

FAQs on Implementation of Uniform Age of Admission (6+ years for Class 1) and Restructuring of Foundational Stage:

1. What is the key change announced in this circular?

The Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCTD, has decided to implement a uniform minimum age of 6+ years for admission to Class 1 and restructure the Foundational Stage (Nursery to Class 1) in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, effective from the academic session 2026-27 onwards in phases.

2. What is the new structure and age criteria for admission in the Foundational Stage?

Class	Nomenclature	Age as on 31st March of the Year
Nursery	Balvatika 1 / Pre-School 1	3+ years up to 4 years
Lower KG	Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2	4+ years up to 5 years
Upper KG	Balvatika 3 / Pre-School 3	5+ years up to 6 years
Class 1	Class 1	6+ years up to 7 years

3. From which academic session will the new age norms be applicable?

The new age structure will be implemented in phases starting from the Academic Session 2026-27.

4. Will the new age criteria affect the students already studying in 2025-26?

No. The new age criteria will not apply to existing students enrolled in Nursery, KG or Class 1 during the 2025-26 Session.

5. Is there any provision for age relaxation?

Yes. The Head of School (HoS) may allow a relaxation of up to one month in both the minimum and maximum age for admission in Nursery to Class 1.

6. Are students transferring from other recognized schools subject to the same age criteria?

The students who have passed the previous class from any recognized school and possess a valid School Leaving Certificate (SLC) and mark sheet are exempted from the age criteria for admission to the next higher class.

7. What will be the minimum age for admission in Class 1 in 2026-27?

For the session 2026-27, a child must be 5+ years as on 31st March, 2026 for admission in Class 1.

8. What will happen to Nursery and KG classes during 2026-27?

Nursery (Balvatika 1) will exist and admit children aged 3+ years up to 4 years.

Lower KG (Balvatika 2) and Upper KG (Balvatika 3) will not exist in 2026-27.

Students in Nursery (2025-26) will move to KG (4+ years) in 2026-27.

Students in KG (2025-26) will be promoted to Class 1 (5+ years) in 2026-27 under the old structure.

9. When will Lower KG (Balvatika 2) and Upper KG (Balvatika 3) be introduced?

Lower KG (Balvatika 2) will start from 2027-28.

Upper KG (Balvatika 3) will start from 2027-28.

10. For admission in Nursery in 2026-27, what should be the child's age?

The child should be 3+ years as on 31st March, 2026.

11. Will new admissions be allowed directly in KG or Class 1 in 2026-27?

Yes, new admissions will be allowed in:

KG for children aged 4+ years up to 5 years.

Class 1 for children aged 5+ years up to 6 years.

12. When will the uniform 6+ age rule for Class 1 fully apply?

The uniform 6+ years rule for Class 1 will be fully applicable from the session 2028-29 onwards.

13. What should schools do to prepare for this transition?

Schools must:

Inform parents well in advance about the new age criteria and structure.

Plan class restructuring as per phased timelines.

Ensure strict compliance with age criteria during admissions.

Maintain proper record and promotion lists as per the new scheme.

14. What about children slightly below 3 years seeking admission in Nursery?

Only children who have completed 3 years as on 31st March of the admission year will be eligible. The Head of School can relax the age limit by one month (i.e., up to 30th April).

15. Will this structure apply to Private and Aided Schools also?

Yes. The circular is applicable to all Government, Government-Aided and Recognized Unaided Private Schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCTD.

16. What is the objective of this restructuring?

The restructuring aims to:

Align Delhi's Schools admission age and Foundational Stage with NEP, 2020.

Standardize the entry age across all school types.

Provide a uniform 5-year foundational learning framework (3 years of Pre-school + 2 years of Primary Classes).

17. How should schools communicate this to parents?

All Heads of Schools are directed to clearly inform parents through circulars, notices or meetings about the revised age criteria, phased implementation and promotion plan to avoid confusion.

18. What is meant by “implemented in phases”?

It means:

The change will not apply to all classes immediately.

Classes will be added or adjusted gradually each academic year between 2026-27 and 2028-29 until the full structure (Nursery to Class 1 with 6+ rule) is in place.

19. Will there be any impact on ongoing students' promotions?

No. All currently enrolled students (till 2025-26) will be promoted as per the existing pattern without being affected by the new age rules.

20. What guidelines are to be followed in implementing the new structure?

Detailed guidelines on the restructuring of the Foundational Stage and the implementation of a uniform age of admission of 6+ years in Class-1 issued by Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCT of Delhi for all the Heads of Government, Government-Aided and Recognized Unaided Private Schools under DoE as well as for all other stakeholders, vide Circular No. DE.23(749)/Sch.Br./2025/976 dated 24.10.2025 will be followed.