did you take into consideration when deciding to delay your child's entry to reception by 12 months? Please tick all that apply and one option as the main reason:
 - a. Cost of childcare if I delayed my child's school entry
 - b. Availability of childcare if I delayed my child's school entry
 - c. Whether I felt my child would be ready for school
 - d. The availability of places in my preferred school
 - e. Evidence I had seen about summer born children in school
 - f. Advice from friends
 - g. Advice from the local authority
 - h. Advice from the school/teacher/head teacher
 - i. Advice from pre-school/nursery
 - j. Medical condition/developmental delay
 - k. Social media e.g. Mumsnet/Facebook
 - l. To give my child more time to learn English, because it is their second language
 - m. Other - please comment below

4. Did you originally apply for a place in your child's 'normal' year group or did you always intend to delay?
 - a. I always intended to delay my child's entry to reception
 - b. I applied in my child's 'normal' year group but subsequently made the decision to delay

5. Were any of these factors relevant in your subsequent decision to delay your child's entry to reception?
 - a. I decided my child was not ready for school
 - b. I was not previously aware of the option to delay entry
 - c. I was not happy with the school place allocated for my child

6. If, when your child started pre-school/nursery, you had been aware of the possibility of delaying their entry to reception class, might you also have delayed their entry to pre-school/nursery?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

7. Currently all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to 15 hours free childcare per week during term time. From September 2017, some 3 and 4 year olds will be entitled to 30 hours free childcare per week during term time. 30 hours will be available where each parent (or the sole parent in a lone parent household) works at least 16 hours per week earning at least the National Minimum Wage - currently £115 per week – but less than £100,000 per year. This includes employed and self-employed parents and parents on zero hours contracts. Would your 'summer born' child meet the criteria for 30 hours free childcare per week?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

8. In which of the following bands does your TOTAL annual household income fall before tax is deducted?
 - a. Less than 3000 pounds per year
 - b. 3000 pounds - 5,999 pounds per year

- c. 6,000 pounds - 9,999 pounds per year
- d. 10,000 pounds - 14,999 pounds per year
- e. 15,000 pounds - 24,999 pounds per year
- f. 25,000 pounds - 34,999 pounds per year
- g. 35,000 - 49,999 pounds per year
- h. 50,000 or more per year
- i. Don't know
- j. Prefer not to say

9. Which of the following groups does your child belong to?

- a. White British
- b. White Irish
- c. White, other white background
- d. Mixed: White and Black Caribbean
- e. Mixed: White and Black African
- f. Mixed: White and Asian
- g. Mixed: Other mixed background
- h. Asian or Asian British: Indian
- i. Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
- j. Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
- k. Asian or Asian British Other Asian background
- l. Black or Black British: Caribbean
- m. Black or Black British African
- n. Black or Black British: Other black background
- o. Any other ethnic group
- p. Prefer not to say
- q. Don't know

10. Which local authority do you live in?

11. In which year was your child born?

- a. 2012
- b. 2013

12. In which month was your child born?

- a. April
- b. May
- c. June
- d. July
- e. August

13. What was the duration of your pregnancy with your summer born child?

- a. Less than 30 weeks
- b. Between 30 and 36 weeks
- c. 37 weeks or more
- d. Prefer not to say



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