

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY DELHI
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION: SCHOOL BRANCH
OLD SECRETARIAT: DELHI-110054

No. DE.23(749)/Sch.Br./2025/976

Dated: 24/10/25

CIRCULAR

Sub: Implementation of Uniform Age of Admission of 6+ years in Class- 1 and Restructuring of the Foundational Stage (Effective from Academic Session 2026-27 onwards in phases)- Reg.

1. All the Heads of Government, Government-Aided and Recognized Unaided Private Schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCTD were earlier informed regarding the restructuring of the Foundational Stage and the Implementation of the Uniform Age of Admission of 6+ in Class 1 vide Circular No.DE.23(749)/Sch.Br./2025/556 dated 20.06.2025.
2. As per existing structure, there are two Classes namely Nursery & KG in Foundational Stage and then Class 1 with minimum age for admission as 3+, 4+ & 5+ years respectively.
3. The nomenclature for the Foundational Classes, along with the minimum age criteria for admission to Nursery to Class I, shall be implemented in alignment with the restructured Foundational Stage, as envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is as under in Table 1-

Table 1

Class	Minimum & Maximum Age for Admission (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 (Balvatika3 / Pre School 3)	5+ years up to 6 years
Class 1	6+ years up to 7 years

4. The age criteria as detailed in Table 1 will be implemented in phases starting from Academic Session 2026-27. This age criteria will not be applicable for the existing students of classes Nursery to Class 1 for the Academic Session 2025-26.
5. The age relaxation will be granted at the level of Head of School in the minimum as well as maximum age for one month for Nursery to Class 1.
6. Further, the regular students who have passed previous class from any Recognised School and having a valid SLC & Mark Sheet will be exempted from applicability of age appropriate criteria for admission in next higher class.

7. For admissions in the Academic Session 2026–27, a child must have attained the prescribed minimum age as on 31st March, 2026. That is, a child entering Nursery at the age of 3+ years in Session 2026-27, will be in Class 1 at 6+ years.
8. The instructions/ guidelines for the admissions and progression of students as per new age criteria for Pre School Classes and Class 1 have been depicted in Table 2 as under:-

Table 2

Class	Academic Session 2025-26	Academic Session 2026-27	Academic Session 2027-28	Academic Session 2028-29
Nursery (Balvatika/ Pre School 1)	Nursery Age 3+ years *These students will be promoted to KG in 2026-27	Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) (3+ years up to 4 years) (New admissions) *These students will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) in 2027-28	Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) (3+ years up to 4 years) (New admissions) *These students will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) in 2028-29	Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) (3+ years up to 4 years) (New admissions) *These students will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) in 2029-30
Lower KG (Balvatika/ Pre School 2)	KG Age 4+ years *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2026 – 27	KG (4+ years up to 5 years) (Promoted from Nursery 2025-26 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 4+ years up to 5 years in Session 2026-27 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2027-28	Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-School 2) (4+ years up to 5 years) (Promoted from Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) 2026-27 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 4+ years up to 5 years in Session 2027-28 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Upper KG	Lower KG (Balvatika 2 / Pre-school 2) (4+ years up to 5 years) (Promoted from Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-School 1) 2027-28 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 4+ years up to 5 years in Session 2028-29 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Upper KG

			(Balvatika3 / Pre-School 3) in 2028-29	(Balvatika3 / Pre-School 3) in 2029-30
Upper KG (Balvatika/ Pre School 3)	(Class doesn't exist for this Academic Year)	(Class doesn't exist for this Academic Year)	Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre-School 3) (5+ years up to 6 years) (New admissions only) Note: New Admissions for child with age 5+ years up to 6 years in Session 2027-28 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2028-29	Upper KG (Balvatika3 / Pre-school 3) (5+ years up to 6 years) (Promoted from Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre-School 2) 2027-28 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 5+ years up to 6 years in Session 2028-29 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Class 1 in 2029-30
Class I	Class I Age 5+ years up to 6 years *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2026 – 27	Class I (5+ years up to 6 years) (Promoted from KG 2025-26 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 5+ years up to 6 years in Session 2026-27 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2027-28	Class I (5+ years up to 6 years) (Promoted from KG 2026-27) *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2028-29	Class I (6+ years up to 7 years) (Promoted from Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre-School 3) 2027-28 + New admissions) Note: New Admissions for child with age 6+ years up to 7 years in Session 2028-29 will be allowed. *These students will be promoted to Class 2 in 2029-30

