

The Hindu 29/02/2024

## 'Age of admission to Class 1 in Kerala will remain 5 years'

**The Hindu Bureau**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Age of admission to Class 1 in Kerala will remain five years, State Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty has said.

Any sudden change in the minimum age of admission to six years will create social problems, the Minister said at a press meet here on Wednesday. The Union Ministry of Education had a few days ago written to States and Union Territories to fix six years as the minimum age of admission to Class 1 this year.

The Ministry's latest missive, dated February 15, is the third time that States and Union Territories have been asked to align the age

**The Centre had written to States to fix six years as the minimum age of admission to Class 1 in line with NEP**

of admission to Class 1 at six in line with the National Education Policy (NEP),

Similar notices were issued last year and in 2021 in the wake of the NEP launch. The Ministry's directive also points to the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, that covers education of children from the age of six to 14.

Last year too, the State had decided against raising the minimum age. Then,

the Minister had said the government would bring clarity on the issue in the next academic year on the basis of the M.A. Khader Committee report on school education.

However, the Minister on Wednesday said the State had good school enrolment numbers and few dropouts. Also, children here joined kindergarten at the age of three and by the age of five, were ready to join Class 1. In such a context, there was no need to delay their Class 1 admission by a year.

States had a right to take decision on matters of education, and Kerala has decided to stick to the age of five for school admission, the Minister said.