

COMPULSORY EDUCATION APPLICATION TO DEFER COMMENCEMENT OF PRIMARY/JUNIOR ONE

1 The Compulsory Education (CE) Act came into force from 1 January 2003. The Act provides that a child born after 1 January 1996 and who is a **Singapore Citizen** residing in Singapore has to attend regularly as a pupil at a national primary school¹, unless he/she has been duly exempted from CE. For instance, a Singaporean child born between **2 January 2014** and **1 January 2015**, both dates inclusive, will be due for Primary/Junior 1 admission on **2 January 2021**.

2 With effect from the 2019 Primary 1 cohort, children with moderate-to-severe special educational needs (SEN)² will be included within the CE framework established by the CE Act. This means that children born after 1 January 2012 will no longer be exempted from CE on the basis of their SEN alone. Parents of these children can fulfil their CE obligations by having their child attend a Government-funded special education (SPED) school.

3 There may be situations whereby a child may not be ready for formal schooling due to his/her medical condition(s)/SEN, delayed/slower progression or other circumstances. In such a circumstance, the parent may want to seek deferment of the commencement of Primary/Junior 1 schooling for his/her child. In this case, the child will need to be professionally assessed, e.g.

- ❑ at the Child Development Unit (CDU), National University Hospital
- ❑ at the Department of Child Development, KK Women's & Children's Hospital
- ❑ at the Child Guidance Clinic (Institute of Mental Health or Health Promotion Board)
- ❑ by a qualified educational psychologist, specialist in child psychology/development etc; so that any necessary or due intervention can take place early.

4 Applications to defer admission to primary/junior education may be made by completing the prescribed form, with the necessary supporting document(s) (see attachment). The fully completed form is to be sent together with the relevant supporting document(s) to the Compulsory Education Unit, Ministry of Education, for consideration. Successful applicants will be notified via mail/email.

5 Please note that the application should be made between January and September of the year before the child is due to commence primary/junior education, e.g. between January and September 2020 for a child who is due to commence Primary/Junior 1 on 2 January 2021.

¹ National Primary schools refer to mainstream primary schools and Government-funded SPED schools.

² Children with mild SEN, who are able to learn in mainstream primary schools, are already covered under CE.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Where a child fails to attend regularly as a pupil at a national primary school and has not been granted exemption from Compulsory Education, each parent of the child shall be guilty of an offence. The Compulsory Education Act provides that any person who is guilty of such an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both.

To: Compulsory Education Unit
Ministry of Education
1 North Buona Vista Drive
Singapore 138675

email: MOE_CE_application@moe.gov.sg

APPLICATION FORM TO DEFER COMMENCEMENT OF PRIMARY/JUNIOR ONE IN A NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Particulars of Child

Child's Name	BC No.	Date of Birth (dd-mm-yyyy)
Home Address		Postal Code Singapore []
Name of Mainstream Primary School or Government-Funded Special Education School where Child is Currently Registered (if applicable)		

Particulars of Applicant

Applicant's Name		NRIC/Passport* No.
Applicant's Mailing Address		Postal Code Singapore []
Relationship <i>Father/Mother/Legal Guardian (please state)*</i>	Home Tel No.	Office/Mobile* Tel No.
	Email Address	

Reason(s) in Support of Application

S/No.	Reason	#To tick (✓)
1	Child has been diagnosed as having medical condition(s).	
2	Child has been diagnosed as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) / developmental delay.	
3	Child is born on 1 January of the following year.	

Copy of Supporting Documents to be Sent in Support of Application:

S/No.	Documents	#To tick (✓)
1	Child's medical / assessment report by qualified professional	
2	Letter confirming that child is/will be a pupil at a *pre-school centre / kindergarten / EIPIC in the year he / she is deferred	
3	Copy of child's Birth Certificate / Certificate of Citizenship	
4	Other supporting documents (if any)	

Please note that documents (1) to (3) are essential supporting documents to be submitted.

I confirm that all information provided by me in the application form is complete and true.

Name and Signature of Father/Legal Guardian*
Date

Name and Signature of Mother/Legal Guardian*
Date

* Delete whichever is not applicable

Tick whichever is applicable

w.e.f. 14 APR 2020