

School admission appeals for reception year 2023/24

The law states that infant classes must be limited to a maximum of 30 children which has an impact on how an appeal is considered. An appeal for a reception place can only be upheld in very limited circumstances.

There are 3 circumstances which an appeal panel can uphold an appeal for a school; if an appeal does not satisfy any of these conditions then it cannot be upheld.

These conditions are:

- The admission of additional children would not breach the infant class size limit
- The admission arrangements did not comply with admissions law or had not been correctly and impartially applied and the child would have been offered a place if the arrangements had complied or had been correctly and impartially applied
- The panel decides that the decision to refuse admission was not one which a reasonable admission authority would have made in the circumstances of the case.

How to make an appeal

Parents whose applications for places are unsuccessful may appeal to an Independent Appeal Panel set up in accordance with section 85(3) of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing and must set out the reasons on which the appeal is made.

Appeals should be made to the Clerk to the Governors at the school address.

Parents/Carers have the right to make oral representations to the Appeal Panel. Infant classes are restricted by the legislation to 30 children. Parents should be aware that an appeal against refusal of a place in an infant class may only succeed if it can be demonstrated by one of the conditions above.

Timeline for appeals

- National Offer Day for Reception places is 17th April 2023.
- 2nd May 2023 is the Deadline for acceptance or refusal of school offer
- The deadline for Lodging Appeals is 16th May 2023
- Once you have submitted your appeal the admission committee will let you know the time, date, format and either the location of your appeal hearing (if you're attending in person) or the joining instructions (if you're attending the appeal remotely). You will be given at least 10 school days' notice, unless you have said that you do not need this much notice.
- Appeals heard during the period 5 June and 21 July
- The clerk will normally write to you within 5 school days to notify you of the panel's decision. If the panel is hearing a large number of appeals, this may delay the notification letter. The clerk will inform you if that's the case.