9. The details as shown in the above table are hereby explained below for further clarity in this regard.

(1) For the Academic Session 2026-27:

- (i) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child with **3+ years age as on 31st March, 2026**. The child will be promoted to next classes as per restructured Foundational Stage and therefore move to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre-school 2) in session 2027-28.
- (ii) The classes Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) and Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) do not exist in Academic Session 2026-27.
- (iii) Students of Nursery in Academic Session 2025-26 will be promoted to KG in Academic Session 2026-27.
- (iv) The age criteria for the new admissions in KG will be 4+ years as on 31st March, 2026.
- (v) Students of KG in Academic Session 2025-26 will be promoted to Class 1 in Academic Session 2026-27.
- (vi) Students of Class 1 in Academic Session 2025-26 will be promoted to Class 2 in Academic Session 2026-27.

(2) For the Academic Session 2027-28:

- (i) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child **with 3+ years age as on 31st March, 2027**.
- (ii) A new class- Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) will be introduced from this Academic Session onwards. Students of Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) in Academic Session 2026-27 will be promoted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) in Academic Session 2027-28.
- (iii) New admissions in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) can also be given if the child has attained the age of **4+ years as on 31st March, 2027**.
- (iv) The students admitted in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) will be promoted to next classes as per restructured Foundational Stage and therefore move to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) in session 2028-29.
- (v) A new class- Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) will be introduced from this Academic Session onwards. Only new admissions to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) will be for the child with **5+ years age as on 31st March, 2027**.
- (vi) Students of KG (4+ years) in 2026-27 will be promoted to Class 1 (5+ years) in 2027-28 as per old structure of Foundational Stage.
- (vii) Students of Class 1 (5+ years) will be promoted to Class 2 (6+ years) in 2027-28.

(3) For the Academic Session 2028-29:

- (i) Admission to Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre-school 1) will be for the child with 3+ years age as on 31st March, 2028.
- (ii) A child will be admitted to Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) after passing from Nursery (Balvatika 1/ Pre School 1) in 2027-28.

- (iii) New admissions in Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) can also be given if the child has attained the age of 4+ years as on 31st March, 2028.
- (iv) A child will be admitted to Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) after passing from Lower KG (Balvatika 2/ Pre School 2) in 2027-28.
- (v) New admissions in Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) can also be given if the child has attained the age of 5+ years on 31st March, 2028.
- (vi) A child will be admitted to Class 1 after passing from Upper KG (Balvatika 3/ Pre School 3) in 2027-28.
- (vii) New admissions in Class I can also be considered if the child has attained the age of 6+ years as on 31st March, 2028.

10. All Heads of Schools are hereby directed to inform parents clearly about this change and to follow the above age rules strictly.


(Veditha Reddy, IAS)
Director of Education


Heads of all Govt., Govt. Aided and Unaided Recognized Private Schools under the Directorate of Education (DoE), GNCTD through DEL-E.

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Copy to:-

1. Secretary to Hon'ble CM.
2. Secretary to Hon'ble MoE.
3. PA to Secretary (Education).
4. PPS to Director (Education).
5. CEO of Delhi Cantonment Board for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
6. Director (Education) of NDMC for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
7. Director (Education) of MCD for information and further necessary action in the matter accordingly.
8. PS to Addl. DE (School).
9. All RDEs, DDEs (District/Zone) to ensure compliance.
10. DDE (ASB & PSB) to issue similar directions.
11. System Analyst (MIS) for uploading on MIS.
12. Guard file.


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Director of Education