

**REPLY BY THE PRESIDENT OF  
THE COMMITTEE FOR EDUCATION, SPORT & CULTURE  
TO QUESTIONS ASKED PURSUANT TO RULE 14 OF THE RULES OF  
PROCEDURE BY DEPUTY SASHA KAZANTSEVA-MILLER**

**Question 1:**

**What was the total number of requests for Out of Year Group Placements that the Committee received in each year between 2015 and 2024?**

**Reply:**

The Committee has a published out of [Year Group Policy which is available on the States of Guernsey website](#). Historically, the number of Out of Year Group applications has not been formally logged independently of formal admissions records, so it is not possible to say categorically how many applications have been received over the last 10 years.

Research undertaken by the Education Office has found five instances where requests have been made for an Out of Year Group Placement between 2015 and 2024 although, for the reasons set out above, this number is not necessarily definitive. It is important to note that some requests come from the parents or carers of the child or young person, while others come from educationalists specialising in supporting either Primary, Secondary or Specialist schools, who identify that the child or young person, might be better being placed in a different year group to that indicated by their chronological age.

**Question 2:**

**What was the total number of requests that were rejected and approved for Out of Year Group Placements in each year between 2015 and 2024?**

**Reply:**

Given the low number of requests identified (as set out in the response to question 1), it might be possible in small jurisdictions such as Guernsey and Alderney, for individual children or young people to be identified if the data is broken down by year group and outcome. Given our responsibilities to the individuals who comprise this number, it is not appropriate to provide more detail.

**Question 3:**

**Does the Committee plan to review their Out of Year Group Placement policy to align more with the UK policies that provide flexibility and right for summer-born children to request Out of Year Group Placements?**

**Reply:**

Although not set out in local legislation, our current policy aligns with England's statutory guidance: [Schools Admissions Code](#), published by the UK Government's Department for

Education; and its guidance: [Summer born children starting school: advice for parents](#); albeit that in England individual decisions rest with each local admissions authority (which might be a Local Authority; Academy Trust; or Governing Body).

Operational policies of the Committee are reviewed regularly to ensure they continue to reflect best practice and so that the implications of any proposed updates or changes can be fully considered in the local context. The Out of Year Group Placement policy, as part of the suite of Admissions Policies, is reviewed annually each summer. All school Headteachers / Principals have been asked to provide feedback as part of this review cycle, so that their views on the efficacy of the current policies can be taken into account during the annual review.

The current policy allows requests for out of year group placements. For each request, evidence from professionals working with the child or young person and evidence from their family is considered as part of the decision-making process. There is a formal process if the parents or carers want to challenge the initial decision.

**Date of receipt of the Question:** 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2024  
**Date of Reply:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024